



BISHOPSLAND EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Integrity in Making, Wholeheartedly

Overview of the Bishopsland Programme
for 2026/27

Executive Summary Integrity in making, *wholeheartedly*



Bishopsland Educational Trust is an internationally recognised, registered and accredited charity dedicated to the training and education of emerging makers in the heritage craft of silversmithing in the United Kingdom. As a charity, we have nurtured the careers of over 270 silversmiths and jewellers over the last 32 years, the vast majority of whom have gone on to develop sustainable businesses in the UK. Today, our society of Fellows (alumni) are some of the foremost craftspeople in their field. They continue to pass their skills on to others and contribute to maintaining excellence within Britain's contemporary craft sector.

Each year our cohort comprises 12 talented craftspeople selected regardless of background, means or academic ability. Our one- or two-year immersive residential training programme provides a much-needed bridge between education/apprenticeship and a career as a maker. Our inherent understanding of creativity and vocational skills training has developed over many years and is a proven formula for success.

We continue to support Fellows throughout their careers, offering opportunities for exhibitions, collaborations, commissions and routes to market through our extensive network. The sessional master craftspeople employed to teach masterclasses are drawn either from our Fellows network or the trade.

We believe wholeheartedly in supporting silversmithing, jewellery and the allied trades through the retention and underpinning of vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts. By joining Bishopsland, you will not only rapidly extend your hand skills, but also learn vital business techniques that will enable you to progress your chosen career path at an accelerated pace.

Silversmithing and Jewellery Programme



Deliverables

Hand skills training
Technical knowledge
Vocational skills
Tool making & maintenance
Business knowledge
Business incubation
Mentoring
Exhibition & curation
Working to commission
Model building
Sales & presentation skills
Health & safety

Our Work – Education & Training

We believe that the transference of craft skills is vital to preserving our cultural heritage. Over the ten month programme, you will receive mentoring and training that will open opportunities for you to connect and learn from one another, and establish a strong network of skilled craftspeople across the UK and beyond. Our focus is primarily on silversmithing techniques which are equally useful to jewellers as they are to those wishing to concentrate on silversmithing.

No other organisation equips makers with the range of traditional silversmithing and jeweller's hand skills that Bishopsland can provide, including raising, chasing, forging, sinking, engraving, enamelling, stone-setting, box making, spoon making, mixing alloys and so much more. Our objective is to give you the skill, knowledge and confidence to realise your designs and create a sustainable income. With 35% of your available time in taught-sessions (ie led by a Tutor or Master craftsman) in our workshops, we defy anyone not to see a rapid enhancement of their skills!

Masterclasses last between three and five days and are taught by master craftsmen. In addition, each week our Principal and/or specialist tutors provide one-to-one and shorter taught-sessions. Crucially our well-equipped workshops are open seven days a week and are close to your accommodation, providing the time and space you need to practise and refine the techniques you are being taught. With plenty of time for self-directed design and practice, we aim to offer a supportive environment where your desire to progress dictates your pace.

Our set up is designed to rapidly enhance your hand skills whilst providing a supported environment to learn the commercial aspects required to strike out in your own right, whether that be as an independent designer maker, employed by another maker or larger commercial silversmith, in an allied professional role such as Production Manager, or perhaps teaching. As you progress through the Bishopsland Programme, we bring our knowledge and network to help you secure your next step.

Our New Site at Hills Yard, Buscot, W Oxfordshire

We are delighted to have found a new home at Hills Yard in the picturesque village of Buscot. The site is Grade II listed and is now partly renovated, with further work ongoing. A site plan is shown in the appendix and today it boast a silversmithing workshop with dedicated bench spaces for 12 makers, plus a dedicated machine room, hammering room and chasing room. The renovation of the site will take place in phases and during the first few years, there will be areas that are unrenovated. Read more about our facilities here : <https://bishopsland.org.uk/blog/press-release-bishopsland-announces-opening-of-new-home/>

Accommodation is in a range of 2 and 3 bedroom cottages rented from the National Trust. Some are within Buscot and walking distance from the workshops, others are a short drive or cycle away. Accommodation is basically furnished and may be single sex or mixed depending on preferences. As part of your admissions day experience, we will show you some of the accommodation options available but note these may also be subject to change.



Accommodation



Our Impact



270 makers have completed our programme in the last 32 years.

Over 70% of our Fellows go on to develop sustainable, creative businesses in the UK and in turn, they support the wider allied trades. A number outgrow their initial ambition to be an individual designer-maker and create jobs and employment. Retaining silversmiths and jewellers in the sector is our core measure of success.

We have funnelled £300k of educational bursaries to the most deserving makers enabling those with the most creativity and passion to attend Bishopsland. We are proud of the number of Fellows who have been awarded QEST scholarships as well as other industry recognised bursaries, such as South Square Trust.

