



# NOTTINGHAM CALLIGRAPHERS

Newsletter Number 6 September 2012

## From the Chairman.....

Hello All!

It was great to have finished our calligraphic year with such a lovely exhibition day in Lowdham, showing yet again that we can produce beautiful work and can engage the public and surprise them with how broad a subject calligraphy actually is (see report on page 5).

A big thank you to Sue Sinclair for bringing the day together: I'm sure Sue would be quick to point out that it was a team effort, so also a big thank you to everyone who helped with the success of the day. It's really enabling us to become part of Lowdham life, which will be great for us.

Sadly, I couldn't attend on the day, as I was away on a calligraphy working week – it's the first time I've done such a thing. Three of us hired a cottage in beautiful Swaledale, and took work that we wanted to progress. It's astonishing how much progress can be made without the distraction of everyday stuff – and my progress was helped too by the fact that it rained most of the time, so the temptation to go for walks was suppressed a little!

As we look forward to the coming year, you'll find details in here of the programme for the 2012-13 (see page 2). I think it looks really exciting – a mixture of friends of old and new tutors, with plenty of "pure" calligraphy plus some interesting ways to apply it. As always, suggestions for workshops are welcome – don't wait for "the right time" – if you've an idea for a subject please let anyone on the committee know straight away!

You will all have seen the plea for a workshop coordinator – could this be you? It's a pleasurable role, and we really need someone to take it on.

Finally, I imagine many of you are aware of **Scribblers** website. This year they have been issuing hints and tips – maybe 2 a week – via Facebook, such as: "Use absorbent paper towels or better still soft lint-free rags for wiping nibs". Thought I'd share with you the one from this week which read: "Now the weather is finally good, leave the calligraphy and get outside for a while!!"

I hope you have enjoyed the summer, the Olympics and Paralympics, and I look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn.

Janet

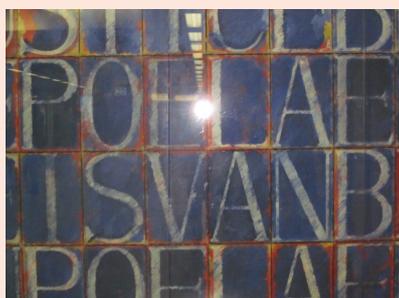
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## A Thing of Beauty.....

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These beautiful Roman letters were in the Metro underground station in Brussels. I visited there recently and was so impressed, not only by the city's beauty, but also its cleanliness. The Metro station walls had the most amazing art work of all kinds. These Roman letters are in grey on deep blue tiles and are truly gorgeous!

Kate Hall





## Programme 2012-13

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

### 2012

#### 29 September

Jilly Hazeldine  
Playing with Capitals

#### 27 October

Sarah Manton  
Paper Cut Letters

#### 17 November

Manny Ling  
Unusual Layouts

#### 8 December

Horace Staniland  
Illuminated Lettering

### 2013

#### 19 January

Cathy Cooper  
Neuland Hand

#### 23 February

Mary Noble  
Teeny Writing in Colour

#### 16 March

Tony Curtis  
Foundational Hand

#### 13 April

Josie Brown  
Lettering on 3D Objects

#### 18 May

Elaine Guilding  
Colour for the Terrified

#### 15 June

Janet Smith  
Collaborative Project

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## Workshop News

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### Playing with Capitals

**Tutor** Jilly Hazeldine  
**Date** 29 September

Jilly is a highly experienced calligrapher and tutor, and is passionate about writing in capitals. Not only will your capitals improve for where they're needed with a lower case alphabet, but we'll also learn how incredibly versatile capitals on their own can be.

### Paper Cut Letters

**Tutor** Sarah Manton  
**Date** 27 October

Sarah is going to introduce us to the craft of Scherenschnitte (paper cutting to you and me!) Her work is incredibly detailed and exquisite - she's going to help us bring together our lettering with this craft, giving us new ways to use our calligraphy.

### Unusual Layouts

**Tutor** Manny Ling  
**Date** 17 November

Back by popular demand, Manny is going to challenge us to work with unusual layouts. For those who thought being able to write in a circle was fabulous (which it is!), this is a "must attend"!

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Nottingham Calligraphers at the  
Lowdham Book Festival - see  
page 5 for a full report



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## Workshop Reports I

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### Screenprinting with Steve Delaney

There was a definite air of excitement as everyone entered the hall on that Saturday morning; we were all raring to go and couldn't wait to get our hands dirty. There were 6 of us in the group (including our new member Michael) - some of who had experience of screen printing, but others who were complete beginners.

We had been asked to take a piece of work ready prepared to use, so after a potted history of screen printing from Steve we were all soon busy cutting out our stencils with scalpels. We then watched Steve do the first print and what a result!



