



SUSSEXSCRIBES

Newsletter November 2015

Dear Members

It was lovely to see so many of you at the CLAS Regional Day, a joint event with South Hampshire Calligraphers, held at Chichester College at the beginning of October. It was generally agreed to have been a great success.

Many thanks go to Irene Willard and Bridget Lloyd who were part of the RD committee and who took charge of the provision of tea and coffee and the raffle and to Ros Edwards for her work as Treasurer.

Helen Gibbs our Newsletter Editor, helped by Denyce Aresti our Minutes Secretary provided an excellent demonstration and workshop on book-binding which was very popular and

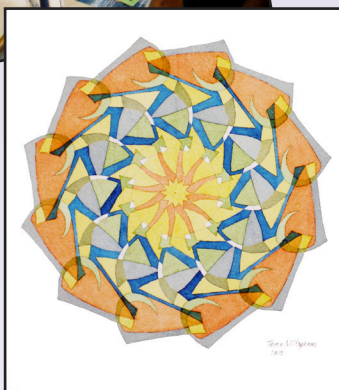
well received, as was Teresa Stephens' demonstration on mathematical letter patterns. *(Illustrated)*

Many thanks to everyone else who helped in any way to make the day so enjoyable.

There were exhibitions from five calligraphy societies and there was a good selection of calligraphy pieces from Sussex Scribes members on display and people commented on the quality of the work. Thanks to all who contributed.

I hope that those who have decided to make their own Christmas cards this year find inspiration in good time and that you all have a very Happy Christmas.

Cathy Stables, Chairperson



Group photo from our AGM at the Pines Day Centre, Durrington. September 2015

From L to R, back row:
Janice Simmonds, Irene Willard, Tina Warren, Melita Beck, Carole Bailey, Bridget Lloyd, John Munro, Peter Amos, Helen Gibbs, Denyce Aresti, Ruth Tomes, Dianne Heddy, Hilary Caws, Sue Skinner

Front row:
Peter Garnett, Nancy Howells, Julie Walker, Cathy Stables

Very front:
Teresa Stephens



The Golden Thread – The Director's Cut



Ewan Clayton stood in for guest speaker David Graham at the CLAS Regional Day in Chichester as David had had a bad fall and was in hospital for a few days. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The theme for the day was the Romans and it turned out that Ewan had plenty of material on the subject, some of which had been cut from his recently published book, *The Golden Thread*, because it would have made the book too long.

With illustrations to accompany his words, Ewan described how early writing systems travelled from Egypt to the coasts of Greece and Cypress carried by traders and soldiers and then to Italy and Rome. He showed us how we can trace the evolution of letters by looking at scripts from various points in time – from the early monoline alphabet dating from around 600BC and its links with geometry to the first appearance of serifs and then thicks and thins in the time of Augustus and coinciding with the emergence of the Roman Empire.

Ewan described for us how he has looked at the proportions of Roman lettering and compared them to Roman architecture and

how this can give us a sense of the pace of Roman life. Detail about their libraries and books was fascinating as was news that digital technologies are helping to read fragile carbonised scrolls unearthed from Herculaneums Villa of the Papyri', which are in

turn suggesting that there may be more texts still buried there.

Ewan finished off with a reflection on how new technologies don't necessarily replace the old ones but sit side by side, the old and the new all mixed up together – in our day to day lives we might use our digital laptops and tablets alongside pen and paper and

outside we see graffiti and painted inscriptions on walls.

Roman lettering keeps coming back and is worthy of our focus and attention. It was a real treat to hear Ewan's research and his presentation rounded off a fabulous day of creativity and inspiration.

Helen Gibbs

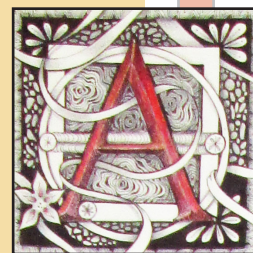


Some comments from our members following the event:

Many thanks to all who were involved in the CLAS Regional day yesterday. I had a thoroughly enjoyable day and appreciate all the hard work that went into it. What a treat to have Ewan speak as well!

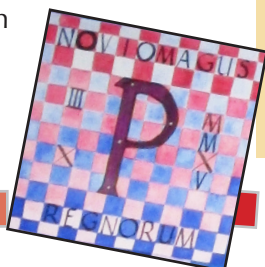
Yes, a really enjoyable day, great displays, and a wonderful talk by Ewan Clayton.

