



NOTTINGHAM CALLIGRAPHERS

Newsletter Number 17 June 2015

Committee News

This Newsletter contains the programme for the session starting in September of this year and we hope you will agree it has a good range of topics to offer (see page 5). We are now thinking about the AGM (on 26 September), so please mark the date in your diary and if you have anything you would like to add to the agenda, do please let us know.



Sue Sinclair - Chairman

Kate Hall - Secretary

Gwen Vine - Treasurer

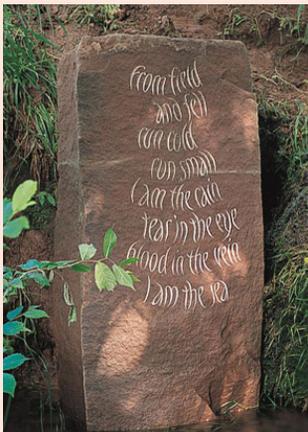
A Thing of Beauty.....

Stanza Stones



A walk in the beautiful English landscape is always a pleasure, especially when you come across the unexpected. Outdoor sculptures such as Water Cut by Mary Bourne in the Eden Valley (top left) provide a welcome man

made alternative to the pylons and wind farms that scar our horizons and lettering in the countryside is increasingly popular.



The Eden Vale Poetry Path at Kirkby Stephen is a well known Cumbrian feature (bottom left) and the Stanza Stones project between Marsden (near Huddersfield) and Ilkley Moor is one I recently discovered. The Stanza Stones comprise 6 poems about water in its various guises by Simon Armitage (snow, rain, mist, dew (see picture top right), puddle and beck).

The web sites www.edenbenchmarks.org.uk and www.stanzastones.co.uk give details of the walks where the sculptures can be found.

Sue Sinclair

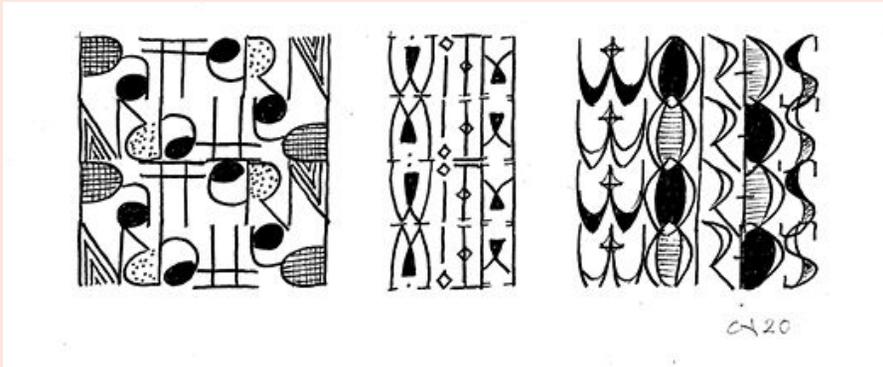
Workshop News

Words as Pattern

Tutor Cherrell Avery

Date 6 June

One definition of the word pattern is “the repetition of an object or motif to create a pleasing design.” In this workshop Cherrell will use individual letters and words as the basic unit from which to develop beautiful calligraphic patterns.