Every year, the Bishopsland cohort and Fellows win awards at the Goldsmith's Craft and Design Awards (the industry's 'Oscars'). In March 2025 Bishopsland won the College Trophy, recognising the volume of individual prize winners amongst Bishopsland alumni.

Fellows' work is represented in national and international public and private collections and is actively sought by individual collectors and esteemed organisations

Bishopsland Fellows are widely represented in key organisations such as QEST, Contemporary British Silversmiths, the Institute of Professional Goldsmiths, the Association for Contemporary Jewellery, the Hand Engravers Association, the National Association of Jewellers, Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, the Scottish Goldsmiths' Trust and the Goldsmiths' Company.

Our People – Trustees & Staff



Trustees (photographed at our 30th Anniversary Celebration at Goldsmiths Hall, June 2023)

Rebecca Knott – Curator of Metalwork, V&A

Jo Gregory – Partner, Joelson

Howard Dellar – Chair – Senior Partner, Head of Ecclesiastical Education & Charities, LBMW

Rebecca van Rooijen – Co-Founder & Editor, Benchpeg

Craig Menzies – Treasurer

Glenn Hawksbee – Retired

Rebecca Kirk



Principal : Angela Cork

A Royal College of Art Alumni, Angela has held varied teaching roles including at Goldsmiths' Centre where in 2022 she hosted a visit by His Majesty the King. She is a Bishopsland Fellow (1998-2000) and has been a sessional tutor for the Trust for over 10 years. She is former Chair of Contemporary British Silversmiths, a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths' Company and a Trustee of South Square Trust. She is also a leading contemporary silversmith and her work features in many prominent public and private collections. Angela leads our educational provision and works part time



Chief Executive : Claire Murdoch

Following a 30 year career in the global Telecommunications sector, where she ran large teams in the Marketing, Strategy & Insight functions, Claire now works for Bishopsland 4 days per week. Her previous experience in business planning, budgeting, strategic development, team management and performance ensures that the Trust has a professional administrator



Workshop & Programme Coordinator : Harry Stokes

Following his apprenticeship, Jonathan joined the Bishopsland programme in 2021/22, staying on for a second year as Artist in Residence. He is a talented silversmith and specialises in engraving. His role is to ensure the workshops run smoothly and that sufficient preparation is completed in advance of taught sessions

An introduction to some of the Tutors teaching for Bishopsland



Patrick Davison studied at the Glasgow School of Art and Alchimia Contemporary Jewellery School in Florence. In 2022 he was a Qest Scholar. He works for several silversmiths/goldsmiths and at the Royal College of Art. Without doubt he is one of our most popular masterclass leaders due to his deep skill set and compelling teaching style. He leads the box making and alloys masterclasses.



Rod Kelly is one of the UK's leading silversmiths, specialising in low relief chasing, often inlaid with fine gold. He makes all the forms himself using traditional techniques. Since completing an MA at the Royal College of Art in 1983 he has primarily worked to commission and is also the driving force behind the South House Trust, providing intensive learning for mid-career silversmiths. Whilst at Bishopsland you could spend one week at Rod's workshop in the Shetland Isles.



Ruth Anthony leads our engraving masterclass, with Jonathan Stokes providing ongoing engraving practice throughout the programme. Ruth specialising in creating personalised hand-engraved imagery and lettering on jewellery. She has worked as a goldsmith in Hatton garden before focusing on hand-engraving and is also a Qest scholar.

A deeper dive into the key aspects of the Programme

Our Workshops

Our well-equipped workshops are open seven days a week, which is a unique and valuable element of our offer, allowing plenty of time for self-led practice and independent making. You are able to practice and refine skills being taught and also work on private commissions or piece work to generate some income. Should you join the programme, you will be provided a list of tools that you should bring with you.

Competitions

Throughout the year there will be opportunities to submit entries to competitions, two of which have been run exclusively for the Bishospland Cohort - The Arts Society Design Prize usually held in February and Jacobs the Jeweller's Emerging Maker competition usually held in the summer. In addition, our tutor team will encourage and support you to enter a wide range of relevant competitions, including Goldsmiths Craft and Design Awards, Cutlery Design Competition, New Ashgate Gallery's Rising Stars.

Exhibitions

We believe exhibiting is a fundamental part of the Bishopsland programme as it focuses attention on making a sufficient body of work that can stand out in a crowd. This vital exposure also teaches curation skills, marketing, engaging with the public and tests your costing and pricing assumptions. There is also a fundamental skill of ensuring your work is made, hallmarked and dispatched in time. Exhibitions vary throughout the year but we always have a large exhibition at a London livery hall in November, several public exhibitions (such as Craft in Focus which this year we are doing at Waterperry Gardens in July) and our own end of year show, the Bishopsland Retrospective. Note in line with common commercial practice, Bishopsland charges 45% commission.