I really enjoyed the demos and have-a-go sessions, and am delighted with my little book. It was great to get a chance to look at the Letters after Lindisfarne books, I felt very privileged to get to see the work up close and be able to explore the wonderful variety of the work in there. It felt like a very successful day all around, and I want to say a huge thank you to you all for organising and keeping the day flowing so well. It all seemed to run like clockwork (and if it didn't then nobody noticed!).



I enjoyed the day thoroughly and it was good to hear Ewan speaking about the origins of calligraphy.

More photos from the day are on our website at www.sussexscribes.co.uk



Our AGM, held on the 19th September, was also our 25th birthday! 18 of us came together to have a slice of birthday cake, supplied by Irene, one of our long standing members.

Nancy Ouchida Howells explained that the group was initially formed to facilitate field trips. Nancy also bought along some old newsletters, all of which were hand lettered and put together with the cut and paste method for us to look at. Six of our members (Teresa, Susan, Peter, Irene, Hilary and Nancy) are still with us since the inception of Sussex Scribes - a brilliant achievement!

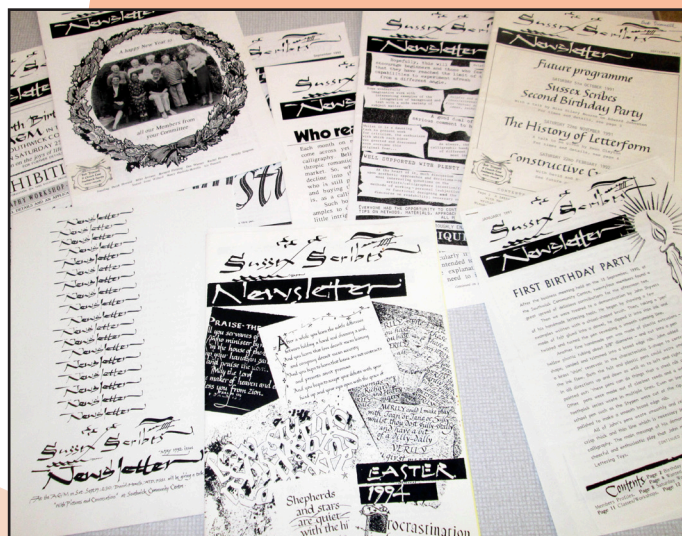
Cathy, our chair, opened the meeting by telling us that we had had some very good workshops this year, and that our current membership totals 60 people, including some new members from both East and West Sussex. Cathy also welcomed Ros to the committee as our new Exhibition Secretary. Ros will coordinate our next exhibition at Arundel Cathedral in 2016 - see last page for more info. The members of the committee introduced themselves, and welcomed anyone who would be interested to come and join us!

Dianne reported that our finances are stable. Dianne also explained that the workshops are self-funding and that the subscriptions pay for renting space at our workshop venue as well as the web hosting page and all other expenses.

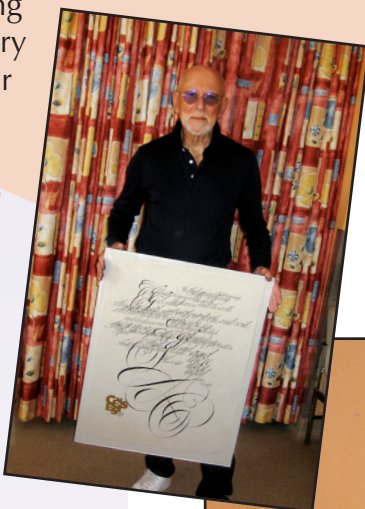
Peter Amos was our guest speaker, showing us some of his work as a graphic designer and his calligraphy, which generated a lively discussion.

Following a relatively difficult quiz, we went out into the garden for a group photo in the sunshine and finished with our group tea. It was lovely to see some new faces as well as the old favourites.

Denyce Aresti



Above : Some early versions of the newsletter from a time when the world was black and white and the newsletter was written out by hand.



Left : Peter Amos showed us some of his recent calligraphic work

Below : Founder of Sussex Scribes, Nancy Ouchida Howells, cuts the birthday cake



Next Workshop – November 2015

Printing Christmas Cards with Mary Kay Stephens

November 21st, 10am - 4pm

Cost £20 members, £25 non-members

Venue: Pines Day Centre, Worthing

This workshop offers an opportunity to create colourful hand-made Christmas cards using lino cut and chine colle techniques.

