



# OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS NEWSLETTER

June and July 2018

Editor Liz Adams 07813 807 453

Chairman: Miles Wigfield 01285 750662

Vice-Chairman: Richard Lawrence 01865 424594

Treasurer: Joe Swift 01285 821345

Membership Secretary: Christabel Hardacre

01608 654004

## IAN BECK: THROUGH THE LENS OF JANET STONE

The speaker, Ian Beck, was the compiler of a recently published book of photographs by his mother-in-law, the portrait photographer Janet Stone, who was also the wife of the wood engraver Reynolds Stone. The Stones' younger daughter Emma contributed from the audience.

So this was no ordinary meeting. It was as if we were privileged guests invited to the Old Rectory at Litton Cheney in the depths of Dorset some time between 1953 and 1979. When it was bought in 1953 the house had not been in for three years. It had chocolate brown rooms smelling of wood smoke and a wild 9 acre garden with a shabby Victorian summer-house, a boating pond, and giant hogweed. We were introduced to Janet, a bishop's daughter and sister of an archbishop and a further bishop. She exuded style, arriving at an event in Salisbury appearing Edwardian but 'coupled with a Dior look', to be greeted with a simultaneous kiss on each cheek from James Lees Milne and Kenneth Clark. It was people such as these that were the Stones' guests at Litton Cheney and they were all photographed at their most relaxed. John and Myfanwy Piper, John Betjeman, Henry Moore, Gerald and Joy Finzi, Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears, John Sparrow, Basil Liddell Hart, John Bayley and Iris Murdoch, Stanley Morison, L.P. Hartley: they were all with us; sharp-featured craggy faces caught with Janet's subtle use of black-and-white film and natural light.

Reynolds Stone appeared in many of the photographs, sometimes engraving at a small desk at one end of the turmoil of the main drawing room, his voice described by his neighbour the novelist Sylvia Townsend Warner as like 'bees in a lime tree'. Other pictures showed him printing in the barn among ranks of Columbians and Albions. And we saw examples of his work: the masthead for *The Times*, the coat of arms for HMSO, and the cutting of the lettering for Churchill's memorial in Westminster Abbey.

To find out more, you must get the book\*, and see how four-colour printing with an extra black gives a rich density to Janet's black-and-white photographs.

*Michael Daniell*

\* Ian Beck, *Through the lens of Janet Stone* (Bodleian Publishing) 2018.

## PRESSTIVAL 2018

**Saturday, September 1 from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.** Don't miss one of the highlights of the Summer! Printers, binders, paper-sellers and other ink-stained people from far and wide gather for an afternoon at Whittington Press, near Cheltenham.

## GUILD MEETINGS

Please check the latest *Newsletter* for meeting locations, but meetings are generally at The Bull in Charlbury; at 7:30 for 8:00pm.

**Sunday 5 August:** Annual Guild Picnic. See over for more information.

**Monday 3 September :** Robin Phillips: The Curwen Press Publications.

**Saturday 3 November:** Wayzgoose at Oxford Brookes University, from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

## HOME BINDERY FOR SALE

Paul Nash writes: My friend and former NPHT colleague Derek Nuttall is selling his "home bindery", a complete book-binding outfit, including an iron nipping-press, sewing frame, plough, trough, numerous tools, materials, book-cloth, boards, etc. Derek would prefer to sell the bindery complete, to someone who would continue to use it. It would be ideal for a printer who wishes to bind their own books, and indeed this was how Derek used it for many years. The buyer would need to arrange collection from Chester. No reasonable offer refused. If interested, and for further details, please contact Derek Nuttall by email:

[nuttall.r.d.n@btinternet.com](mailto:nuttall.r.d.n@btinternet.com).

Our intrepid Chairman is always on the look-out for potential new members.



