



# NOTTINGHAM CALLIGRAPHERS

Newsletter Number 10 September 2013

## Committee News

Nottingham Calligraphers Committee met in Southwell on 11 July to progress actions from the AGM and to discuss activities for the year ahead. We felt it would be helpful if we gave a summary of the main points of discussion to keep everyone informed.

### Membership and Workshop Fees

**Annual Membership** – the membership year is 1 September to 31 August and the annual fee is held at £15 for 2013-14. If paid at the September workshop (Angela Dalleywater – Pressure and Release – see details elsewhere in this Newsletter), the fee for the workshop itself is £15 - **a saving of £7!** Otherwise the non member workshop fee of £25 applies.

### Workshop Fees 2013-2014

Tutor led workshops:	Members £22	Non Members £25
Non Tutor workshops:	Members £3	Non Members £3
AGM Day workshop:	Members free	Non Members £25

### Envelope Exchange

Several people thought it would be a good idea for everyone to see the results of the work put in to the Envelope Exchange. We plan to have a small exhibition of this work at the May 2014 workshop. Look out for details nearer the time.

### Signage

We agreed that a sign outside the venue on workshop days would be a good idea and we are progressing how this can be achieved. Also, the idea of an individual name "tent" was put forward. This will help the tutor as well as those newer members to put names to faces. Kate has sent a note to everyone about this with the invitation to the September workshop.

### Nottingham Calligraphers Constitution

It was agreed that a set of ground rules – or a Constitution - would help us to keep our decision making logical and consistent, especially as membership of the Committee may change over time and new members join. Janet made great headway on this and Sue Sinclair is now putting this together. We hope to have a working draft later in the autumn which can then be put out to members for comment. All being well, we could adopt the Constitution at next year's AGM.

### Honorary Membership

For a while we have had an unwritten rule that members reaching the age of 80 should be entitled to Honorary Life Membership. It was also felt that we may want to have the flexibility to give Honorary Membership to other individuals in future. Please see item elsewhere in this Newsletter about this.

### Workshop Etiquette

Our workshop sessions are always very busy and so that all attendees can spend the maximum amount of time on calligraphy we felt a couple of housekeeping ground rules would be helpful:

**Drinks & Washing up.** We suggest everyone brings their own cup or mug rather than using those provided at the hall. Individuals are then responsible for their own washing up and taking home their crockery rather than leaving a great pile of washing up at the end of the session for a few stalwarts to deal with.

**Payment of Workshop Fees.** Please try to let Gwen (or her designated Deputy!) have your workshop fee at the beginning of the session before work starts so that we can collect money in one go without interrupting the main business of the day.

**Sue Sinclair - Chairman**  
**Kate Hall - Secretary**  
**Gwen Vine - Treasurer**

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## Workshop News

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### Press and Release

**Tutor** Angela Dalleywater

**Date** 21 September

A favourite tutor returns, with a technique which can add a touch of refinement and elegance to ALL your lettering, whatever hand you choose.

### A Carousel of Techniques

**Tutor** Pat Allen & Sue Sinclair

**Date** 12 October

A potpourri of techniques to try which will enhance your calligraphy. The workshop is a series of mini-topics, which don't justify a whole day to themselves, but will nevertheless add some nuances to your calligraphy projects, including: paint textured background techniques, a little bit of origami and large fancy lettering either written with a bigger pen or drawn. All three elements will be drawn together at the end to create a little object d'art to take home. This workshop is suitable for all levels of experience.

### Neuland Revisited

**Tutor** Cathy Cooper

**Date** 9 November

Some of us missed Cathy's Neuland workshop last time as a result of bad weather, so it's a welcome return (weather permitting!) of Cathy to teach Neuland - this time using a brush.

### Finding Inspiration.

**Tutor** Sue Sinclair

**Date** 7 December

Do you find yourself stuck for ideas for a piece of calligraphy? Sue's going to help you unlock your imagination, get those creative ideas flowing and help you to find ideas all around you.