An image is transferred to a block of lino, which is then cut ready for printing. Thin paper is cut to shape and adhered between the block and a heavier paper, creating a collaged effect.

Materials list to bring:

Thin decorative papers, not tissue
Scissors, suitable for fine work, or scalpel and cutting mat.

Sharpie pen

Pencil, paper and biro

Lino, card blanks and some decorative paper will be available for sale. If you have your own lino tools and wooden hook to work on, please bring them along.

Maximum 10 people for this workshop so please book early to secure your place.

To book a place on this workshop, our last of 2015, please use the workshop booking form included with this newsletter



Programme of Workshops for 2016

Please find booking form at the end of this newsletter

16 January From Formal to Free

20 February The CLAS Certificate in Majuscules (part 4)

19 March Mark Making & Design

21 May More Illuminated Letters

18 June Welter of Watercolour

16 July Pleats, Pages and Perforations (Bookbinding)

17 September AGM – My Calligraphic Journey

15 October Black Letter, White Space (Gothic)

19 November Copperplate

Mary Noble

Gaynor Goffe

Gerald Mynott

Jan Mehigan

Jan Pickett

Helen Gibbs

Marion McKenzie

Lin Kerr

Joy Daniels

"From Formal to Free"

with Mary Noble

Saturday January 16th, 2016

10am - 4pm

Pines Day Centre, Worthing

Members £20, non-members £25

Come with me on a journey by pen to loosen-up, using various strategies to inject that elusive 'freedom' into our writing.

Sometimes we are viewed by continental calligraphers as quaintly formal, as they have developed much freer, intuitive approaches, so we'll spend the day taking stock of our solid traditions and finding ways to bring them into today's livelier times.

Materials list to bring:

Lots of layout paper, A3 preferred

Black ink that doesn't bleed on your paper

Black and colours in Gouache - Winsor & Newton or Schmincke, NOT Daler-Rowney the texture's too slimy for good coverage with a pen

Speedball or Brause nibs if possible in preference to Mitchell/ Manuscript as the former are more conducive to faster strokes, but that said, Gaynor Goffe manages...

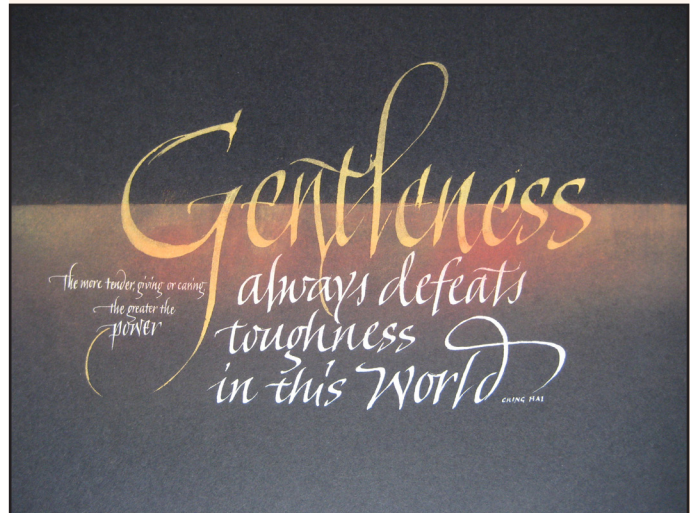
Several sheets of A3 smooth better paper (cardstock is OK) for trying out a piece

Plastic card eg out-of-date credit card/ membership card for spreading the colour as a background, as it's more fun with some colour