Commissions

Individuals and organisations approach us periodically to commission work. This varies greatly from year to year but opportunities are open to everyone in the cohort and can range from recycling kitchen cutlery into jewellery to making a Church Goblet. It is normal for Bishopsland to charge 10% commission but this may vary.

Fees, Bursaries and Applications Process

Fees

The costs of the programme are as follows:

1. £500 deposit payable when you accept a place. Refundable when you leave unless there is damage to your accommodation. Should you subsequently decide not to attend, the deposit is refundable in full prior to 1 July 2026, after which no refund will be given
2. Programme Fees £9,750 for the full 10 months, payable monthly £975 per month
3. Rent for accommodation of £680 per month (with Council Tax and Utility bills in addition).

Bursaries

We facilitate three means-tested South Square Trust bursaries for which you can apply once you are accepted onto the programme. If you are successful, the partial bursaries can reduce your Programme Fees by 50%. There are also industry bursaries (for example via The Benevolent Fund, Heritage Crafts and Qest) which you can apply for in your own right.

Every attendee will receive a tools and bullion bursary generously provided by the Clothworkers Company and this is used to purchase essential tools and materials. The amount varies each year but for 2025/26 is £1,000 per maker.

Other sources of income

We recognise that making ends meet is a serious concern for most attendees. You are able to claim Universal Credit, which is means tested. We can help you find local jobs of which a Saturday job working at the bench at a local jewellers is also good experience.

Applications Process

In the first instance, please send a copy of your CV, digital portfolio and a covering letter explaining why you are interested in Bishopsland to c.murdoch@bishopsland.org.uk. We have 4 Open days which are an opportunity to see our new site, accommodation options and have a short interview with the Principal. These are 20 January, 03 February and 10 February or 17 March.. Places will be offered from March onwards. South Square Trust bursaries will be awarded by August at the latest.

Case Studies



Nndidi Ekubia studied at Bishopsland in 1995/6 after she had completed a BA in 3D Design and prior to completing an MA in Silversmithing and Jewellery at the RCA. Her work is held in numerous collections including the V&A, Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum, Crafts Council, Winchester Cathedral and the Ashmolean Museum. She was awarded an MBE for services to silversmithing in 2017.



Ruth Tomlinson attended Bishopsland in 2001/2 and on leaving established her very successful jewellery business. She is considered by industry experts as one of the leading influences in the current generation of UK jewellery designers.



After graduating from Edinburgh College of Art and the RCA, and Bishopsland in 2000, Andrew Lamb quickly established himself as one of the leading contemporary designer makers in the UK. He balances his time between lecturing, designing, making and exhibiting.



Katie Watson attended Bishopsland in 2019-2021 having graduated from Glasgow School of Art. She is now based at Marchmont Silversmithing Studios, exhibited at Goldsmiths Fair 2023 and has just won the 2023 Silver Society Prize.

EDI; Partnerships



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Bishopsland Educational Trust has clearly documented policies to promote and support EDI. Our focus is to train and support silversmiths and jewellers, regardless of background, race, gender, economic status etc. The Trust and Staff acknowledge the fact that society is strengthened and enriched by diversity. We all attempt to reflect and celebrate this diversity in the programme and public events that are provided. The Trust promotes and values diversity and difference through its ethos, activities, resources, visits and key events. Individuals from all cultures are valued and respected. Bishopsland aims to create an environment in which all people feel accepted, comfortable, able to learn, and for visitors and others able to enjoy and participate, free from prejudice and discrimination.

Partnerships

Bishopsland thrives within a wide network of individuals and organisations dedicated to supporting the Arts, Heritage, Educational and Craft sectors:

