



SUSSEXSCRIBES

Dear members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying your calligraphy through some challenging weather conditions. It feels like this summer will be endless but we should remind ourselves that the seasons will turn, eventually, and we can still make plans for Autumn activities.

Our calligraphy plans might include a workshop and we have two coming up: one in person with Mary Noble looking at "Uncial Variations", which is booking up quickly so I advise you to put your name down for that as soon as possible. Then we have a zoom workshop with Ann Mason in November investigating cursive italic, which also sounds fun and stimulating. All the details are in this newsletter as well as on our website.

It has been great to see some new workshop teachers alongside our old favourites in the programme this year. Thank you especially to Patti for her very well received workshop in May. And thank you to Mariette and Nina for all they do to make this happen.

Please do try to come to our AGM in October when we have invited Gwyneth Hibbett to speak. Her work is varied and fascinating and I think it will be a worthwhile Saturday afternoon if you are able to come. We will also be announcing the new programme of workshops for 2027 and electing our new committee at the



Newsletter July 2026

AGM so please do think about offering your skills if you can. If you like doing admin or organising events we can find a role for you. If you feel confident, you can take on a task on your own but you could also pair with another committee member first to ease into a role. Please do contact me before the AGM if you would like to know more about this.

We are at the early planning stages for our exhibition in 2027 and have booked the same venue as last time. We are still interested to know of any other venues that might suit us for a group exhibition. This could be a gallery space we haven't tried before or even your own house and if we can connect with a local art's festival so much the better.

Cathy Stables, Chair



Above: Artwork by Helen as part of the Instagram Challenge for July. See the back page for more.

Sussex Scribes Workshops and Events 2026

Programme 2026

Don't forget to send in your requests for future workshops to Mariette: omwdh4@outlook.com

August 29th, 2026

"Group Study Day" at Broadwater Baptist Church, East Worthing. Bring your own project and materials for a work day with other members of Sussex Scribes for fun, support and community.

Cost £10. Tea and coffee provided, Bring your own packed lunch.

Please book in advance by emailing Lisbeth: lisgodfray@sky.com

September 26th, 2026

"Uncial Variations" with Mary Noble *details page 9*

Broadwater Baptist Church, Worthing

October 17th, 2026

"AGM" On zoom. 2-4pm with guest speaker Gwyneth Hibbett

November 28th, 2026

"Fantastic Elastic Italic" with Ann Mason (zoom) *details page 10*

All the details for our workshops and events are listed on our website at www.sussexscribes.co.uk

The new programme for 2027 is being finalised by Mariette and will be announced at our AGM in October.

Workshop Bookings

T's & C's for workshops in 2026

Our bookings person is Lisbeth Godfray. Please contact her by email to reserve a place on a workshop in 2026:

lisgodfray@sky.com

We welcome non-members to most of our workshops but priority will be given to members if demand is high for a particular workshop.

Please note that the workshop price varies depending on if it is a zoom workshop, in person or a "Member's Special".

Only when the full payment has been received will your booking be complete and a place reserved for you.

We would prefer it if you could pay by bank transfer - please identify the payment you make with your name.

account number 53122093

sort code 20-20-65

Cheques should be made payable to "Sussex Scribes" and be dated two weeks ahead of the workshop date. Please send to **Mariette Hardman, Weald Chase, The Street, Bolney, W.Sussex, RH17 5PF** and include your name, workshop and email address.

Cancellations:

To cancel your booking please notify the bookings officer (Lisbeth) **at least one month** in advance of the workshop. Your booking fee will then and only then be refunded in full.

If you cancel your booking **less** than one month before the workshop date, Sussex Scribes can only refund you in full if your place can be filled from the waiting list.

If Sussex Scribes have to cancel a workshop, your fee will be refunded in full.

Exhibition News

Sussex Scribes Exhibition 2027

Earlier in the year we had a poll to see if we could decide on a theme for our next exhibition in 2027. Our members came up with some great ideas but when it came to choosing one of them, the vote was split fairly evenly across most of the topics.