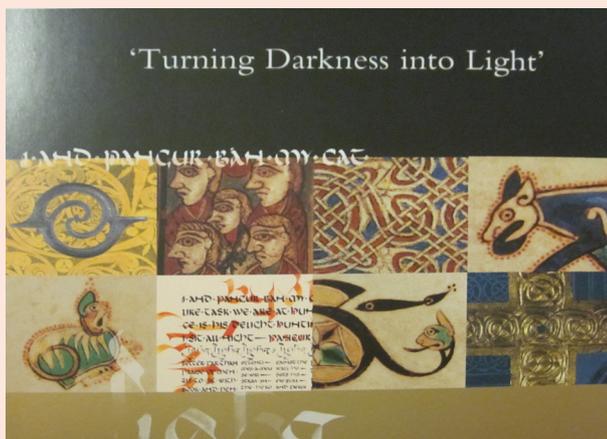
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## A Thing of Beauty.....

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**The Turning Darkness into Light** exhibition at Trinity College Dublin is well worth a visit.

**The Book of Kells** is a medieval illuminated manuscript that one hears so much of if you have an interest in calligraphy. If you have the chance to see this, you will not be disappointed. There is one plain text page and one illuminated on show all the time. These pages are turned on a regular basis so that people can enjoy the beautiful writing (insular majuscule) so expertly and

boldly written on vellum. The illuminations with intricate and delicate gold work really do gleam in the subtle lighting.

As part of this exhibition, there are many other famous and finely written Irish manuscripts on display too. Touring the old library is part of the entrance fee and this is another world of ancient manuscripts, leather bound books and amazing winding staircases which are stunning.

**Kate Hall**



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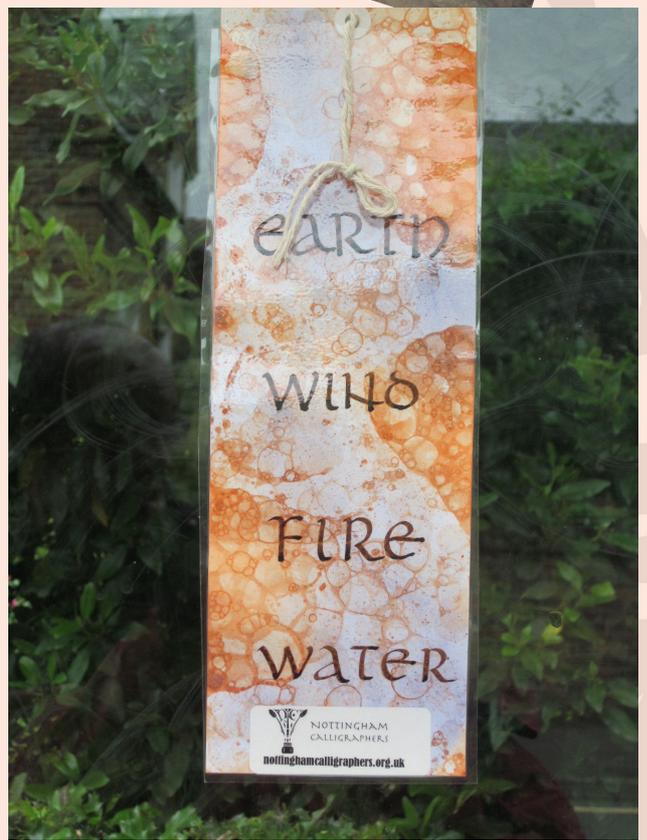
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## Workshop Reports

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### Weathergrams with Janet Smith



After a productive AGM Janet led a splendid workshop on Weathergrams to produce publicity material for the Lowdham Book Festival.

A variety of techniques were employed to create patterned backgrounds which were then embellished with literary quotations.

Very eye catching and a fitting end to an exciting and satisfying calligraphic year!

Thanks also to Kate for braving the elements to get some photos of the results in situ!

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## Summary of the AGM - June 2013

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The AGM took place at 10 am on 15 June 2013 at Lowdham WI Hall.