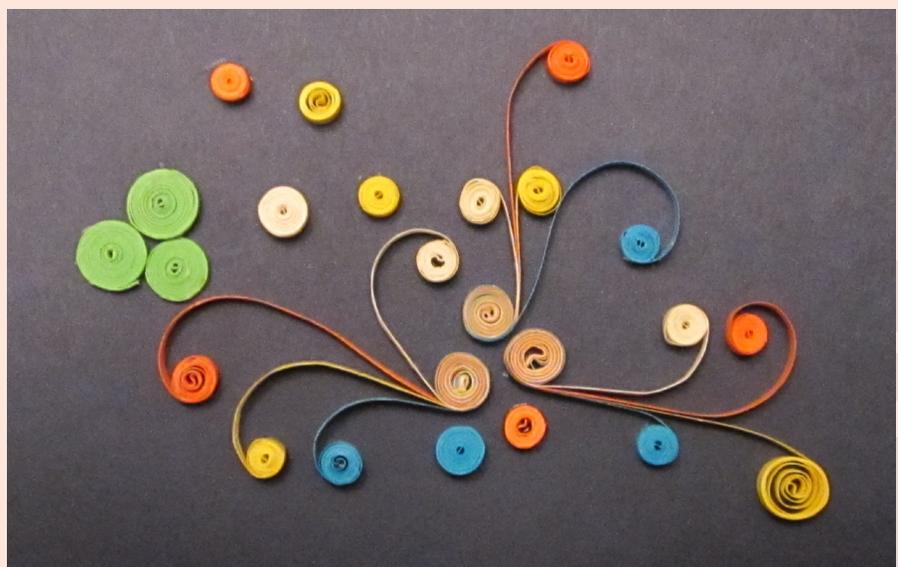


One Day Project - Quilling

Tutor Various

Date 11 July

For our final workshop of the 2014/15 session we will learn the technique of quilling and produce either an embellishment for a piece of calligraphy or a decorated letterform such as those made by paper artist Sabeena Karnik. We are currently working out the details of this workshop, but the plan is that we will provide the specialist materials and tools that you will need for the projects.



Workshop Reports I

Monochrome Magic with Jan Pickett

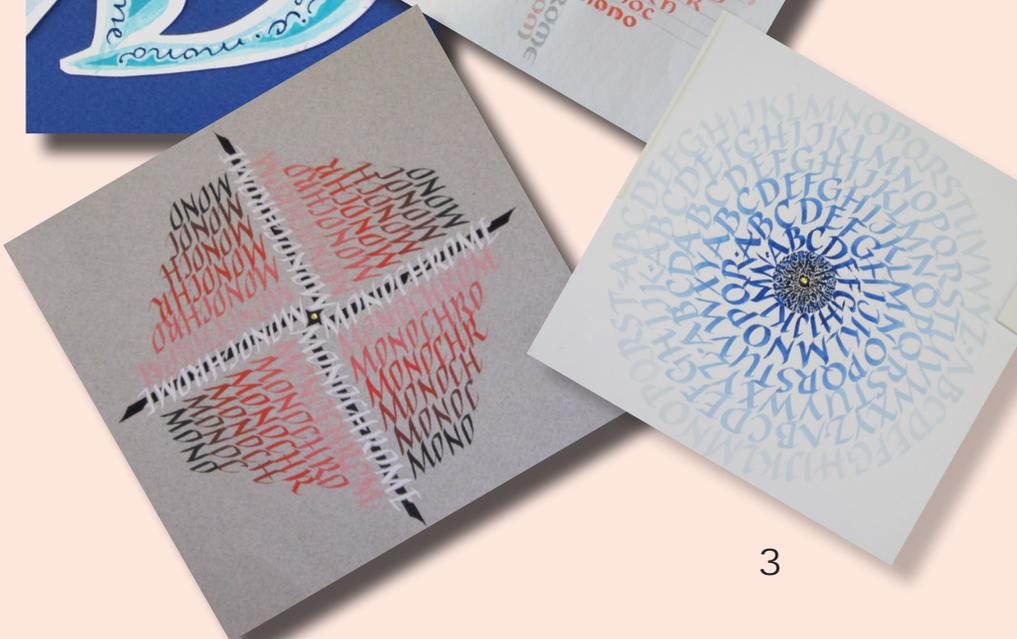
Jan Pickett visited us in March to lead a workshop called 'Monochrome Magic'. Having spent the evening with Sue and making a special new friend Marnie, Jan was raring to teach us all about the delights of monochromatic schemes. This workshop was described as an exciting journey exploring monochromatic colour schemes. This was exactly right as Jan delivered this busy and productive session with her usual panache and passion.

Armed with a wealth of ideas, there were lots of techniques that we could explore with Jan's expert guidance and tuition. We all attempted colour ladders just using one colour and by adding firstly white step by step until we reached the true parent colour. Then we did a second ladder by adding a minuscule touch of black to see how the colours are subtly changed.