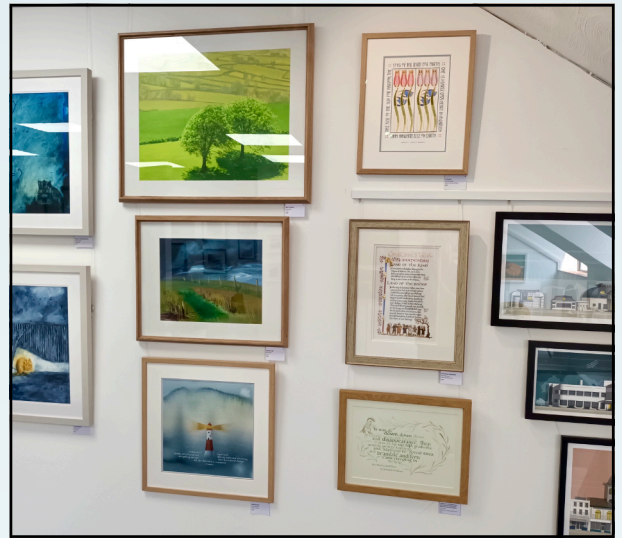
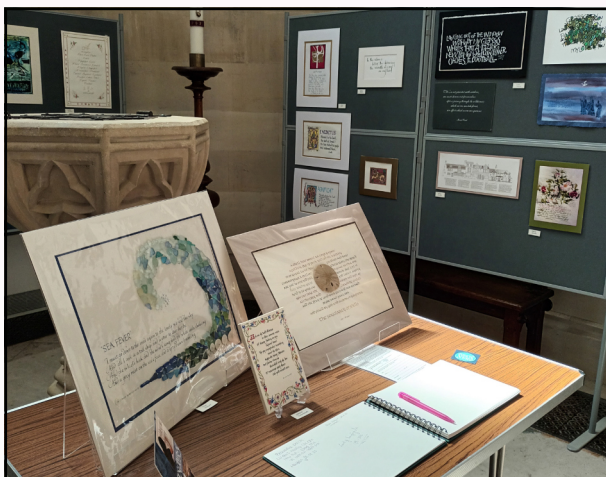
It seemed the only thing to do was to have the show without a theme but to offer the topics as prompts for people to use as ideas for pieces of work. So, if you don't like any of the prompts, please feel free to create your own.

The ideas that received at least one vote were as follows:

- **Dragons**
- **The Earth**
- **Once Upon A Time**
- **Calendar**
- **Sussex Lore**
- **The Celts**
- **All the World's A Stage**

The exhibition will be in August '27 and part of the Arundel Festival. The venue will be the same as last time, St Nicolas' Church. As usual, the maximum size for your work will be A3 plus a mount and you will be able to submit up to four pieces. Please note, this is for group members only. Thank you.

The Sussex Scribes Committee



The Montague Gallery in Worthing is hosting a summer exhibition which is open to all and this year two members of Sussex Scribes had their work selected for the show. Janice submitted three pieces and Helen submitted one. The show offers a diverse view of local talent across many artistic disciplines, from print and painting to textiles and - calligraphy.

This is a nice way to get our work seen and helps to raise the profile of what we do. If you would like to submit your work next year, sign up for the gallery's newsletter so that you are abreast of any announcements. All the works must be framed and for sale and there is a small fee for every piece submitted.

The exhibition runs until August 2nd.
www.montaguegallery.co.uk



Group News : Study Trip To Fishbourne

On a bright, sunny day in May the group met at Fishbourne Palace near Chichester for a "study day". The study group is growing and the outing made a nice way for the group to socialise outside of a workshop.

As we arrived, a presentation of Roman artefacts was announced so we gathered around a tall guy who began to show us lots of pieces of Roman earthenware. The fragments of pottery were passed around so that we could hold them which felt quite special. There was a piece with a (Roman) dog paw print in it.

The site itself is of a large villa and was uncovered in the 1960s. There are numerous mosaics to see and formal gardens. After wandering around at our own pace we met in the shade of some trees with ice creams and cups of tea.

If you would like to connect with the study group, we have a Whatsapp group you could join where we can plan future trips. If you have any ideas for places to visit, please let us know. It could be a gallery or museum or some beautiful gardens, or perhaps a hike in the hills! We are trying to spread the trips into different parts of Sussex to make them as accessible as we can for people in our wide county.
The Study Group.

