



# NOTTINGHAM CALLIGRAPHERS

Newsletter Number 9 June 2013

## From the Chairman.....

Hello to everyone as our calligraphic year comes to a close. It's been a great year with new members, new tutors, and excellent workshops (with record breaking attendance at some).

The final workshop of the year on June 15th is going to be fun! The day will start with the AGM which - while I can't promise wall-to-wall fun - is important for all of us who are members, and will be efficient and speedy. I am hoping it will take no more than an hour.

In order to encourage people to come along, we've made the whole day free for members, plus there'll be a special reduced rate for non-members.

And if that's not enough, we're offering cake too!

(Seriously though, it's your group, so please come along and participate. Non-members are also welcome, but will not be able to vote on matters).

In order to make the AGM efficient, your committee will be meeting on 11 June to try and sort out as many issues as we can. So if you're anything at all you'd like to raise, please could you talk to a committee member before 11 June.

With AGM matters tidied away, the workshop will have us all working on a group project in which I'm hopeful that everyone will try something calligraphic that they've never tried before - please come along and be part of it!

Now a sneaky look forward to the coming year - your committee have put together a great programme with more workshops than ever before - so do have a look and get them into your diary (see page 2).

As I mentioned in the last newsletter I shall be stepping down from all my roles in Nottingham Calligraphers as we're hopeful to move to the coast. It's the first time since I came to Nottingham as a student in 1984 that I've moved to a new area of the country and the tying together of house sale and purchase is inevitably tricky, so I might be here for a while yet.

The group is in a healthy state, with workshops tutors and venue book for more than a year ahead and adequate funds in the bank, but it does need a small number of people to offer their time to keep things ticking along and (not yet!) think about subsequent years.

At the time of writing I am not clear how the various committee roles will be filled - if you think you might be able to offer some time to keep your group running, do please talk to a committee member - we'd be very grateful!

**Janet Smith**



## Programme 2013-14

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

### 2013

#### 17 August

Finishing Work (\*)

#### 21 September

Angela Dalleywater  
Pressure and Release

#### 12 October

Kate Hall & pals  
A Carousel of Techniques

#### 9 November

Cathy Cooper  
Neuland Revisited

#### 7 December

Sue Sinclair  
Finding Inspiration

### 2014

January - No meeting

### 2014 (contd)

#### 1 February

Horace Staniland  
Gothic Rotunda

#### 1 March

Peter Millward  
Chinese Lettering

#### 22 March

Steve Delaney  
Screen Printing

#### 12 April

Jan Mehigan  
Versals

#### 10 May

Unfinished Objects (\*)

#### 14 June

Jan Pickett  
Monochrome Magic

#### 12 July

Janet Smith  
Pointed Pen Uncial

#### 16 August

Kath Partington  
Flat Gilding

(\*) Reduced Price Workshops

## A Thing of Beauty.....



### Winthorpe All Saints Memorial Plaque

This plaque is situated in the entrance porch of All Saints Church, Winthorpe.

A local craftsman was employed to design and make it, the lettering being in metal, mounted on an oak base.

The plaque was commissioned by a resident in memory of her late husband.

Sheila Palmer

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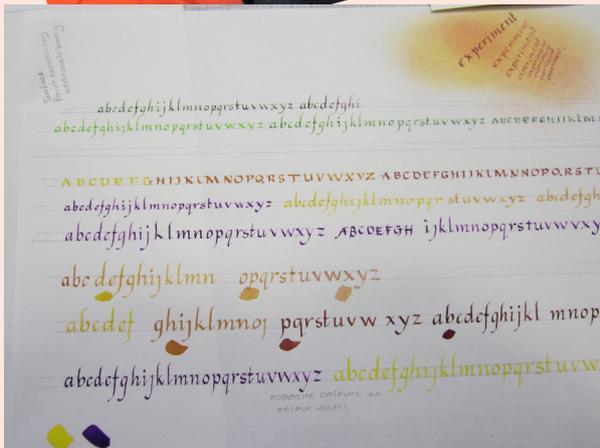
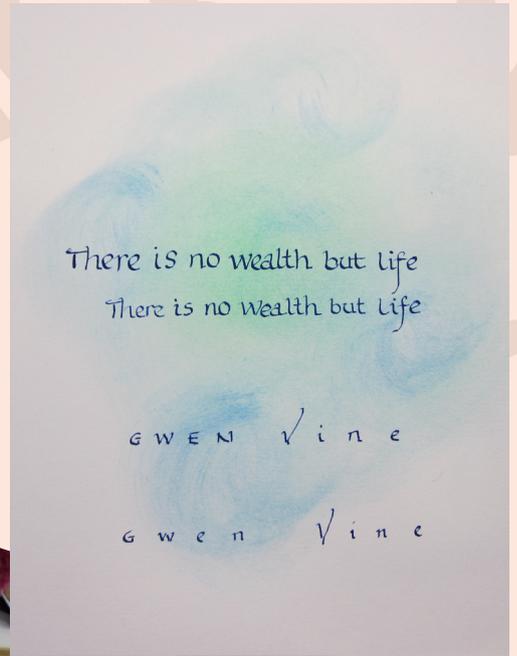
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## Workshop Reports I