Jan's superb handouts and preparation expertly lead us to try many techniques including writing with watery ink, allowing to dry and then adding skeleton letters in white or black using a pointed nib. Adding infills of colour and varying where to apply colour proved to be very successful with everyone producing some lovely and exciting examples. On a personal note I loved the exercise called 'colour banding' whereby the colour mixing techniques that we began with came together in producing a banded letter. The addition of tiny gold dots (always a big favourite of mine) completed these fabulous letters.

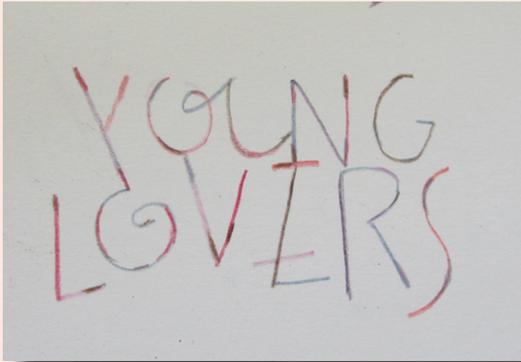
Jan's handouts and guide sheets are well planned and easy to follow making the workshop a total pleasure and success for all of us.

Kate Hall



Workshop Reports II

Informal Roman Capitals with Manny Ling



Eleven members of the group attended this fascinating workshop with Dr Manny Ling. Manny began by taking us through his portfolio of exquisite examples of work. These had been carried out using coloured and graphite pencils.



Anyone thinking that this would be a traditional lettering workshop was in for a shock as this was a workshop where rules could be broken with brilliant effect. The only rule was that it had to look nice! Manny demonstrated the basic strokes with a light touch and fast speed. The aim to make subtle curves to the upright strokes, and to think of bamboo growing!

Sharp pencils and crayons are paramount to getting the right effect and along with good control of the pencil and going back on the stroke, we gradually acquired the correct technique. Following Manny's handouts we all managed to get through a set of exercises. Making those strokes into words was the next part. Here the rules were totally broken. Forgetting classical proportions, we were encouraged to make letters wider, narrower, at an angle. Additionally, we could lower horizontal bars or make them higher (as long as it looks nice), make spirals for the letter g and o and q.

We experimented with ligatures and stacking of letters and words to make some really interesting little textural pieces. Eve and Pat proved to the rest of the group that they could think of a flower or shrub for every letter of the alphabet. Well done ladies!

Using crayons to write simple sentences or a few words or one word we all created some lovely and exciting pieces subtle in stroke and colour but still striking when we exhibited them at the end of the day. Manny went through each one and did a little critique about what we had achieved and what we need to work on.

I think we all agreed this was a thought provoking and liberating workshop for Nottingham Calligraphers.

Thanks to Sheila for collecting Manny from the station and taking him back there too.

Kate Hall

PS: As a bonus, Manny also made each of us a souvenir piece with our own names in the informal Roman Capitals style - what a treat!





Programme 2015-16

(All meetings will be from
10am to 4pm at Lowdham)

2015

26 September (*)

AGM followed by
Lesley Jackson
Washes & Backgrounds

24 October

Gaynor Goffe
Versals & Variations

21 November

Janet Smith
Informal Hands

5 December (**)

Various tutors
Finishing Touches

2016

January - No meeting

13 February

Horace Staniland
Illuminated Letters

5 March

Josie Brown
Embossing

16 April

Janet Mehigan
Carolingian Hand

14 May

Sylvia Thomas
Italic & Variations

11 June

Mary Noble
Big, Bold & Colourful

16 July

Sue Sinclair
The Perfect Letter

August - No meeting

(*) Workshop free for members

(**) Reduced price workshop

Note: I will produce a card with the full programme as last year, since I think people found it useful. I will try to get it done in time for the last workshop of this session (July) and copies will also be made available at the AGM. **Sue**