

Newsletter  
Number 1  
July 2011

# Nottingham Calligraphers

## From the Chairman.....

Hello all,

It's very exciting being able to write to you all, because 3 months ago it looked like Nottingham Calligraphers might not even exist, and yet here we find ourselves with exciting news, shared with you all via a shiny beautiful newsletter!

You'll see from Kate's notes that we had a very useful first committee meeting, with a mixture of the old (that's you and me, Kate!) and the new (Gwen, Mark and Sue) members really making it feel like the group is going places.

I thought that as I'm chairman for the first time, I'd better have a look at what that might entail. Through the magic of the internet, I found that a chairman will preside over meetings of the assembled group and ensure it conducts its business in an orderly fashion. Duties often include acting as the group's representative to the outside world and its spokesperson.

So far so good!

Apparently it is good practice for the chair to arrive at the venue a few minutes before the planned start time. This enables you to familiarise yourself with the surroundings and look for any problems with the seating, lighting or anything else that may have an impact on the meeting. Interesting... I will be plumping up the cushions in the pub for our next meeting...!

In all seriousness though, I am hoping to represent the views of as many members as I can – please talk to me about what you want to be true for your group, and let me know if you think I, or the committee, could be doing things differently.

With so many new things for Nottingham Calligraphers (venue, committee, programme, energy and hopefully members too) we decided it was also a chance to update our logo. We would like as many of you as possible to submit your proposal for our new logo. Please send one or more entries marked with your name (on paper or electronically) to Kate Hall by 1<sup>st</sup> September, and we'll announce the winner at the first workshop, in September. In addition to the excitement and glory of winning, we may even have a small prize for the winner!

I hope you're all having a great summer, and look forward to catching up with you in the Autumn in our new Lowdham home.

Janet



## Some Sad News

Those of you who knew Ivy Quinton will be sad to know that she passed away on Monday 11th July. Ivy came late in life to calligraphy and had a considerable talent for it (although was far too humble to acknowledge that herself!) She took it up originally to be able to write plant names on her beautiful botanical paintings, but expanded her skills to create many beautiful pieces, and was a member of Nottingham Calligraphers for several years. A workshop rarely happened without Ivy attending it, and she could never attend without bringing cakes, biscuits, or mega strawberries from her garden. We will miss her.



## From the Secretary.....

Our new committee made up of Janet (Chairman), Gwen (Treasurer), Mark (Workshop Co-ordinator), Sue (Exhibitions Organiser) and Kate (Secretary) met at The Saracen's Head in Southwell on 29<sup>th</sup> June. It was a very productive meeting that began to shape the future for Nottingham Calligraphers and it gives me great pleasure in reporting to you what was decided.

In the past, the roles of committee members have become a bit fuzzy so this was our starting point, to discuss not only the individual roles but also the collective role of the committee. We all felt happy with the roles and decided that we would all help each other to fulfil these jobs so that everything runs smoothly and that people didn't feel swamped with responsibility. Janet and Gwen are going to meet so that Gwen can be coached in the finer points of being Treasurer! We also made note of some important non-committee roles: refreshments and librarian (Sheila and Frances) and linking to Lowdham Festival (Allan). The creation of membership material was added to the exhibitions organiser role. We are very lucky that Sue is a graphic designer and she has kindly offered to apply her talents to producing some exciting membership materials including producing this newsletter for us. This is

really a great step forward for the group but we will need your help on this to make it succeed. This, along with our new look logo competition (see Chairman's letter) is all very exciting and shows that our group is being re-born and re-invented in time for our fresh start at Lowdham in September!



The bulk of our meeting was the discussion over how to shape the next calligraphy year. It was agreed that the programme will consist of 10 events, one per month September to June. The suggested outline is to have 6 full days, 2 half days, 2 half days followed by free have a go sessions for the public. It was suggested that one of these have a go sessions ties in with the Lowdham Book Festival which runs mid June to mid July. The other sessions are possibly to be in a library where the session has been advertised for us. The programme is to include four pure lettering sessions, plus applied lettering. Some sessions (half or full days) will follow an all welcome policy where we are encouraged to bring guests. Accompanied children will be welcome at these sessions.

Costs are always a tricky issue for all and trying to get value for money, being aware of rising costs and tutors' fees pose plenty of problems. We have come up with the following: £15 annual membership, £22 workshops, £27 for guests. Half days £15 or £20 for a guest.

The topics for the programme are always up for discussion and it is the committee's duty alongside Mark to try and achieve a nicely balanced programme with something for everyone. Mark as workshop co-ordinator has a list of tutors and has taken into consideration people's suggestions. He is endeavouring to have an outline of tutors and subjects for our new programme for the end of July.

We said we would try to find local tutors for half days. Sue and Janet are prepared to run sessions. (Hurrah and thanks). Any other suggestions let us know please.

A share what you know session with several members sharing ideas for a Christmas card making session in October was suggested. How do you feel? Is this something you would like? Thinking of new ideas is difficult but I was recently inspired by the possibility of a glass and calligraphy workshop. I have the contact and am presently making

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enquiries. The down side of this is that she could not do Saturdays but possibly a Sunday or an evening, that is why I e-mailed people to get a response about this possibility just as a one off. Thanks to those people who got back to me.

The programme will be issued in the next newsletter (August) when dates etc have been confirmed. At each workshop, a volunteer will be asked to write up the session for inclusion in the newsletter. Accompanying pictures

would be a real bonus and add another dimension to our newsletter. Newsletters will be sent electronically but can be printed for those without access to e-mail.

Advertising our existence has always been difficult. Yes, we advertise in the usual places but if you can think of more then let us know. It was decided that Kate, Sue and Janet were to approach Colleges (NCN, Newark, South Notts and Castle) plus Patchings to see if we could make ourselves

known a little more!

The committee will meet again in September where issues such as how to advertise for new members, exhibitions and venues, how to make it worth being a member and liaising with local groups will all be discussed.

Please remember this is our group and any thoughts and contributions are really appreciated and most welcome.

Happy Calligraphy!

Kate

## Logo Competition

Please make your design a minimum size of 200mm wide and leave plenty of space around the design.

If you send in a paper version, please do not fold it. If you scan your original to send it in by e-mail, please scan at a resolution of 300 dpi or higher.

Entries to Kate Hall by 1 September, 2011



## In the next issue.....

- Chairman's Letter
- Preliminary Programme for September 2011 to June 2012