



# SUSSEXSCRIBES

Dear Members,



It was lovely to get some rain today; more the kind of weather we're familiar with. The amazing summer up until now is something we only dream of and although very enjoyable, rather worrying as everyone's gardens are so dry and parched.

I'd like to congratulate Suzi Faber, our workshop organiser for gaining a distinction at the intermediate level of the Calligraphy and Lettering Arts Diploma. Her work was beautiful and hopefully we can include some of it in our next newsletter.

I hope that you have managed to get to some of the excellent workshops that Sussex Scribes have been running. If you are planning to go to future ones this year, and I hope you are, I must draw your attention to the fact that we are in a number of different venues for the rest of this year and next year so please make sure that you know where to go.

Most of our workshops are in Broadwater Baptist Church in Worthing next year with a few in Heene Road Community Centre, Worthing and the rest this year are in Heene Road and Arundel Baptist Church. I'm sorry for the lack of continuity but please bear with us.

I hope to see you at our AGM in September. It is a great opportunity to meet or catch up with other members, to renew your membership, to hear a great speaker, pass on unwanted calligraphy equipment and books and look at other members work. Please come!

Cathy Stables, Chair

Newsletter July 2018

## Sussex Scribes

### AGM 2018

**Saturday September 15th**  
2-4pm

#### Venue

Wordsworth Room  
Heene Road Community Centre  
122 Heene Road  
Worthing  
BN11 4PL

#### Guest Speaker

Sylvie Gokulsing  
"Calligraphy for Family Trees"

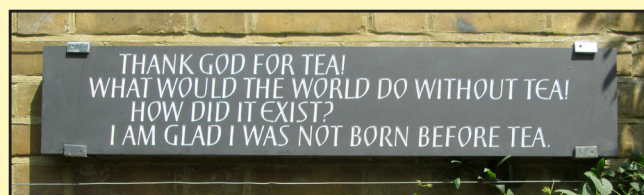
#### Pop-Up Exhibition

Please bring along one piece of your own work for a display - perhaps something you have been working on recently.

#### Bring & Buy

Donate your unwanted books etc to help raise funds for the group.

#### Tea & Biscuits



"Thank God for Tea" by Joe Hickey from "An Elixir of Letters" exhibition at Chelsea Physic Garden.

## Collector's Piece Bookbinding *with* Helen Gibbs

August 11th, 2018

Heene Community Centre

122 Heene Road

Worthing BN11 4PL

10am - 4pm

Cost £25 + materials

This workshop will focus mainly on one structure - the longstitch album. We will spend most of the day on this project and at the end you will have a finished book that you can keep things in such as cards, envelopes etc. The tutor will supply most of the materials but students should prepare art-worked papers for front and back covers.

Students can choose from two sizes – either a smaller, A5 portrait album, or the larger, more ambitious, A4 landscape album. If you are an absolute beginner you may want to choose the smaller version as this will be a little easier to handle - but it depends on the size of your collection! Please decide before the workshop and let Helen know as she will bring your materials cut to size. (Helen will be in touch before the workshop to ask for your preferred choice.)

Other samples of book structures used for collecting will be shown and there may be time to experiment with them.



**This workshop is fully booked**

### The tutor will supply:

Paper for pages cut to size.  
Boards for covers cut to size.  
Strips of book cloth for the binding  
Templates and handouts

### Students should bring:

- Ruler, pencil, masking tape
- Cutting mat and scalpel/kraft knife with new blades
- Scrap magazine paper to glue up on
- Bone folder
- A4 (or bigger) size pressing board, at least 1cm thick (bring 2 the same if you can)
- PVA glue and glue brush\*
- Bookbinders sewing thread and needle\*
- Pricker for making sewing holes/pin vice\*
- A selection of A4 papers to play with alternative structures if there is time.
- See below for info about cover papers

\* The teacher can supply these on the day if you don't have them

**NB. There will be a charge for materials on the day: £4/£3 depending on the size of book.**

### Students should bring 2 sheets of art-worked paper for front and back covers:

Choose paper from the 120 – 150gsm range and try to organise the grain direction of the paper to be parallel to the spine. You can decorate the papers in whichever way you like.

Sizes (choose one of these sizes)

A5 portrait album is 15 x 21 cm so each one of your covers should be 20 x 26cm to include turn ins.

A4 landscape album is 29.5 x 21.5 so each one of your covers should be 35 x 27 cm including turn ins.