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### Tiny Writing in Colour with Mary Noble



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## Workshop Reports II

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### Lettering on 3D Objects with Josie Brown



The lettering on 3D objects workshop tutored by Josie Brown, turned out to be a really interesting workshop and certainly a new area for Nottingham Calligraphers. It was an extremely rewarding day, with the five attendees working really hard to complete our chosen objects, which varied from shoe boxes, strawberry crates, pebbles, slate, terracotta plant pots and a mix of shaped papier maché boxes.

After the introduction of materials needed, we went through the stages of lettering on 3D objects, backed by demonstration and viewing Josie's lovely and inspirational examples.

Then it was our turn. Josie led us skillfully through the important preparatory stages of sealing and painting which we all found relaxing and rewarding. The tricky part came next with the calligraphy (isn't that always the case!). She demonstrated skillfully the art of painting letters with edged and pointed brushes which is very different to creating letterforms with a pen. After some initial planning, we set to with our little quotes, words and phrases with the brush; deciding carefully where these were going to be placed. The results were very different and we all managed to produce some pleasing objects. Gwen completed so many pieces the rest of us trailed behind her.

It is very pleasing and satisfying to write on other surfaces and fired by Josie's enthusiasm we started to focus in on various objects we could add some calligraphy to! The techniques were certainly easier than I had anticipated and like any other form of calligraphy it is a matter of applying those techniques and practice.

This workshop is to be highly recommended and, if we were to invite Josie back, she could certainly repeat the day for those who didn't do it, but develop techniques including working on glass to those who did attend.



### Kate Hall



## Colour for the Terrified with Elaine Guiding



It was a full house for the welcome return of Elaine to Nottingham Calligraphers for a workshop on the use of colour.

Elaine took us through colour theory, how to mix colour after the ink to achieve different hues, shades and tints, how to use dilution to fade colour, how to blend different colours, create contrast using complementary colours, colour selection to create different moods – the whole gamut!

Elaine's class introduced to a whole range of tips and tricks such as adding a hint of burnt sienna to the palette instead of just taking colour straight from the tube which created a much more sophisticated result.

We all came away having learnt or revised how to use colour and few of us will just use inks straight from the bottle in future – customised colour is now the order of the day!

**Sue Sinclair**

### **Calligraphy: Tools and Techniques for the Contemporary Practitioner** by Gaye Godfrey-Nicholls

This weighty 288 page volume is a sophisticated reference book written by Gaye Godfrey-Nicholls, an Australian professional calligrapher. She founded her successful calligraphy company **Inklings** in the eighties. It is a very attractive looking book with many gorgeous photographs and illustrations that positively entice the reader to explore the pages.

The book is divided into four distinct sections. The first section deals with materials and tools, combining knowledge of materials and equipment with good practical advice on pen angle and spacing.

