

John Freeman (*United Kingdom*)

Coleg Cambria in North East Wales is one of the United Kingdom's largest colleges with over 7,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time students, and has international links covering four continents.

With the rise in knife related crime in the United Kingdom including Wales, the North Wales Police along with Wrexham County Borough Council and Coleg Cambria (Bersham Road, Wrexham Campus), wanted to have a figure that could be used to raise awareness and education about the dangers of carrying knives and the devastating consequences that happen with the use of knives as weapons.

The North Wales Police and forces up and down the United Kingdom use Operation Sceptre to campaign and tackle knife crime.

Karl Jackson, who is Assistant Principal of Institute of Technology and Site Lead for Bersham Road Campus approached the college Fabrication & Welding Technical Training Officer, John Freeman and the Fabrication and Welding team, to produce a sculpture using knives that had been handed in at the knife amnesty stations via Operation Sceptre.

John Freeman is an exceptionally talented metal worker who studied art at university prior to moving over to the engineering/welding discipline and his creative talents shine through with the masterpiece that he has created.

Contact info

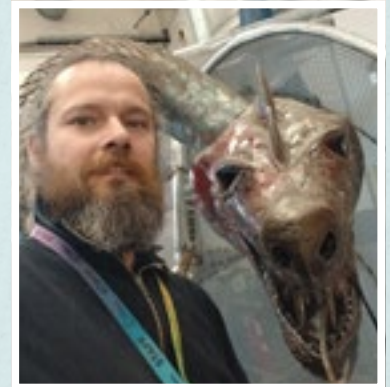
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Exhibit “The Welsh Knife Dragon”

The Komodo dragon and other land lizard species are important parts of ecosystems and face threats due to climate change, habitat loss, and other factors, impacting biodiversity. Historically and mythically, dragons have been used to symbolise Power and Authority. Its depiction on the current Welsh Flag illustrates this.



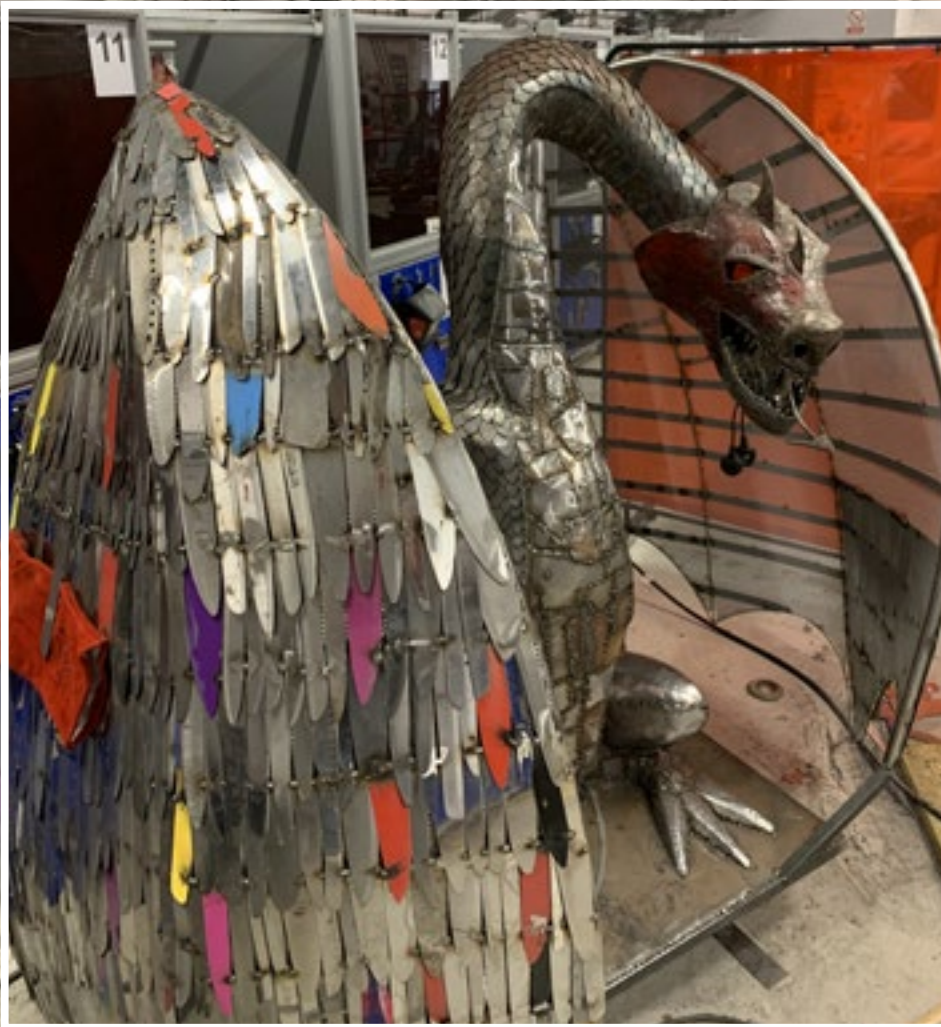
John Freeman designed and created an exhibit using a youth being shielded by a dragon that has approximately 4000 of the amnesty knives covering the wings of the dragon.

The dragon has been built by using carbon steel rods, shaped for the ‘bones’ and skin put on using recycled off-cuts of sheet metal from the fabrication workshop. Carbon steel sheet metal scales were cut out on the CNC plasma cutter.

Students in training assisted throughout the build process. One particular trainee, Cairan Johns, made the complete tail section, meticulously cutting, forming, shaping and hammering dents in the sheet metal, to create a mottled, blistered effect tail, which looks amazing.

Dimensions of Exhibit

200 cm high x 150 cm long x 220 cm wide



The Welsh Knife Dragon
John Freeman