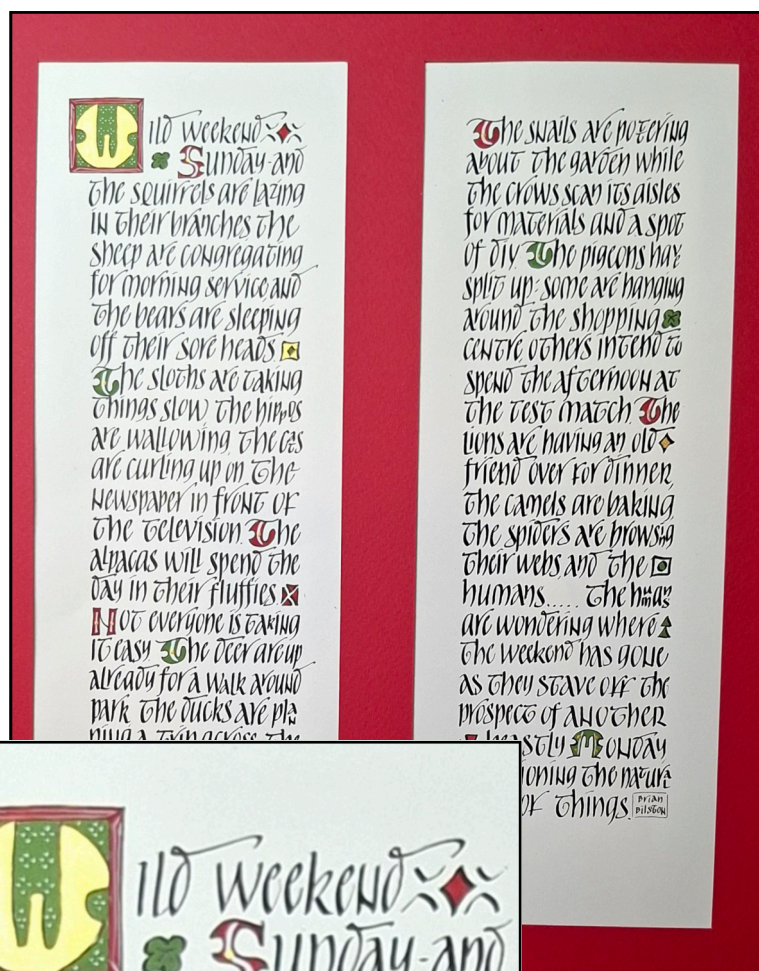


Above: Lino print by Teresa.

Left: Mariette and Nina found the dressing-up box!