Steve had made it look so easy, but when it came to doing our own, would it prove to be as easy as he'd made it look? First up with her stencil was Sue, and the smile says it all!

One by one we went up and printed our designs, and with such a small class, there was plenty of time to do more designs, so after a break for lunch we set to again. As we got more experienced, we were getting more adventurous.

Towards the end of the day, we decided to really go for it and throw all manner of colours onto the screen to see what result we would get, and they were great!

By the end of the day, we had a wonderful assortment of items. Everyone agreed we'd had a super day, Steve was a fantastic tutor and it made us all feel like kids again – getting dirty and covered in paint. It was certainly the best fun I'd had for ages and I can't wait to do it again!

**Sharron Cawthorne**



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## Workshop Reports II

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### Roman Minuscules with Pointed Pen with Janet Smith

The workshop started with a little of the history of this hand and samples in the form of some of Janet's beautiful pieces of work.



We then began practicing the skeleton letters in pencil where the importance of proportion of width and volume of the letters and the almost semi-circular nature of the arches was explained by Janet.

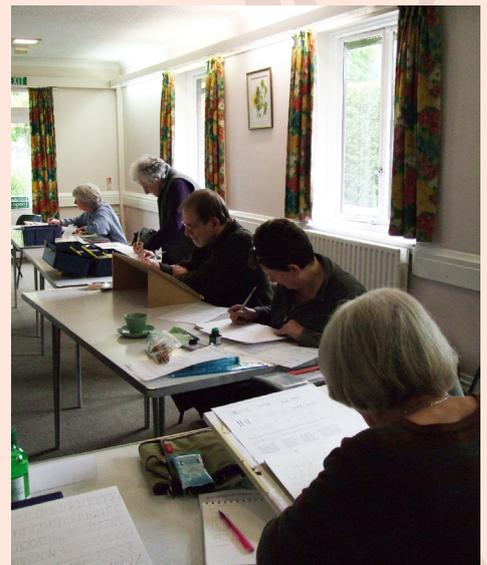
We progressed to 'pressure/normal and release' to form the thin and slightly thicker strokes and finally the addition of serifs.



Using a pointed pen in an upright manner without thinking of nib widths and angles was a refreshing change for most participants and there was the chance to try several types and makes of nib from Janet's supplies.

The afternoon was spent 'aiming for quirky letters with character' with letters and words snuggled together or variations in size and angles but keeping the letters well formed.

Different coloured backgrounds, papers and inks were experimented with and, amidst much laughter, a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.



### Joyce Rowen



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## Exhibition Report

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### Nottingham Calligraphers at the Lowdham Book Festival

On 23rd June **Nottingham Calligraphers** exhibited their work as part of the thirteenth **Lowdham Book Festival**. The theme was **Food and Drink** and the calligraphy exhibits were excitingly varied. After the initial struggle with the screens and people working together to get work assembled our exhibition was up and ready for viewing.



**Nottingham Calligraphers** produced some fabulous work using many different scripts and numerous techniques. There were pieces executed in flowing and dramatic copperplate, attractive uncial, delicate pencil work, elegant italic, cut letters, printed letters, modern digital letters and much more. Tables overflowed with beautiful poems, books and calligraphic delights.



Allan and Eve's calligraphy book tables looked inviting with books and pamphlets old and new drawing us all in. Horace set up his table with some stunning work and was ready to demonstrate as soon as visitors came in. Sheila had set up a **have a go** table for children and adults to try some lettering, or to make a bookmark or decorated box. Joyce got herself organised with her stitched calligraphy project which was an offshoot of the screen printing day and then we were ready!

Throughout the day, many people came through the doors to look at the work and ask questions about what we do. Enquiries were made about our group and names and details were taken by Kate who answered people's questions and took details of those who showed an interest in coming to join us. Compliments were made about the quality of work and people were very keen to ask about styles of lettering and art techniques.

The book table was a brilliant success with people genuinely interested in taking home a book perhaps to get them started. Allan and Eve were very pleased with the sales as the proceeds went to OXFAM. They made £66 and only had to take a few books home with them!

Horace displayed his stunning work and demonstrated throughout the day, answered questions and allowed people to try his calligraphy pens and equipment. Sheila manned the **have a go** table admirably where she skilfully guided people through making a bookmark or a box.

Initially, I think we were all unsure as to whether the day would be successful or not, as this was a 'first' for us in Lowdham. However, considering the number of people that popped in, the quality of the work, the interest, the comments made, the books sold and the kind messages in the visitors book, we packed up feeling that it had been a really worthwhile event.

**Kate Hall**