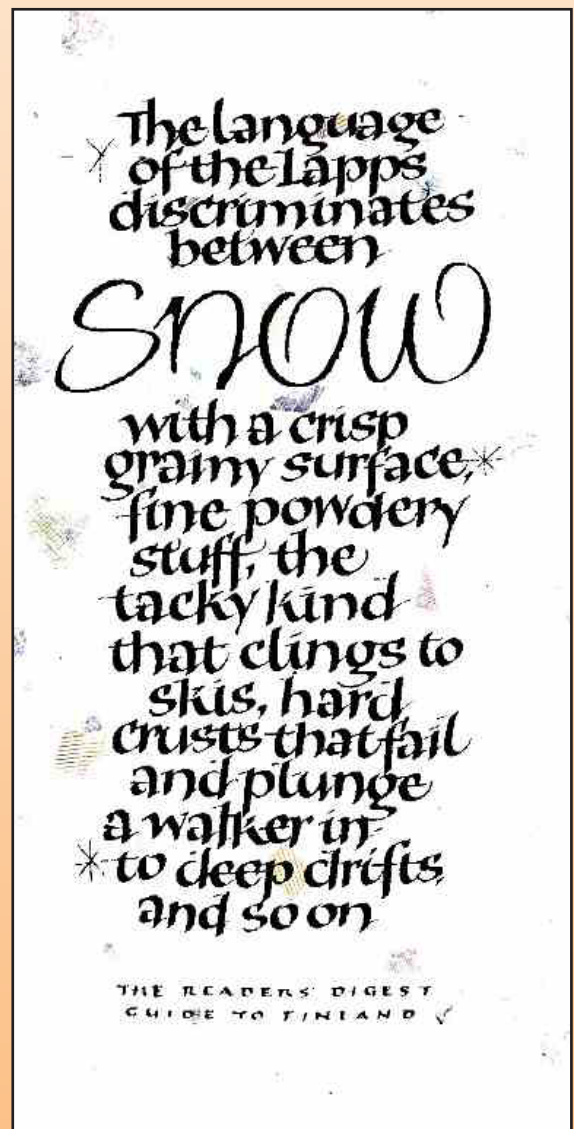
1 flat tile or equivalent for squeezing out and mixing the paint

Some short quotes to write

Some examples of freer calligraphy that you admire



Mary Noble



Mary Noble

Clas Certificate of Skills Part 3 : Versals

October 17th 2015

with Gaynor Goffe

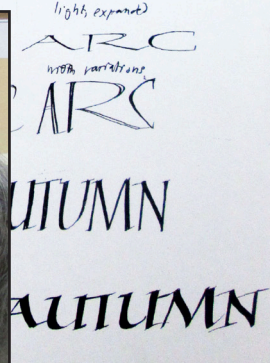
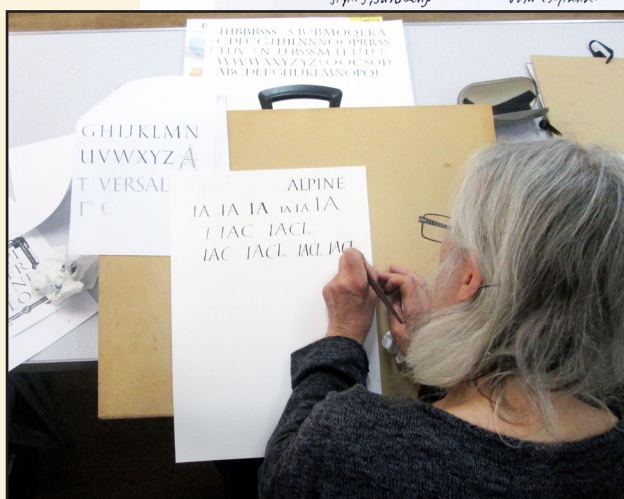
Gaynor led the group through another intensive and exciting day of tuition on the Roman capitals course that is being run over a year. In this part we looked at versals, where the classic Roman capitals are built up with two strokes instead of one.

At first, Gaynor ensured that we understood the correct form of each letter. She kept a careful eye on everyone's letter structure as we worked through the alphabet, giving us examples to copy and take home for further practise. Then she set us exercises to introduce variation to the lettering - size, spacing, boldness, slope and so on.

Finally she set us a task to create our own styles of letters and then to use these to write out a short phrase, showing us that versals can be used in an expressive and diverse way.

With Gaynor's expert and patient explanation, her critical eye for detail and lively approach she painstakingly took the group forward. Everyone benefited from her skill, her personal instruction and attention throughout the day. Another brilliant day from an amazing tutor.

Ros and Helen



I had a wonderful six days at the CLAS Festival. Held in a beautiful peaceful setting at the foot of the Malvern Hills it would have been difficult not to relax and enjoy. I attended both of Gemma Black's workshops, a lovely lady from Tasmania who was extremely generous with her time and expertise.

The first workshop was entitled "Amperands, Ligatures and Biting of Bows". I had no idea there were so many styles of amperands and after practicing them we each selected an example from the Book of Kells to trace down and decorate. I had seen the page in the Book of Kells but it hadn't registered that they were amperands!