Thirteen members and one visitor attended the AGM.

Committee Reports (published in Newsletter No 9) were delivered by Janet Smith (Chairman), Kate Hall (Secretary) and Gwen Vine (Treasurer). The main actions from these reports were:

- Arrange for someone to maintain the Nottingham Calligraphers website
- Draw up a Constitution for the group
- Set aside some time at a future workshop to display the work of the envelope exchange participants
- Formalise the rules for Honorary Membership of the group
- Document membership and workshop fees
- Include tutors' handout reproduction costs in tutors' expenses and cover these by the workshop attendance fee rather than asking attendees for additional monies at the workshop
- Decide arrangements for the cancellation of workshops where required (due to low attendance or adverse weather conditions)

Sadly for Nottingham Calligraphers, Janet Smith announced her decision to stand down from the Chairmanship of the group (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter). Sue Sinclair took on the role of Chairman and Kate and Gwen thankfully agreed to continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Members showed their appreciation for all the work done by the Committee.

Several suggestions had been submitted by members including holding beginners' classes, sponsorship, signage for workshops, incentives for member get member. It was felt that sponsorship and member get member incentives were not appropriate, whilst the idea of signage would be pursued and beginners' classes would be discussed further by the Committee.

The group presented Janet with a bouquet and a Scribblers token in appreciation for her hard work as chairman and enthusiasm for Nottingham Calligraphers over the years.

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## Year End Accounts for 2012-2013

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Because our AGM and the presentation of the Treasurer's Report took place before the official end of our financial year (31 August), we present here the final statement for the year 2012-2013. Many thanks to Gwen for keeping on top of the numbers - we start 2013-1024 with a very healthy positive balance!

	£	£	Description
<b>Opening Balance (01-Sep-2012)</b>	<b>1148.57</b>		
Credits		2145.00	Workshop income
		270.00	Membership fees
		50.00	Sale of Ivy's books
		157.00	Other book sales
		30.00	Edge Magazine sales
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>3800.57</b>		
Debits		1608.75	Tutor expenses
		170.00	Hire of Lowdham Hall
		86.00	CLAS Insurance
		59.25	Refreshments
		13.20	Postage
		8.38	Website payment
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1945.58</b>		
<b>Closing Balance (31-Aug-2013)</b>	<b>1854.99</b>		

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## Thanks to Janet

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Sadly for Nottingham Calligraphers Janet Smith decided to step down from the chair of Nottingham Calligraphers in June 2013 since she and Trevor are planning to move away from Nottinghamshire and on to pastures new.

Janet has been a stalwart of the group for many years, first as Treasurer and later as Chairman, and has kept the group running through thick and thin, identifying tutors to come along and inspire us at workshops, redesigning and maintaining the group's website, making sure the functions of a well-run group are covered and supporting members of the Committee in fulfilling their roles. As I try to follow in her footsteps as Chairman, I am beginning to appreciate just how much work she has put into the group to make it the success it is today.

We wish Janet, Trevor and Toby a happy and successful new life in Wales as and when the housing market behaves as it should do and allows them to sell their house.

A big thank you to Janet on behalf of the group for all her hard work and hope that she will keep supporting us (from near and afar!) as much as she is able!

**Sue Sinclair**

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## Honorary Members

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One of the actions for the new Committee following the AGM was to formalise the position regarding Honorary Membership.

For some time it has been an accepted (but unwritten) rule that our octogenarian members should have Honorary Membership, and Charles Johnson has enjoyed that status for a few years. However, we have failed to keep up to date and with a bit of research and surreptitious questioning, we have identified others who should join that elite band.

We welcome Pat Allen, Eve Leadbeater and Val Tulloch as Honorary Members from 2013-2014.

The Committee also thought that we should award Honorary Membership to individuals who have given exceptional service and support to the group over the years and we welcome our retiring chairman, Janet Smith, to Honorary Membership of Nottingham Calligraphers.

**Sue Sinclair**