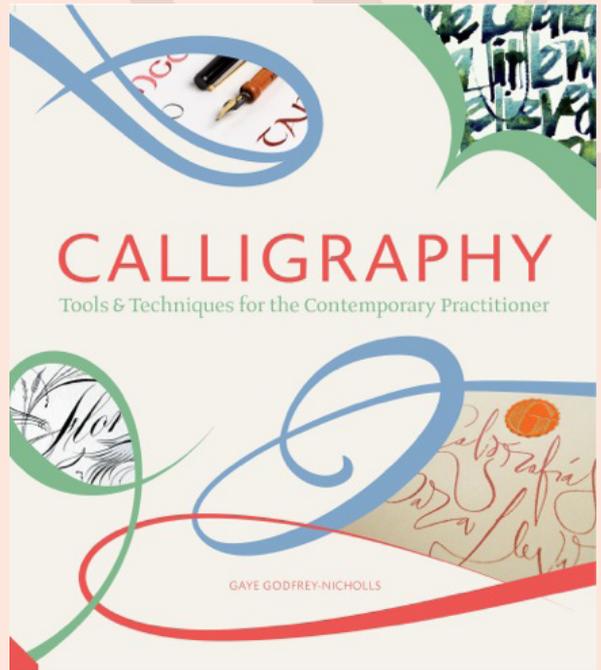
Section two covers all the hands with graded exercises to help you to develop a confident style. Each hand is followed by variations of that style for those wanting to take their calligraphy a further step. The variations are beautifully printed in gorgeous sorbet colours. Interspersed among the pages are profiles of professional calligraphers. Although I am not familiar with many of these calligraphers, I really enjoyed reading these sections which gave an insight into their influences and motivation for their art and their craft. They give little snippets of personal advice which I found fascinating.

Design and decoration are covered in the third section, with colours and backgrounds, layout and composition and illumination making up this section. The step by step guides with excellent close up photographs are clear and easy to understand and follow. The last section is about digital calligraphy and has chapters about digitizing hand drawn letters and creating digital lettering.

At the back of this book there is information about courses, resources, galleries and glossary.

I really do not think this book is for a total beginner, as it could be rather overwhelming in its content. However, what it does do, is to provide very comprehensive information, inspiration and an insight into this glorious and classic craft.

**Kate Hall**



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## AGM Papers

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Our (short!) AGM will take place from 10 am on Saturday 15 June at our usual workshop venue in Lowdham and will be followed by a free to members workshop run by Janet Smith. The following reports are from Committee members (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and we hope that having these available to you in advance will give you an idea of our activities over the past year as a group and save time at the AGM meeting itself. We hope you will be able to join us on the day!

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### Chairman's Report 2012-2013

I write at the end of another successful year with well attended workshops, new members, a revamped committee and all looking set for a good year ahead. Lowdham really feels like home now, and it's just a year since the one day exhibition showed off our skills and brought in a new member or two.

Since then we've had the return of some favourite tutors – Jilly, Manny, Horace and Elaine. We also discovered that calligraphers take very well to paper cutting with new tutor Sarah Manton, and a revisit of Mary Noble, some 10 years on, to teach teeny writing inspired many. Cathy Cooper made it from the wilds of Yorkshire, only to have nearly all of her class scuppered by East Midlands snow – the 5 who made it had a wonderful day, and we're delighted to have Cathy back for next year's programme, hopefully well away from the snowy weather. Tony Curtis's knowledge on Foundational hand was undeniable – a frustration for some that there was very little "pen to paper" time. Josie Brown was another tutor new to Nottingham Calligraphers – although there were only a few of us at the "writing on 3D objects" we'd all strongly recommend she's invited back soon!

We close the year with the AGM (hopefully brief but involving) as part of a workshop day. This will be followed by a session (free to members) where we're going to create work for the Lowdham Book Festival – no time for navel gazing – it'll all be created on the day!

Part way through the year the committee were sad to lose the services of Sue Sinclair who is deeply involved in a new role as a school governor. I think it demonstrated the committee working well that the various important roles that Sue had undertaken were shared out, but as we struggled to decide who could possibly keep our beautiful newsletter alive, Sue stepped back in to say she would remain as publisher – a great relief for the rest of us!

The newsletter, the website and more regular committee meetings (up from none a year to 3 a year!) feel part of business as usual, keeping members informed and hopefully feeling like they "belong". The Envelope Exchange continues to be enjoyed (thanks Kate!), and has doubled its number of participants this year, included a number of people who have become members or, hopefully, will join in the future. The practicalities of having a library have always been an issue – and I'd like to thank Sheila (and Selwyn) for valiantly shifting the heavy boxes at many workshops. Following consultation with members, we decided the books would be more useful if they were sold at a bargain price to members of the group – those that haven't been sold yet will be available at the AGM.