Ligatures I knew were the connection between certain tall letters but "Biting of Bows" was something new – the joining of rounded letters, the trick being to remember when to use them.

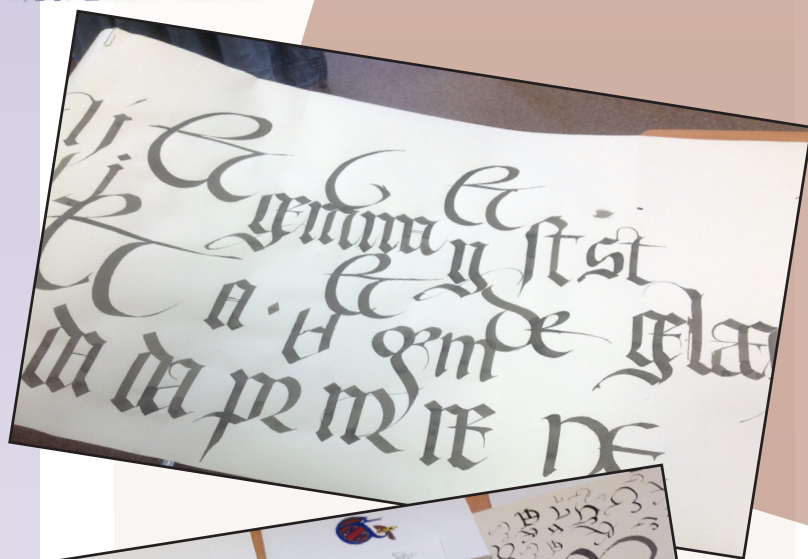
We had a free afternoon inbetween the workshops and I used the time to walk in the hills and have a dip in the heated (sort of) pool with Sue Faber.

For the next two and a half days I was absorbed in versals, beginning with traditional, onto David Jones style and then 'free' versals, something I'd not tried before but have become hooked on.

In the midst of all this, Gemma managed to fit in a bit of gilding and introduced us to some interesting techniques; we came in one morning to find her taking folded Khadi paper out of the slop bucket. It had been left in overnight weighted down with a jam jar, and after rinsing and drying it revealed some interesting patterns!

We had lectures by the tutors in the evenings and a Gala dinner on the last night with a quiz and each of us took and received a small calligraphic gift, a lovely end to a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Janice Simmonds



Examples of work by
Gemma Black

Exhibition 2016

Sussex Scribes Exhibition Arundel Cathedral August 2016

"In Praise Of Letters II - Around Sussex"

This is the second year that we have had the opportunity to exhibit at this special venue. Arundel Cathedral attracts a wide audience and the theme of 'Around Sussex' was chosen as it offers opportunities for diverse interpretations.

Finished work should be square. It can be mounted, but not framed and the completed work should be no more than 30 cm square, (including mount). Work will be displayed on screens. *Please be aware that the venue may not be manned throughout the duration of the exhibition.*

Entry charge is £2 per exhibit.

You can enter a maximum of four pieces per person.

Further information and application forms will be available in the New Year.

Bookbinding Equipment

(I don't think the current owner wants any payment for it, he just wants it to go to a good home)

**2 Dryad Ploughs with one blade
1 desk top clamp**

Ring Dianne if interested 01273 699587

Sussex Scribes has a Facebook page!

Members can post pictures of their work, ask for advice and share information with other members such as exhibitions, books you have read or workshops you know about.



We will keep the page updated with details of workshops and other calligraphy news.

This is now an open group page - you only need a Facebook log in to see it.

Save the Date

CLAS AGM 2016

**Saturday March 12th at the
British Library**

Your Committee

Chair:

Cathy Stables 01243 782240

Treasurer /Membership:

Dianne Heddy 01273 699587

Secretary: Denyce Aresti

Programme: Suzi Faber

Bookings: Irene Willard

Newsletter: Helen Gibbs

Exhibitions: Ros Edwards

Committee Members:

Janice Simmonds

The next newsletter will be sent out at the end of January. Please send copy to Helen Gibbs by email to hemgee@ntlworld.com. Copy can include: write ups of any workshops you have been to, exhibitions you have visited and indeed anything else you would like to share that you think will be of interest to other scribes. Copy deadline January 15th, 2016

www.sussexscribes.co.uk