

The "Thank You" Pin

in aid of NHS Charities Together

A Symbol of our Time



In aid of

**NHS CHARITIES
TOGETHER**

Registered Charity NO 1186569


TMB
ART METAL

Over the past eighteen months there cannot be anyone who hasn't felt empathy and pride in the NHS and the incredible work the Service's personnel have performed on our behalf in the war on Covid-19. During that time many of these selfless and brave, but otherwise just ordinary, people have performed extraordinarily, putting their very lives and health in harm's way, whilst fighting to protect us from this deadly virus in an unprecedented situation.

In support of NHS Charities Together, London based provenance brand TMB Art Metal are proud to create an edition of special three-dimensional fund raising "Thank You" Pins to benefit this very worthy charity. Initially consisting of a run of 5,000, the production of which TMB Art Metal is funding in entirety, the pins will retail at £25 including VAT (£20.83 ex-VAT), £10 from the sale of each going to NHS Charities Together, most of the remainder being costs spent on production.

NHS Charities Together is the national charity caring for the NHS, an independent national charity partner and umbrella organisation made up of 240 NHS member charities based within hospitals, mental health trusts, ambulance trusts, community health trusts and health boards across the UK.

Funds raised by NHS Charities Together enable projects that improve services for patients and helps NHS staff practically and emotionally, so they can continue with their vital life-saving work.

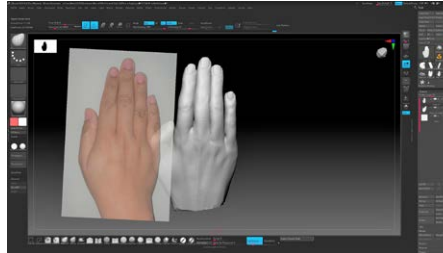
A Symbol of our Time

During the darkest days of the pandemic everyone must've felt emotion and pride for those within the NHS fighting on the Covid front line, risking their lives whilst most of us were secure at home.

Christopher Bennett of TMB Art Metal felt a need to do something to say "Thank You" to these heroic people, whilst also raising funds for the NHS. Such an initiative should be a pin badge, but in what form? From the early days of the pandemic clapping hands became a national symbol of gratitude to the NHS and so surely a form of clapping hands would make a fitting and appropriate design for a "Thank You" fund raising pin. A national "symbol of our time" that could be worn to show our thanks for the staff of the NHS, later becoming a keepsake of the pandemic to be cherished and handed down, whilst also raising funds for NHS Charities Together.



An idea was formed to base the design around the hands of six members of NHS staff from the Covid front-line, representing all the NHS staff fighting the Covid war. With the help of NHS Charities Together, TMB recruited six ambassadors whose hands were photographed, so using CAD technology they could be amalgamated into our clapping hands design.



Perhaps unsurprisingly, one of the key things that helped NHS staff through the worst of the pandemic was being part of a closely knit team, and the hands design seems to also reflect that camaraderie.

Our CAD designer, Tim Milward, took the six pairs of hands photographs and built the CAD design around them. The form is based upon Fathma Shabbir's hands, then elements from the other five were added on.

*Fathma Shabbir - hand and finger shape
Amie Burbridge - finger textures, back of hand blocked out shapes
Faisal Yousaf - finger middle creases, back of hand shapes
Kathryn Gill - finger textures
May Parsons - Nails and Thumb
Samuel Opoku-Mensah - knuckle texture and back of hand texture*



May Parsons

Interim Matron
for Respiratory Medicine
University Hospital Coventry &
Warwickshire NHS Trust



Fathma Shabbir

ITU Junior Nurse
London Northwest University
Healthcare NHS Trust, Ealing



Dr Amie Burbridge

FRCP, MMedEd, MBChB
Consultant Acute/General Internal
Medicine University Hospital
Coventry & Warwickshire NHS Trust



Samuel Opoku-Mensah

Kershaw Ward Manager
Central & North West London
NHS Trust



Faisal Yousaf

Porter
Harrogate and District NHS
Foundation Trust



Kathryn Gill

Rapid Response Sister
Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Birmingham

The "Thank You" Pin NHS Hands Ambassadors

"I don't think I or many other people had time to process what was happening but more to just get on. Patients kept doubling, tripling, we were completely over stretched. I had never seen so much death. But then the second wave came and for me a lot worse. I kind of knew this time what was coming. A lot of people say the second wave was better as we were more prepared. But I was not prepared to see so many young people die. I don't think you can be prepared for that.

