



**THE
MECHANICK'S
ADVISOR**

11/17/2023

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Brickyard

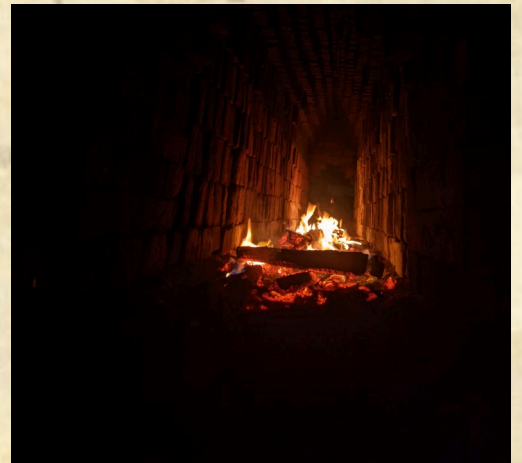
Sunday, Wednesday through Saturday

This week the Brickyard crew has their full attention on the kiln firing, which started on Tuesday the 14th and will continue until some point on Saturday the 18th. To see this kiln through, two shifts - day and night - will tend to the tunnels as the fire builds. Included in the brickmakers numbers this year are various apprentices, and Journeyman, from the Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Coach and Livestock, Garden, Joiners, and Sites. Our most esteemed participant is of course our volunteer Larry who graciously puts up with us. As we enter into the latter half of the firing you will see the kiln's heat grow in intensity which will eventually reach two thousand degrees of heat.

- Madeleine Bolton



Night crew, from L-R; Mary (apprentice Carpenter), Shelby, Lacey (Brickmaker), Chelsea (Brickmaker), and Madeleine (apprentice Brickmaker).



View of the inside of the tunnel, here you can see what we refer to as a corveled arch.

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Cooper

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

This week we had the chance to take a look at all interesting piece of cooperage that is part of our collection here at Colonial Williamsburg. One of the items in the lumber room of the Everard House (which is currently not open for visitation) is a wooden pitcher made from a small cask. While not on our current list of projects, I think we'll at our to the list of things we'd like to make in the future.

- Jonathan Hallman



Wooden pitcher from the lumber room of the Everard House.

Farming

Tuesday, Thursday through Saturday

We have had an excellent yield of cotton this year due to the dry weather this Fall. It is significantly higher because the dry weather facilitates the bolls opening. The Tidewater region is not a very good location to grow cotton because the growing season is not hot enough, long enough. That's why places further south like South Carolina and Georgia are preferred. The usual scenario for us is that about one-third of the bolls will not open due to the cooler and rainier weather in the fall. Farmers did grow cotton though for home use. This explodes when the Revolution blows up the economy and strangles imported cloth. It made it a *grow and wear* situation.

- Ed Schultz



Cotton plant & Cotton ball

Fife and Drums

Last week, Mr. Allen and Ms. Sterner got to take part in the grand opening of the new Williamsburg Fire Station. Ms. Sterner took a group of Sr. Corps members to play before Stonehouse Elementary School's program for Veteran's Day. Mr. Adams enjoyed his time at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention this past week and came back with lots of new materials for our drum section. We finished the week with a great march and performance for Veterans' Day! Lastly, congratulations to Ben Moberg for passing up to Private!

- Rebecca Sterner



Mr. Allen and the Sr. Corps prepare to step off for the Veterans' Day parade.

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Founder

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

The last two weeks have been full of projects at the foundry. Apprentices Drew and Leanne headed over to the guard house to lend our advice about musketball casting. Journeyman Mike made molds for some shoe buckles and tray feet which Drew cast the silver for. Our NIAHD Intern, Isaac, cast some more musket balls for the range while the forge was still hot. Apprentice Leanne got the chance to attend the "I Made This" conference and really enjoyed it! The apprentices finished up a bunch of spoons and delivered them to Military Programs for them to use in interpretation. Drew also finished up a rough cast key. Finally, the apprentices got a chance to solder their taper candlesticks putting them just a bit closer to finishing another apprenticeship skill.

- Leanne Bellouny



Drew advising Alex on casting at the guard house.



Drew blowpipe soldering his taper stick.