If I describe the roles of Secretary (Kate) and Treasurer (Gwen) as business as usual, I mean that both roles are run smoothly and seamlessly by these ladies who give their time generously – I for one appreciate how great it is to know the tasks are in safe hands. It's been great to have the extra input from Lorraine and Sharron for the committee meetings too. Lorraine is stepping down from the committee as her time is needed elsewhere – as part of the AGM discussions we need to decide on the shape of the committee going forward, as well as deciding who will take on the various roles.

Nottingham Calligraphers will have a presence at the Lowdham Book Festival (more later!) and we have a stall at the Retford Craft Day in September (provided that we've enough people to make this feasible).

Of course the committee are always open to suggestions on how things could be done – Gilroy and Barbara have prompted some thinking on ways we can help beginners and more experienced calligraphers to feel comfortable joining our group.

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## AGM Papers (contd)

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The programme for 2013/14 has been planned by the committee and pulled together by Janet and is shared as part of this publication (see page 2). All tutors and venues are booked – we're really set up for a great year!

Highlights for the coming year are:

- A move to 12 workshops (13 if you include August 2013 and August 2014)
- A trial of a couple of sessions designed for finishing work (or starting work!) rather than learning new techniques
- A revisit of the very popular screen printing and Neuland, plus a session with Horace
  - a must for a successful year!
- Exciting tutors – some new, some returning

As always the committee would be delighted to hear suggestions from members for future workshops.

I write this, my final Chairman's report, as I step down from the committee, since I will be heading off to live with the sheep and the daffodils of Wales (if we can sell our house!). The change of chair and the loss of the weekly calligraphy courses are challenges that the group can cope with and do not affect the bright future for Nottingham Calligraphers.

Personally I owe plenty to Nottingham Calligraphers – I've made wonderful friends, spent many happy hours in stimulating workshops, and I've been proud to be a member. Without hesitation I offer my assistance (and membership fee!) as a non committee member, to help it into its next phase.

A heart felt thank you to the committee and to everyone who has helped Nottingham Calligraphers have another successful year – and I look forward to seeing everything set for a fantastic 2013/14.

**Janet Smith**

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## Secretary's Report 2012-2013

### Membership

Currently, there are 18 paid up members and one honorary member. They are:-

Janet Smith, Kate Hall, Gwen Vine, Lorraine Bousfield, Sharron Cawthorne, Sue Sinclair, Sheila King, Sheila Palmer, Pat Adlington, Pat Allen, Frances Scott-Lawrence, Joyce Rowen, Gilroy Williams, Barbara Sharpe, Ali McDonald, Gail Bench, Stefanie Hey and Claire Brooke. Charles Johnson is an honorary member.

Due to a variety of reasons Eve and Alan Leadbeater, Michael Wheeler, Mark Hacking, Zoe Beach and Ruth Walton have not renewed their membership this year. However Eve and Allan have, I'm pleased to say, attended some workshops. Mr Charles Johnson continues with his calligraphy at home in Calow, Chesterfield. Due to health issues and distance, he has found it difficult to attend workshops.

### Membership process

This year we have had several new people join us and these have mainly come from Janet's classes, plus the exhibition and the 'have a go session' which was part of the Lowdham Book Fair.

I have had a few telephone enquiries about the group this year. These people have found our website or have contacted the library. I have put these 'interested names' into my 'potential calligraphy' file. They are then informed about the programme and how it operates. Information goes to them for 3 months about workshops. People who have enquired by telephone always seem keen, but as yet, no one has come forward to actually join us. It is difficult to say why this is, but cost and venue seem to be big factors.

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## AGM Papers (contd)

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### Workshops

I have continued to send out information (by e-mail) about workshops to members, giving plenty of notice. This year I have attached pictures of the hand/topic/subject, or examples of the tutor's work where appropriate. The idea behind this is to inform members, but also to tempt people to hopefully gain an insight into the topic and tutor. One member receives details of the workshops by letter. Once I receive a reply from a member, to say they will be going, they are then put on a list. I liaise closely with Gwen on attendees, as tutors need to know about numbers (so resources can be sorted/ photocopied etc.) about a week before the workshop date. This has worked very well for members and tutors.