## Embossing With Extra Pizzazz

with Jan Pickett

October 13th, 10am - 4pm

Venue: Arundel Baptist Church  
Torton Hill Road, Arundel,  
BN18 9JQ

Cost: £25 members

Suitable for all levels.

*Shadows, highlights and a third dimension.....*

Embossing is the art of shaping letters and patterns so that they are raised above the surface of the surrounding paper. Embossed surfaces cast subtle shadows, giving an appearance of quality wherever used. You will learn to prepare and cut templates which can be re-used, along with the embossing process, with its many and varied applications.

With a little more cutting for 3D 'build-ups' and some exciting multiple embossing, perhaps even a touch of colour, you can really give it that extra pzazz!

Come and enjoy these two, easily acquired, related techniques, to produce some stunning results.



### Materials To Bring:

- Embossing tool (two size, double ended are excellent)
- Cutting Mat
- Exacto Craft Knife or equivalent WITH LONG POINTED BLADES (NO 11) If using a scalpel, please bring small pair of pliers to change blades.
- Spare sharp blades (no 11 - pointed) YOU WILL NEED spare blades
- Tracing paper, 2H pencils
- Thin card - cereal packet thickness is excellent!
- Masking tape, ruler, scissors, rubber
- Pritt Stick
- Selection of good quality watercolours - pans or tubes (not gouache)
- Good quality pointed brush
- Coloured pencils (ideally water soluble, but not essential)
- Vital: BFK Rives (perfect for embossing) 250gsm or 300gsm
- Small selection of Water colour papers, small sizes are OK. Somerset paper also embosses well, but it is NOT friendly to watercolour.
- A small light box IF you have one – but a window will work wonders!
- Pastels - dry, not oil
- Patience and sense of humour!

**To book a place on this workshop,  
please use the booking form at  
the end of this newsletter or  
contact Irene 01273 888798**

## Copperplate Weekend

with Eleanor Winters

November 10th and 11th

10am - 4pm

Cost: £50 members

Venue Day 1:

Arundel Baptist Church, Torton Hill  
Road, Arundel, BN18 9JQ

Venue Day 2:

Shelley Room, Heene Road Community  
Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing,  
BN11 4PL

For students with some familiarity with Copperplate letterforms and the pointed pen, this workshop provides some answers to the question, "What next?".

The class will include a brief but intensive review of the basics, with an emphasis on improving skills such as consistency in shape and weight of the letters, as well as spacing. This will be followed by letter variations (both minuscules and capitals), as well as an introduction to Copperplate flourishing.

### MATERIALS TO BRING

- Copperplate penholder
- Nikko G or Tachikawa G nibs (or your preferred CP nibs)
- Non-waterproof black ink, such as Higgins Eternal
- Layout paper, i.e., any calligraphy practice paper through which you can see guide lines
- Water container & cloth or paper towels
- Tracing paper (a few sheets)
- Masking tape
- Ruler
- Pencils (H, HB, or the equivalent)
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Guide lines, if you have any

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Till they think warm days will never cease;  
For Summer has o'erbrimm'd their clammy cells.*

*John Keats To Autumn 1819*

*Jenny kissed me when we met;  
Jumping from the chair she sat in;  
Time, you thief, who love to get  
Sweets into your list, put that in!  
Say I'm weary, say I'm old;  
Say that health and wealth have missed me,  
Say I'm growing old, but add  
Jenny kissed me!*

*J. Keats To Jenny, 1818*

**To book a place on this workshop , please use the booking form at the end of this newsletter or contact Irene 01273 888798. Please note that this is a 2-day workshop and both days have to be booked.**



## Its A Kind of Magic

with Tina Warren

Lavinia Norfolk Centre  
Angmering

This workshop with Tina Warren covered some techniques for providing the calligrapher with useful backgrounds to write upon: suminagashi, patterns using shaving foam and the possibilities of using bleach on black paper.

Tina presented all students with a sample pack of Saunders watercolour paper, with our names attractively written on the front and two name samplers which we used with the bleach technique.

I think it is fair to say that trying the suminagashi technique had varied results, some managed to produce nicely patterned papers whilst others struggled - sadly no common denominator for success or failure could be found. Something to be experimented on at home, perhaps?

The shaving foam technique did seem a little bizarre but again some students did produce an interesting background and it can provide a background that is good to write on.

The bleach - applied with either a brush or spray - on the pieces provided by Tina was also interesting. The black writing on black

paper was achieved by writing on white paper and then photocopying onto the black paper. The bleaching effect only works if the photocopying process uses toner and the black paper also has to respond to a slightly diluted bleach. Tina used a Strathmore paper.