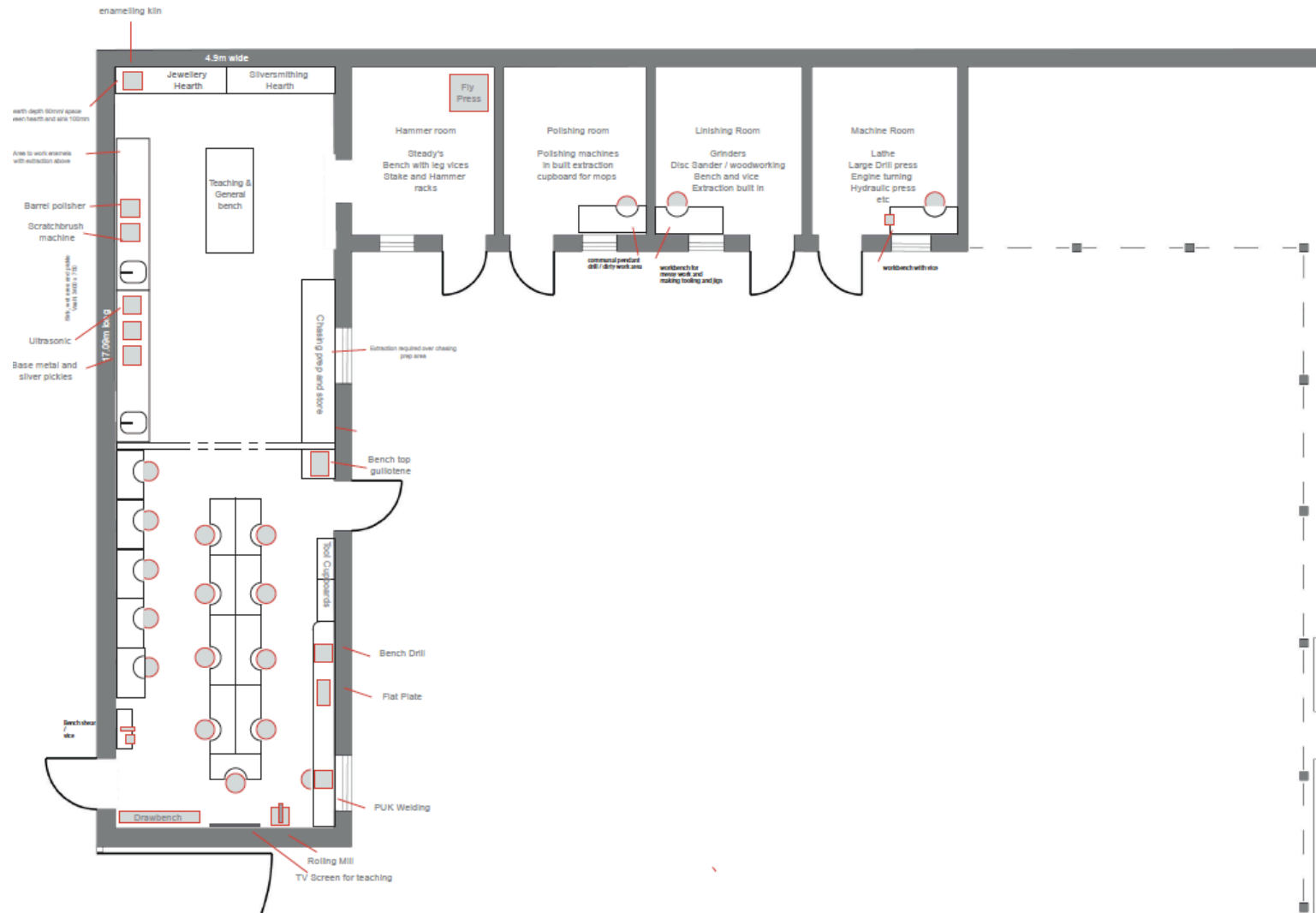
- long terms funders such as South Square Trust provide critical bursary funding for students
- others allow us to use their premises for events, visit and study their collections, make donations of silver for recycling and other donations, such as The Clothworkers' Company
- some provide skilled resources to bolster the skill and experience of the Trust, such as the V&A from whom we have drawn a Trustee and who also allow private handling sessions for the cohort in advance of Masterclasses
- one of our most critical partnerships is with the Goldsmiths Centre, which provides funding, access to specialist courses, incubation workshops for Bishopsland alumni, access to meeting and exhibition spaces, and technical making guidance through access to their teaching staff. In addition the Goldsmiths' Company is a long term collaborator and we were thrilled to have run an exhibition of our Tools Library alongside the 2023 Goldsmiths Fair.



CREATIVITY | CRAFTSMANSHIP | COMMUNITY



Workshop layout at Hills Yard



Useful Information

Address

Hills Yard, Buscot, Nr Faringdon, SN7 8BY

Email: c.murdoch@bishopsland.org

Website: bishopsland.org

Registered Charity No. 1093301

Social Media

Instagram

[instagram.com/bishopsland_educational_trust/](https://www.instagram.com/bishopsland_educational_trust/)

LinkedIn

[linkedin.com/in/bishopsland-educational-trust-41974b262](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bishopsland-educational-trust-41974b262)

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Trustees

Howard Dellar, Chair

Craig Menzies, Treasurer

Rebecca van Rooijen

Rebecca Knott

Rebecca Kirk

Jo Gregory

Glenn Hawksbee

Chief Executive

Claire Murdoch

Principal

Angela Cork, RCA

Images

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