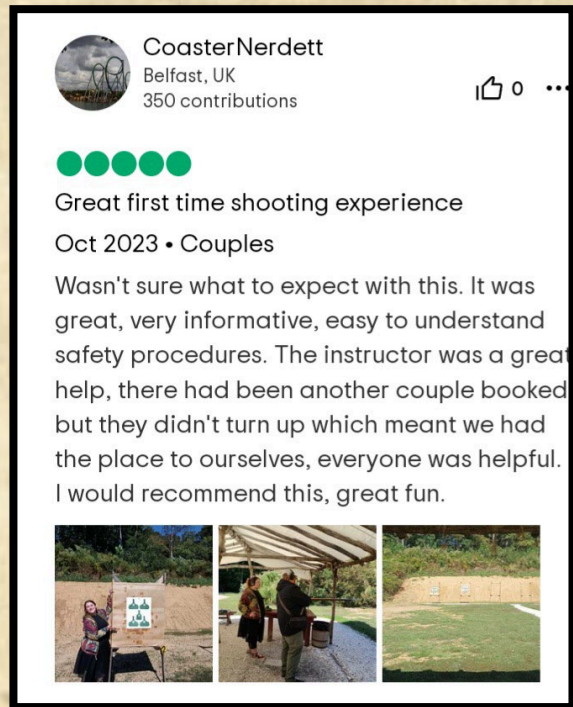
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Musket Range

Ticket Event

November begins and it is our busiest time of year. Doug is instructing and improving every day. Andy received his first 5 Star rating on Trip Adviser. This is a special time of year with the beautiful colors and cooler weather a grate time to come out and check out the range.

- Jeffrey Thomas



Andy instructing the people who gave him 5 stars!

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Shoemaker

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday

Val continues with repairs while Nicole is nearly done with a pair of pumps and over-shoes for Mark Hutter. She is about halfway through with a pair of common shoes for Robert Weathers.

- Valentine Pavinelli



Nicole and Val moving the last bench to the Breeches Shop for the winter.



The cast and crew of the Vacation Channel shoot that the shop participated in.

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Silversmith

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday

The silversmiths are busy with multiple trays. Megan continues to work on her very first tray and has started to chase the inside details and structure. Chris has finished her chasing, and her tray is now ready for the rim to be soldered on. Bobbie has been making rims and has started laying out another tray. Preston is working on a large punch bowl. George has started chasing the lines for his tray.

- Megan Cantwell



Megan's Tray.



George's Tray

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Wheelwright

Sunday through Friday

This week we present a Velocipede! Murphy has field-tested and is now waiting for varnish to dry before we can hand it over to the customer. This has been a 5 month project, with many bumps along the way, but an ultimate success, not only for Murphy, but the Wheelwright Shop and for HTS! Well Done.

- Paul Zelesnikar



Murphy is taking a ride.

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Wigmaker

Sunday through Thursday

The wigmakers have stayed busy these last weeks. Journeyman Edith is focusing on the shop's holiday wreath, putting some of her research to creative use. Intern Elias, Apprentice Benton, and Master Debbie continue to weave different blends of human hair for their respective projects. Maintenance continues as usual for the wigs and hairpieces of our day and evening staff, though this may be the proverbial calm before the holiday storm. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any hair related needs or questions!

- Joseph Parker



Left to right: Elias's wig for static display in one of our exhibition sites, Benton's wig for himself, and Debbie's wig for Apprentice Wilson in the Leather Breeches shop

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Next Week, Look Forward to Updates From...

- **Apothecary**
 - *Sunday through Thursday*
- **Blacksmith**
 - *Everyday*
- **Carpenter**
 - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Engravers**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday through Saturday*
- **Gardener**
 - *Everyday*
- **Gunsmiths**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Harpsicord Maker**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Joiner**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday*
- **Leather Breech Makers**
 - *Tuesday through Saturday*
- **Military Programs**
 - *Daily*
- **Palace Kitchen**
 - *Sunday through Tuesday, Friday, Saturday*
- **Printer**
 - *Sunday, Monday, Thursday through Saturday*
- **Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers**
 - *Sunday through Wednesday, Saturday*

Editor.
Matthew Siepinski