This was followed by Tina demonstrating three styles of contemporary calligraphy using various styles of folded pen. Firstly, an italic variant, then gestural lettering and finally freestyle capitals with the added possibility of dropping in coloured ink into letters written with water.

There was an opportunity for students to make their own folded pen (or Cola pen) but most had brought their own or purchased one of the models that Tina had provided.

Tina shared with us some of her own work and some examples of calligraphers who have provided inspiration for her, eg. Ben Shahn, the Boudens family and Paul Peter Piech. She also found the cyrillic alphabet inspirational.

The day finished with students showing their work and thanking Tina for an enjoyable day.

Personally, I loved both the italic and freestyle capitals and will definitely be using them in my own work.

Angie Hatchett





# Writing with Legende/ Numerals and Flourishes

*with Nancy Ouchida-Howells*

Saturday 16th June 2018  
Sussex MS Treatment Centre  
Southwick

A search for “Legende” on the internet reveals little information other than it is a flowing informal script that has some Chinese and Arabic qualities. Nancy described the script as having been developed from a typeface from the 1930’s and made with a horizontal writing movement. The miniscule letters are only 2 pen nibs high making most characters wider than tall, whilst the capitals were tall and flowing. She likened this to a couple skillfully dancing the tango across the floor.

Practice sheets were handed out but we started with some breathing, shoulder and hand exercises to loosen up and relax. Nancy said it was important to feel comfortable, with our desk and chair at the right height in order to keep the hand and arm relaxed. It was also good to have a slightly soft writing surface, such as a leather pad. She instructed us not to sit too long but to take breaks for a drink, exercise or to peruse the many examples she had brought to demonstrate.

Nancy did not want us just to practise alphabetic letters individually but to write words so that we could get a rhythm from

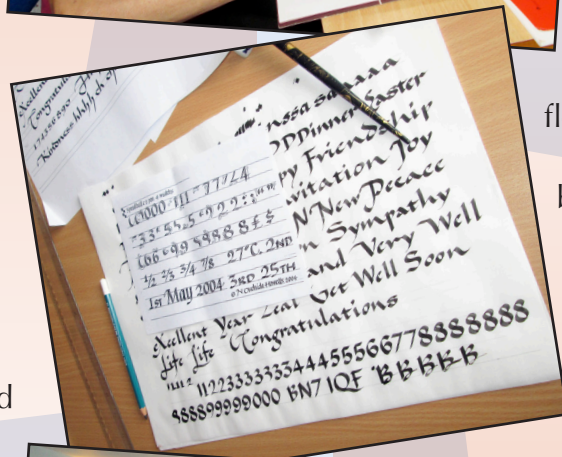
one character to the next, which was more important than making individual letters all look perfectly the same. Whilst we worked, Nancy came and sat at each table to demonstrate and use our own pens to test and correct. In my own case she adjusted my hand position so I put more weight to the right of the nib to get the correct ink flow.

After lunch we moved on to practising numbers – not just in Legende but in other scripts too. This was useful as many calligraphy work sheets do not show the scripted numbers. Then she showed us some flourishes and gave us the challenge of writing the word “Party” in Legende with the capital “P” and final “y” in balanced flourishes.

Up until then some of us had been using a C2 Speedball but we were all encouraged to try other pens including automatic and double-line pens. Interestingly, she said, "automatic" pens were invented to overcome the work of having to make solid thicker lines with a pointed pen and then cross-hatching. We tried out her own device of a pen which had a handle of bamboo and a "nib" made from a shaped reed used in clarinets and saxophones. It was both strong and flexible and it was also available for purchase - as indeed were many other excellent materials.

We felt that it was an interesting and useful day and thanked Nancy for her instruction, hints and encouragement.

*Gill Payne*





# Italic for Beginners & Improvers

*with Gaynor Goffe*

July 14th, 2018

## Heene Road Community Centre

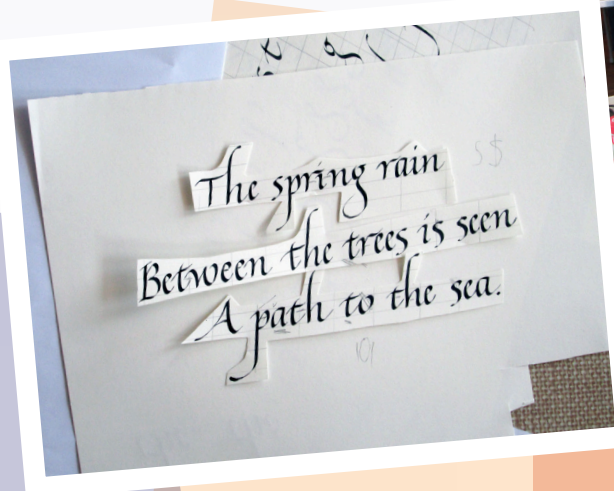
It was another warm day but with so many of them this summer we didn't mind being indoors and getting our heads down for some serious italic work with Gaynor Goffe, one of our favourite teachers.

