

# BENCHMARK

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## Sharing knowledge and skills



We continue our series of conversations between individuals and companies who are experts in their craft, share our values and our love of making on Thursday March 10th.

Our Toolbox Talks will give you better knowledge and understanding of materials and skills in each area of excellence allowing you to commission more creatively and effectively.

Joining us will be [Artisans of Devizes](#) and [Clayworks](#), natural stone and clay plaster specialists respectively, who like us, believe in doing things properly. They will talk through the processes of their craft and what is necessary in their toolbox.

FOR BIID MEMBERS THIS DAY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR 8 CPD POINTS.



Artisans of Devizes; Natural Stone Floors & Walls



Clayworks: Natural Clay Plaster Wall Finishes

## Programme of talks

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[Artisans of Devizes](#) will join us to share their in-depth knowledge of natural stone; the basic geology and mineral make-up of the most common stones used and their suitability for different applications. They will provide tips on what to look out for and the questions to ask when specifying natural stone as well as useful troubleshooting advice.

[Clayworks](#), award winning manufacturer of naturally pigmented and environmentally friendly clay plasters, will share their story and talk to us about the extraordinary interior design solutions that can be achieved with clay plasters such as mimicking polished concrete, traditional plasters and stucco. Learn about what

makes clay different from other plasters and why it is becoming a firm favourite amongst some of the worlds leading designers.

Sean Sutcliffe, **Benchmark's** MD and a furniture maker for over 30 years, will give an interactive talk sharing samples, notes & sketches to provide a better understanding of wood with particular emphasis on finishes and maintenance so that you commission more effectively.

## Timings of the day

- 10:15 Coffee & welcome
- 10:45 Talks kick off
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:00 Workshop tours and informal discussions.
- 15:00 Afternoon tea

## Travel arrangements

Benchmark is situated between Newbury and Hungerford and is easily accessible from the M4. If travelling by train from London there is a direct line from Paddington to Kintbury. There will be courtesy cars at Kintbury station meeting the 9.18am train from London, arriving 10.17am. Return transport to the station will be available as required.

## Care to join us?

To secure your place on this Toolbox Talk, please email [sales@benchmarkfurniture.com](mailto:sales@benchmarkfurniture.com)  
We have just 50 seats available, on a first-come-first-served basis.



Artisans of Devizes is a British company with 25 years' experience sourcing and supplying natural stone and tile with a headquarters and showroom in Devizes, Wiltshire and a sales office in London. Artisans has a passion for natural stone and a culture of integrity, offering expert knowledge on natural stone selection, world-wide direct stone sourcing, bespoke stone creation, site surveys and installation – whilst holding extensive UK inventory. Their longstanding relationships with quarries worldwide gives them real buying power for viable, competitive pricing.



The Clayworks story is fascinating. They grew from a small cob-building company based in Cornwall into a product manufacturing enterprise that now sells worldwide. They launched their clay plaster range in 2011 with the ambitious vision that they would be 'not only the best in the world, but the best for the world'. Clayworks have had great commercial success in the high end restaurant sector and now want to make clay plasters an 'everyday' product – not least because to do so would help them to achieve their deep and sincerely held commitment to sustainability.



Benchmark makes, and sells direct, their own furniture and lighting, and works extensively with hotels, restaurants, public buildings, offices and private residences. Their love for making starts from the stewardship of trees, down to the hands-on making by their highly skilled team. They believe that the pleasure gained from using a product is directly related to the care given by the hand of the maker.