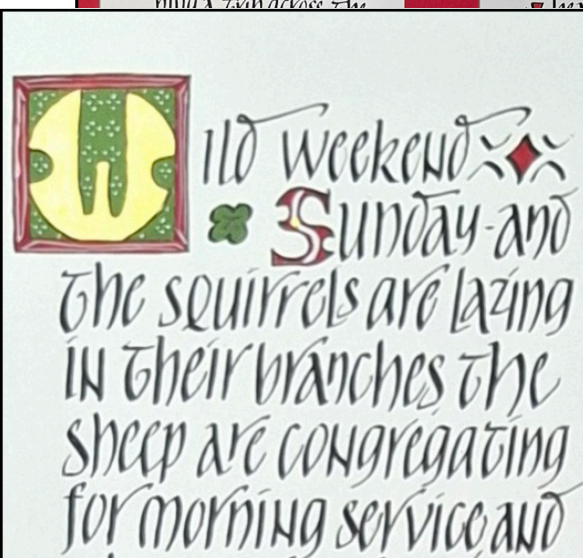


Member's Pages: Workshop Pieces



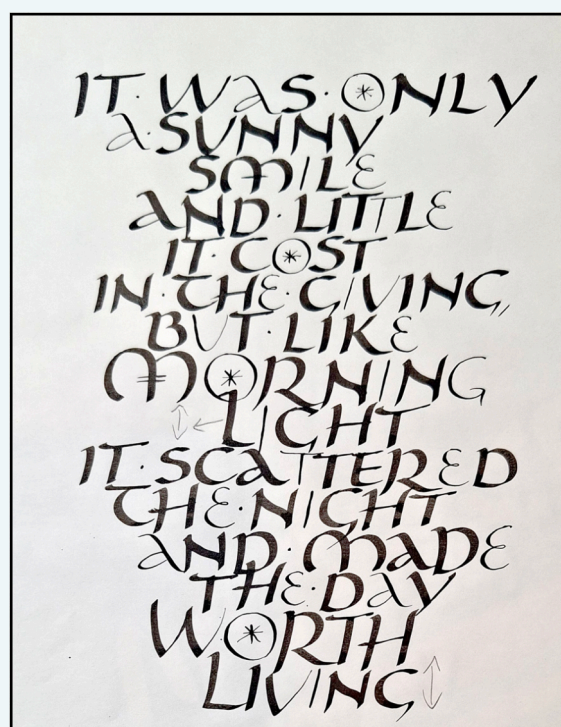
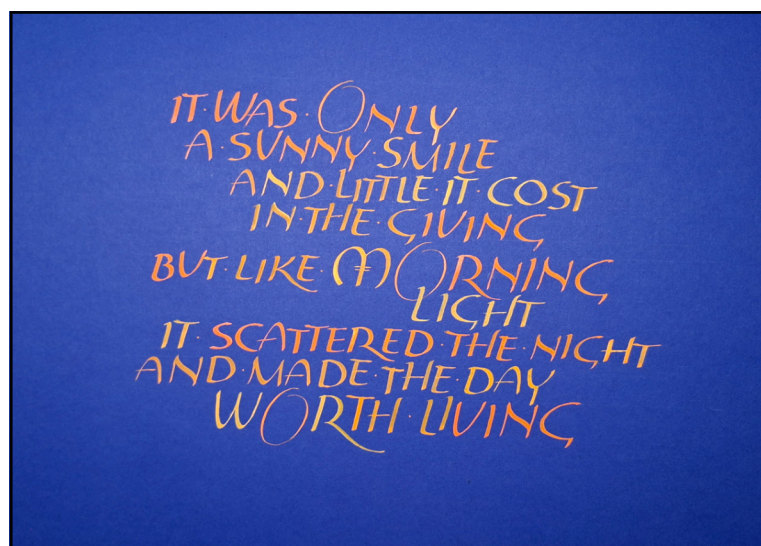
Above: Mariette's piece from the Wooker workshop in May with a detail.

Reproduced with permission from the author, Brian Bilston.



About a year ago I started attending Cathy's class in Arundel. For the autumn term last year, Cathy brought in a book by Margaret Daubney and highlighted a Christmas card design that she thought might be of interest. I had already planned my Christmas card but liked the way the design combined thick and thin lettering in a very open uncial style. I found a quote I liked and started to do something similar, as shown in the black on white image below.

Then Cathy challenged me to "make it my own" which took a lot more effort! I played with layout, letter style, size and colours to come up with a different design. I wrote the quote in various ways (and many times) before I was happy, and then Cathy suggested putting it on a blue background. A few more tests on different blues happened before the final version (*bottom left*). I sent it in for the Lay Members' exhibition at the SSI's AGM and got some nice feedback. Phew! Mariette



Member's Pages cont.

A 3-Book Challenge

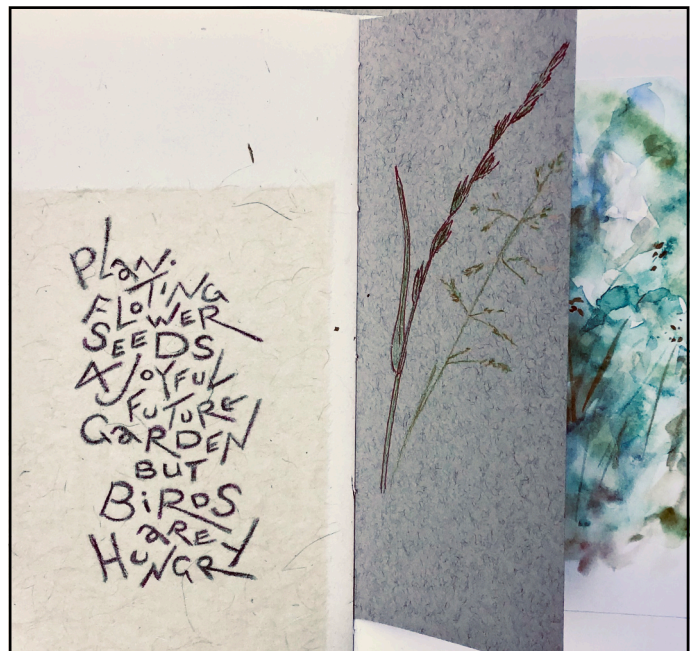
Although I've moved to Yorkshire, Helen and Denyce kindly suggested we continue doing art together. The project we decided on was collaborative books.