Finally you are left with exhaustion, I would be lying if I said I didn't think about leaving. I did a few times but we have an amazing team here. This covid period has been extremely tough and tiring but it is the team I work in, the people I work with, who are like my family that helps me get through it. So having all these hands come together, in a way represents that we are a team and that is really nice."

Fathma Shabbir,

The Metal

During the pandemic the media often compared what we were going through to World War Two and the Blitz, the "Blitz Spirit", and this provided an idea for a layer of back story – to make the pins from 1940 Spitfire aircraft Duralumin, a kind of aluminium, adding resonance and meaning, linking it with World War Two and our struggle for survival.

Over eighty years ago during the Battle of Britain of 1940 the pilots of RAF's Fighter Command saved this country from enemy invasion during what Prime Minister Winston Churchill described as their "Finest Hour", and there's an undoubted synergy with what the NHS has been doing to battle the tyranny of Covid-19 to safeguard us all during their "Finest Hour".

The legendary Spitfire has become an iconic national symbol of resilience, hope and freedom, perhaps more than any other man made object, and crafting the pins using metal from one of these machines is profound and inspiring.

The metal used in the creation of the "Thank You" pin originates from Spitfire "P7350", owned and operated by the Royal Air Force's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. P7350 first flew in August 1940 during the Battle of Britain, survived WW2 and is today the oldest most original and historically significant airworthy Spitfire in existence.



"Whilst the pandemic isn't a physical war, there are many parallels to the experiences that communities and front-line workers endured during World War Two," comments founder of TMB Art Metal, Christopher Bennett. "I wanted to bring two iconic symbols from these wars over 80 years apart together to create a collectable pin that represents the nation's gratitude for all NHS workers' sacrifice and bravery, whilst raising significant funds for NHS Charities Together."

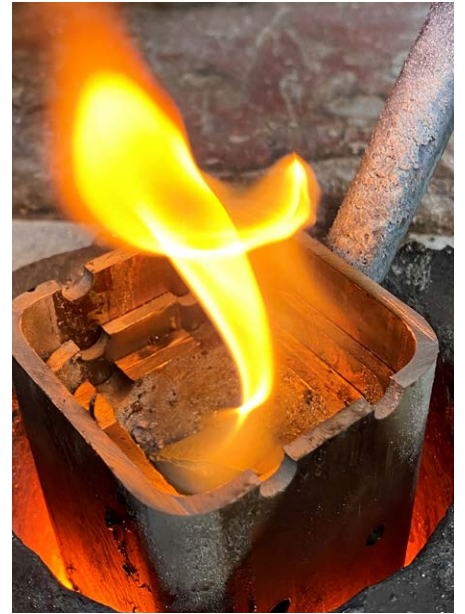
The Making



Our hands pins are cast using the 'lost wax' casting process, an ages old procedure used for the crafting of fine jewellery. It's a laborious, slow, non-compromising process, but will provide the best results and a full 3D shape. A resin master pattern is created from the CAD design, from which rubber moulds are made. The process starts with waxes from the moulds – one for every single casting, the waxes built into a 'tree'.



The completed wax trees are put into metal casting flasks, a fine clay like 'investment' powder then added to the hopper with water. Once thoroughly mixed the slurry is poured into the flasks, where it will harden. The flasks are then heated in an oven to melt the wax and allow it to run out, leaving a void, into which the molten metal is poured. Hence the term "lost wax".



A section of 1939 vintage Spitfire main spar is heated until it becomes molten at around 700 degrees centigrade. Once liquid the hot metal is poured into the previously made casting flask.









The flask is allowed to cool for a few minutes before being dunked into a tub of water to cool and soften the casting compound. Here the freshly cast 'tree' of clapping hands elements is still half embedded.





A tree of around 130 clapping hands once cleaned of compound, now taking the form of the original wax tree. The hands will be cut off the trunk and go off to the finishers, whilst the offcuts will be used again, this historic and finite metal too precious to waste.







At our finishers in Birmingham the sprue is removed, the hands fettled and polished and pin attached to the back. The very last procedure to be done is to laser engrave the text on the back, NHS "Thank You" 2021.





An NHS "Thank You" Pin rests upon a piece of 1940 Spitfire skinning.

Whilst the original CAD resin master possessed an amazing amount of fine detail, much of this is lost in the multiple processes - resin to mould, to wax, to investment, to casting and finally polishing. But the pins remain a beautiful and appropriate tribute to the NHS, created around the healing hands of six amazing people who represent all...



Christopher Bennett of TMB Art Metal proudly holds some of the very first casts of pins.

www.nhsthankyoupin.co.uk



www.tmbartmetal.com

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