One of the great things about Gaynor is her willingness to respond to a group of mixed levels. She was well prepared with layers of tasks for us to work through so that both absolute beginners and those with some experience were challenged and learning throughout the day.

Some of the buzz words repeated around the room during the day were rhythm and flow, triangles and pushing back as we learnt some new pen manipulations whilst trying to find the liveliness of hand that Gaynor demonstrates in her work so naturally.

Everyone worked hard and there were some wonderful sheets of lettering appearing across the desks. At the end of the day we managed to squeeze a group exercise into proceedings and I must say I enjoyed looking at the variety of scripts that everyone had produced when I unpacked my bags at home.

*Helen G*





# Lettering at Home & Abroad

Thank you Janice for sending in these photos of 11th century lettering found on a trip to Limmasol in Crete.



If you find interesting lettering whilst you are travelling over the summer, do send it in for the next newsletter with a few words to describe where you found it.



The Chelsea Physic Garden hosts a display of letter carvings to mark the 30th anniversary of the Lettering Arts Trust. There are 17 carvings dotted around the garden with texts inspired by the theme "Drink".

From left to right: "Message in A Bottle" by Iain Cotton, "Tea for Two" by Harry Brockway and "Enjoy Life" by Martin Cook. The exhibition runs until the end of October. If you visit be sure to take one of the delightful guided tours. *Helen G*



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## Sussex Scribes

### Programme of Workshops for the Remainder of 2018

#### August 11th

Collector's Piece - Bookbinding with Helen Gibbs

#### September 15th

AGM with Guest Speaker Sylvie Gokulsing

#### October 13th

Embossing With Extra Pizzazz with Jan Pickett

#### November 10th/11th

Copperplate Weekend with Eleanor Winters

*For workshop bookings and enquiries please use the booking form included with this newsletter or contact Irene Willard 01273 888798*

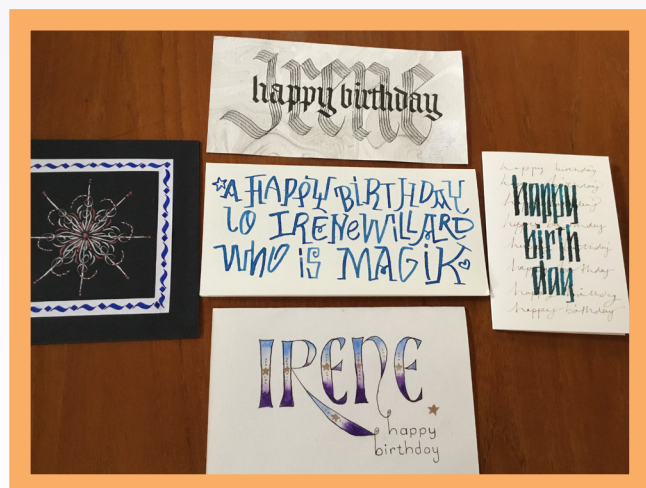
### South London Lettering Association Annual Exhibition "Waterways of London, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow"

October 16th - 26th, 2018

St Bride Foundation, London

[www.southlondonlettering.co.uk](http://www.southlondonlettering.co.uk)

Sussex Scribes run a letter and birthday card exchange. To join this small but beautiful group please contact Helen (hemgee22@gmail.com) or Suzi (suzifaber@outlook.com)



Thank you to everyone who sent articles and photographs in for this newsletter.

The next newsletter will be sent out at the end of October 2018. Please send any copy to Helen Gibbs: email [hemgee22@gmail.com](mailto:hemgee22@gmail.com)

Copy can include: write ups of workshops, exhibitions and anything else you would like to share with the group.

**Copy deadline October 15th, 2018**

## Your Committee

**Chair:** Cathy Stables  
01243 782240

**Secretary:** Denyce Aresti

**Programme:** Suzi Faber

**Workshop Bookings:**

Irene Willard

**Newsletter/ Membership:**

Helen Gibbs

**Treasurer:** Mariette Hardman

**Committee Members:**

Janice Simmonds

Lynda Marsh

