

The UK Flame Off 2010

by Emma Green

If you are into glass beads, then the UK Flame Off at Towcester Racecourse is the place to be. If you already make glass lampworked beads, then chances are you know all about this two-day event, which took place April 16–17, 2010, at the Towcester Racecourse in Northamptonshire. It's a place where beadmakers and bead lovers of all ages gathered to play with fire, melt glass, make beads, buy supplies and, of course, buy beads.

In the hall downstairs there were lots of taster benches where attendees could have a go at making beads themselves. There were plenty of experts on hand to offer advice and to help beadmakers make the best of their visit. There was also the chance to try out all of the different torches and other beadmaking tools and equipment that were available to buy from the many suppliers who were scattered around the hall.

Also downstairs was the Lampworkers Village, where lampworking glass artists sold their beads, findings, and jewelry. Downstairs were plenty of places to sit down and refuel with coffee and some lunch from the cafeteria or just take a few moments to soak up the wonderful atmosphere. It was also the perfect place to catch up with old friends and, of course, make new ones.

Upstairs in the top hall there were many leading lampworking artists demonstrating their particular styles and techniques. There was also plenty of seating, a very large screen, and many other plasma screens scattered around the hall to make sure not a thing was missed and that all of the important details were captured. On the third floor, classes were taught in silver clay, silver wire work, and enameling.

FLOW

Visit www.tuffnellglass.com for more information on this event that is perfect for those who are interested in making glass beads or simply have a fancy to have a go at melting glass and having fun.



Di East

Teresa Laliberte



Sabine Little



Lorna Prime