The instructions were to take some paper and make a book. (We also chose the theme of "Spring" this time.) We could then work in the book using painting, writing, drawing, glueing, stitching. Anything. I used watercolour paper folded into an accordion book with different sized pages. I had fun painting the paper before drawing and writing in it but leaving lots of space for the future contributions. At the end of the month you post it to the next person.

Then the excitement as an envelope drops through the letterbox. It's the book to be worked in. With Helen and Denyce being so creative it is always daunting to see their work. I don't want to mess it up. So I wait, looking at the book every day. Then ideas come and plucking up courage I do a small drawing. Recently I've been working with coloured pencils and these look good over coloured backgrounds. A few days later I may do some writing or glue something in. Over the month the book fills, then it goes to the post office.

The next book arrives, this time it has two people's work, but who did what? I try to guess, some work is obvious but sometimes it isn't. Now I have many more images to respond to. Again I work slowly through the month until it's time to post it back. The person at the post office counter asks how much is it worth. Well it's priceless but the counter official has heard that joke before. "So we'll say under £20" he says, "but you'll want to send it tracked."

A few days later my own book returns, It's been transformed into something wonderful and exciting. So thank you Helen and Denyce. *Dianne*



Member's Pages cont: Making A Sketch Book

I have just finished making a watercolour sketchbook. I needed it to lay flat when open and wondered why anyone would want a book that didn't, in fact, lay flat. I hadn't made this sort of book before.

First thing to do was to choose the paper and I opted for Khadi handmade white rag, 210g smooth surface. Not a heavy paper and I thought it would be good for a prototype or trial.

The next tricky question was the finished size of the book and the size of a double page when using the book open to make the most of that lay flat design. The sheets of Khadi paper were 56 x 76 cm which is the old Imperial size so I thought that I would work with that to avoid undue paper wastage. After a try-out, folding a piece of paper the right size, I decided on 14 x 19 cm closed, which felt comfortable to me. One of the benefits of Khadi paper is because of the way that it is made, it does not have a dominant grain direction.

I folded and tore the paper, leaving a rough edge. I allocated three sheets per signature and folded them using a bone folder to ensure a good edge; with 8 signatures making a total of 48 pages for the text block. I also had double endpapers cut from Daler Rowney Murano paper. I then put the text block under weights overnight.

I made a punching guide – as the book is quite small, I only needed four punched holes for each signature and using an awl, I punched the holes in the spine of each. I did not use a punching cradle, just the edge of the table. With waxed linen thread, I then sewed the signatures together, using French link stitches in the centre two holes and kettle stitches at both ends. When this was finished, I again put the block under weights.

I made up the adhesive that I was going to use. Using powdered methyl cellulose, I mixed up a solution and left it in the fridge overnight.

I then mixed some of that with archival PVA in a ratio of 1 part methyl cellulose to 2 parts PVA. Leaving the main body of the text block under

weights, with only the spine exposed, I applied glue down the spine, making sure to get between the stitches and including folding the cut ends of the threads across the block at the base. I allowed this to dry and repeated the glueing. On the third and final glueing, I added a strip of bookbinders' mull over the spine and left the whole block overnight to make sure it was completely dry.

In the meantime, I had cut the back and front covers of the sketchbook out of 2mm grey board and covered them with decorative paper. I had opted not to have a solid spine, and instead used book cloth, reinforced with mull. I assembled the cover.

Finally, I glued the outside of the endpapers onto their respective cover boards and the book was finished.

I found the following YouTube video very useful, even though I was not making the book described but perhaps one day I will, as I do like the idea of having a sketchbook that you can remove from the hard cover easily when you need to slip in a new one:

"How to make a refillable lay-flat sketchbook with reusable hardcover" Bitter Melon Bindery and TALAS

My only other reference was an existing sketchbook that I had bought several years ago from FOLKSY. I didn't pull it apart, just studied it and made my own assumptions of how it was made. It is my "Colour Journal" and nearly full.

If anyone is curious, the decorative paper I used has a design called "The Island" by Angie Lewin and comes as a double-sided wrapping-type paper.