Attendance at workshops has varied greatly this year with snowy and icy weather causing problems for members travelling from various parts of Nottinghamshire. This badly affected Cathy Cooper's workshop on Neuland hand. Consequently, the attendance was very low. Josie Brown's workshop, 'Calligraphy on 3D objects' was poorly attended. I am not sure of the reason for this, but I think possibly many people were away at this time. Mary Noble's workshop on tiny writing and Elaine Guilding's 'Colour for the Terrified' secured a very healthy attendance. Part of my role as secretary is to circulate the fabulous newsletters that Sue Sinclair expertly creates. Once Sue has given me the go ahead, then it is circulated to all members. Very favourable comments have been made by members about the quality and content of the newsletter, but it does need input from all of us to keep it a success.

### Envelope Exchange

Despite ever increasing postage prices, people wanted to continue with envelope exchange. This year we have been running two groups with a total of 23 people taking part. I organise the rotas and send these out to people. Once this is done, it is a case of people just getting on with the envelopes each month. I do think it is nice to send an e-mail to say you have received it, because I know sometimes things disappear in the post. Comments that have been made indicate that it continues to be a successful and enjoyable project. People have shown their collection at one of the workshops, but I think we need to extend this so more people get to see them.

### Making people aware of us

Making people aware of us is ongoing. Our details are presently with CLAS, SSI, New College Nottingham (Adams Building), Central College, Nottingham Trent's Art/ Graphic department. Our details are in the directories of the local libraries. The libraries contact me every year to update the information.

### Kate Hall

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## Treasurer's Report 2012-2013

### Summary

The workshop account is in a reasonable state. Of the eight workshops that took place between September 2012 and April 2013, four made an overall profit, whilst the others made losses of various sizes. One workshop in particular, 13<sup>th</sup> April, made a huge loss because of lack of support and it could be suggested that before this happens again such a workshop should be cancelled.

Eighteen people paid the annual subscription of £15. Charles Johnson remains an Honorary Member.

Annual membership fees have been held at £15.

Lowdham Village Hall has been used as our base, but from May 2013 the cost of hire will be £25 instead of £15. This still appears to be good value, but it does mean another £10 off of a sometimes meagre profit.

Workshop fees are currently £22 for a full day, £27 for a guest and £15 for a half-day (with tutor). It is my recommendation that should a member attend a workshop but leave early, they will not be entitled to a refund.

## AGM Papers (contd)

### Accounts Details

	£	£	ITEM
<b>OLD BALANCE</b>	<b><u>1148.57</u></b>		
<b>Credits</b>			
		1893.00	Workshop income
		135.00	Membership fees
		50.00	Sale of Ivy's books
		119.00	Book sales
		30.00	Edge magazine sales
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>3375.57</u></b>		
<b>Debits</b>			
		1253.75	Tutors' fees and expenses
		120.00	Hire of Lowdham Hall
		86.00	CLAS Insurance
		50.00	One-off refreshments expense
		24.25	Refreshments
		13.20	Postage
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>1547.20</u></b>		
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b><u>1828.37</u></b>		

### Workshop Details

Date	Tutor	Fee	Attendees	Income	Hall	Profit/(Loss)
<b>2012</b>						
29/9	Jilly	£230.00	8	£186.00	£15.00	(-£59.00)
27/10	Sarah	£120.00	14	£384.00	£15.00	£249.00
17/11	Manny	£260.00	11	£287.00	£15.00	£12.00
8/12	Horace	£100.00	9	£208.00	£15.00	£93.00
<b>2013</b>						
19/1	Cathy	£145.00	5	£140.00	£15.00	(-£20.00)
23/2	Mary	£209.75	17	£387.00	£15.00	£162.25
16/3	Tony	£189.00	8	£191.00	£15.00	(-£13.00)
13/4	Josie	£210.00	5	£110.00	£15.00	(-£115.00)

Gwen Vine