Now for the exciting part – filling the book!
Angie



“Uncial Ancient and Modern”

with Mary Noble

September 26th, 2026

10am - 4pm

Cost £25 members / £30 non-members

Beginners and more advanced

Venue: Broadwater Baptist Church,
Dominion Road, Worthing BN14 8JL

Uncials occupy that halfway-house in letterform evolution of being capitals that want to become lowercase, which we can explore from various angles. Some of the earliest archaic versions are labour-intensive yet others charmingly modest; we'll look at both, then work towards some contemporary options.

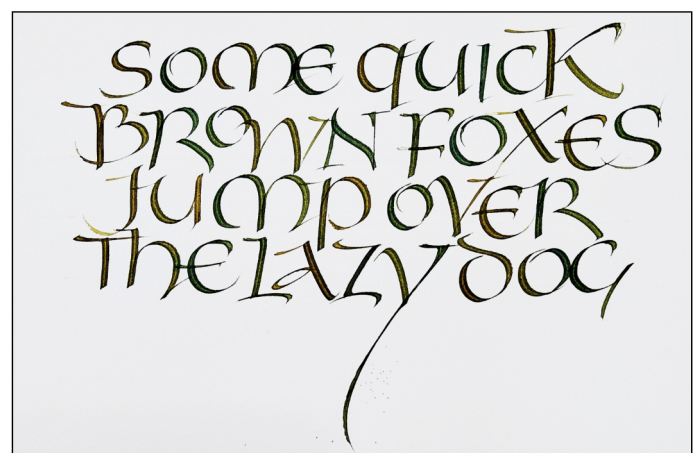
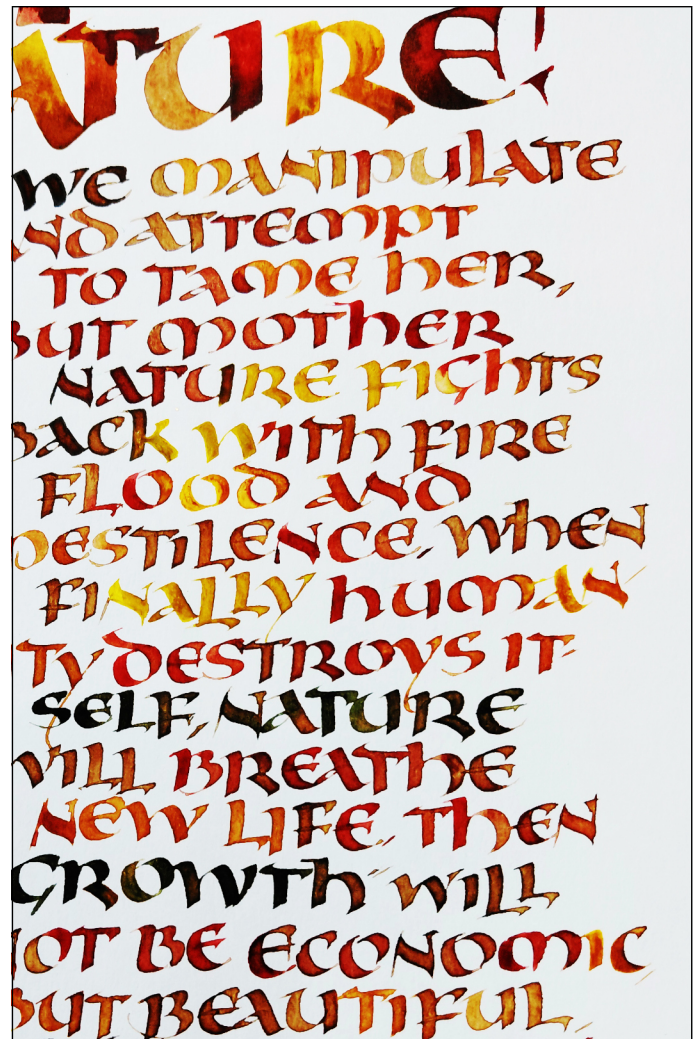
In order to cater for all levels, be assured there will be escape routes for those who don't feel able to travel the full journey to manipulation or gestural options.

Equipment and Materials to Bring:

- Layout pad (A4 is fine) plus optional cartridge paper to try out a quote
- Pencil, ruler, eraser
- Your favourite pens, especially larger sizes eg Mitchell 2 or above or Brause 2.5 or larger,
- and if more experienced, a small pen such as Speedball C2 or Brause 1mm or Mitchell 3 or 4 for gestural work.
- Ink, any colour, check it doesn't bleed on your paper; or gouaches and mixing gear.

And...

don't forget your reading glasses...



BOOK THIS WORKSHOP

Please reserve a place in advance by
contacting our bookings person,
Lisbeth by email: lisgodfray@sky.com

"Fantastic Elastic Italic"

with Ann Mason

Saturday, November 28th

10 to 12am and 2.30 - 3.30pm

Cost £20 members/£25 non-members

A zoom workshop with recordings

Participants should have some previous experience of the italic script

To explore the decorative and design potential of manipulating the ligatures of cursive italic.

Equipment and Materials:

- Your usual calligraphy kit and writing slope
- A pencil, ruler and eraser.
- A pointed nib that is quite flexible.
- A selection of broad nibs, 1.5mm and smaller will be most useful.
- Your favourite ink - a fairly free-flowing ink will work best eg Pelikan, Higgins Eternal, but don't buy these especially. You can use gouache or watercolour if you prefer.
- Layout paper or other practice paper.
- Cartridge paper – smooth.

BOOK THIS WORKSHOP

Please reserve a place in advance by contacting our bookings person, Lisbeth by email: lisgodfray@sky.com

Luscious Ligature
der spacing, to allow the
l swing. a graceful italic
eed to join every letter. gaps
ms contribute to an appeara
mply be an illusion! try an
htweight - hairline ligature
Enjoy!

fantastic elastic italic
seven swans float down from the sky an
urface of the inlet, they sail in solemn
seven swans float down from the
ng on the surface of the inlet, they s
mn procession - seven
notes on the rippled st
ark bay.

What's On



Fareham Library

Friday 22nd May - Thursday 4th June

Osborn Road Fareham PO16 7EN



Romsey Abbey



Saturday 4th July - Thursday 16th July

Church Lane, Romsey SO51 8EP

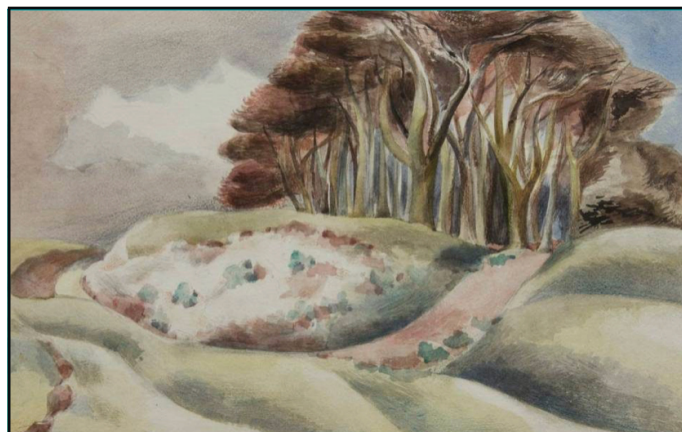
See website: www.romseyabbey.org.uk for opening times

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Saturday 5th - Friday 18th September

19/20 Westminster House, Festival Place, RG21 7LS

www.hampshirecalligraphers.co.uk



British Landscapes: A Sense of Place

Exhibition at Pallant House, Chichester
Featuring over 60 artists spanning three centuries, exploring memory and identity

May 30th - November 1st, 2026

www.pallant.org.uk

Artwave Festival

Annual festival of artists and makers in
Lewes, Seaford, Newhaven and the
surrounding area.

September 5th - 20th, 2026

www.artwavefestival.org

Into The Blue

An exhibition of prints, drawings and
paintings exploring the colour blue.

May 2nd - September 20th, 2026

Brighton Museum, Pavilion Gardens,
Brighton. www.brightonmuseums.org.uk

Embodied Script: Yoga and Calligraphy Workshop

22nd August, 2026, 10.30-2.30pm

Leighton House, London, W14 8LZ

Cost £40 <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk>

South London Lettering Association presents its
ANNUAL CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION 2026

time
to
shine

29 SEPTEMBER – 16 OCTOBER 2026 | WEEKDAYS 8AM-4PM
(Exhibition ends 1pm on Friday 16 October)

Free lunchtime drink on the open day:
Tuesday 29 September from 12 - 2pm

GALLERY 101

at The Salvation Army International Headquarters
101 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EH | sar.my/gallery101

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**ADMISSION
FREE**



South London Lettering Association
www.southlondonlettering.co.uk



Suppliers

Scribblers

All your calligraphic supplies
Great for beginners with tips and nib sets.
www.scribblers.co.uk

Blots Pens

Ink, paper, penholders and nibs, automatic pens, gilding supplies, gouache, Finetec, knives, blades, cutting mats etc
www.blotspens.co.uk

London Graphic Centre

www.londongraphics.co.uk
Retail shop in Covent Garden, London

Cornelissen

Pigments, paints, egg tempera, gilding materials, historical inks, stick inks and grinding stones, www.cornelissen.com
Retail shop in Great Russell Street, London

Paper Tree Nook

Amazing collection of patterned papers
www.papertreenook.co.uk

Ewan Clayton

Ink sticks and stones,
goose quills for curing
and cutting, pre-cut
quills ready to use

www.ewanclayton.co.uk



Jackson's Art

General art supplies, good selection of quality papers in sheets and blocks
www.jacksonart.com

William Cowley

Bespoke service for parchment and vellum
www.williamcowley.co.uk

A. S. Handover

Specialist suppliers of brushes, gilding materials, signwriting equipment.
www.handover.co.uk

Cass Art

General art supplies and a few nibs & penholders. Da Vinci brushes.
www.cassart.co.uk
Retail shop in Brighton

Pen to Paper

Stationery, some inks and pens
Retail shop in Sydney Street, Brighton

Jackson's Art

General art supplies especially for printmaking. www.tnlawrence.com
Retail shop in Portland Road, Hove



Khadi

beautiful handmade papers from India
www.khadi.com

Seawhites

General art supplies, recycled and affordable paper
Factory showroom in Partridge Green
www.seawhite.co.uk

Calligraphy

Specialist book shop
www.calligraphy.com

Stuart R Stevenson

Gilding supplies
Shop in Clerkenwell, London.
www.shop.stuartstevenson.co.uk

Back Page

Courses at West Dean

Three Books in One Day

with Mark Cockram

August 17th at West Dean, London

An Introduction To Illumination

with Cathy Stables

August 21st at West Dean, London

Watercolour and Brush Calligraphy

with Maisie Minett

September 14th - 16th
at West Dean, Chichester

Japanese Calligraphy - An Introduction

with Rie Takeda

October 16th - 18th
at West Dean, Chichester

Thank you to everyone who
contributed articles and images
for this newsletter.

The next newsletter will be sent out
at the end of October 2026.

Please send any copy to Helen:
email: hemgee22@gmail.com

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

Copy deadline October 15th, 2026

Your Committee

Chair: Cathy Stables

07810 693988

Secretary: Denyce Aresti

Bookings: Lisbeth Godfray

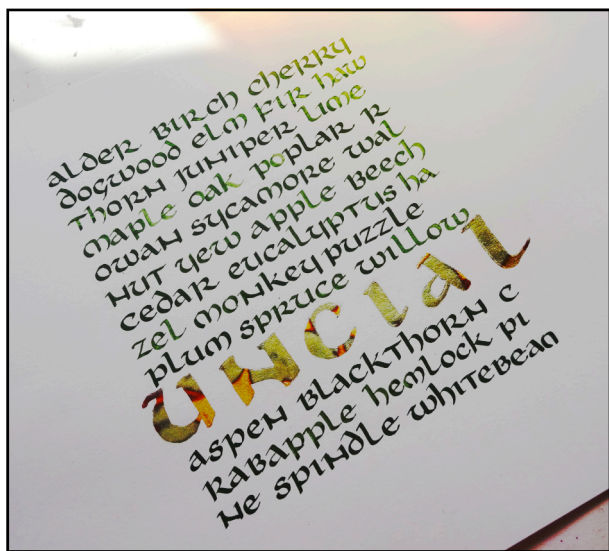
Newsletter/ Membership:

Helen Gibbs

Treasurer & Programme:

Mariette Hardman

Member: Nina Green



Above: artwork from Angie for the group
Instagram Challenge in May. The prompt
was "Green Uncial".



[@sussex_calligraphy](https://www.instagram.com/sussex_calligraphy)

Sussex Scribes

Find us on Facebook



www.sussexscribes.co.uk