# ANNUAL GUILD PICNIC

This year's picnic will be hosted by Tony and Ann Lloyd at their house in Charlbury on Sunday 5 August from noon onwards. The house is four doors down the hill from The Bell [of ill-repute] in Charlbury. For those using satnav, the address is: Royal Oak, Church Street, Charlbury, OX7 3PP. If there is no parking on the street, the Co-Op carpark is nearby.

Please bring food and drink to share. New members and old are welcome to come along to this popular event.

So that he has an idea of numbers, please let Tony know if you will be able to make it. Email: [t.lloyd@live.co.uk](mailto:t.lloyd@live.co.uk). Mobile: 07729 777 751. Home: 01608 810525.

## ALAN BRIGNULL: FORTY YEARS OF MESSING ABOUT WITH AN ADANA

A large body of printers converged on The Bull on Monday the 2nd of July from all four corners of the globe – two members had recently arrived from Australia (although they may not have come specifically for the talk), and one travelled from distant Halifax – to hear Alan Brignull of Colchester give an entertaining account of his printing activities over more than forty years. In fact the story began over a century earlier, in 1880 in Grosvenor Square, with the birth of his great grandfather, who became a Law Stationer in Ilford; on his retirement he bought a Gestetner duplicator and an Adana and took up printing as a hobby, producing ephemera for friends, local events and societies. On his death, the youthful Alan offered to complete the orders he had in hand and caught the printing bug. He joined the British Printing Society and was able to buy from Ian Mortimer some Caslon type which had come from the Curwen Press and added a new fount of Union Pearl from Stephenson Blake. Soon the Hedgehog Press was born, and Alan printed invitations and tickets in the same vein before giving up jobbing work to concentrate on printing for pleasure. He has printed the occasional small book, but concentrates mostly on ephemera and the production of his one-page 'newspaper' *The Rambling Urchin*, inspired by the 'amateur journalism' magazines of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the typographical *jeux d'esprit* of Conant Brodribb's Demi-Griffin Press and Kenneth Hardacre's Kit-Cat Press. An early influence was an article on 'phantom philately', which inspired the production of a series of delightful stamps for the nation of Adanaland, and others for the Perfect State of Flatby. These fantasies allowed the use of small founts of Greek, Arabic, Gujurati and Japanese type to create stamps for Adanaland outposts around the world. Alan concluded by showing us some 'Cinderella' stamps produced by others, including those for Bateken, Moresnet, Sedang, Kemp Land and other territories which either do not exist or do not issue stamps. The sun was still shining when we left The Bull, full of good cheer and thoroughly entertained by Alan's account of his printing for pleasure.

Paul Nash

## Notes from the Chairman

**September Talk:** The next talk\* about the Curwen Press publications is by Robin Phillips on Monday 3 September. He has created a wonderful website ([www.sinenomine.co.uk/](http://www.sinenomine.co.uk/)) which is well worth inspection. Do make every effort to swell our numbers; he has put a lot of effort into his talk. Incidentally The Bull in Charlbury surpassed themselves in their welcome to those who came to hear Alan Brignull. They do not charge us for the space: please make every effort to spend money there!

\*Thank you to those who have contributed 'meeting recalls' to the *Newsletter*. There is no volunteer as yet for the September talk.

### **Paul Getty's Wormsley Library:**

Thursday 20 September at 1:00pm. Priscilla Frost has organised this visit for the Oxford Heraldry Group but there should be spare places for Guild Members. Please let her know if you want to come. Cost: £26 payable to the Oxford Heraldry Group through Priscilla. Lunch [early] in the Bull and Butcher, Turville perhaps.

### **Wayzgoose: Saturday 3 November**

I will be in touch with table holders nearer the time. There are still about half a dozen yet to pay. The discount ends at the end of the month. Thereafter £45. Plug it as best you can.

### **BBC Radio recommendation:**

Finally I recommend BBC Radio 3's 'The Early Music Show' from Sunday 1 July. Hannah French introduced some lovely music intertwined with the story of the great rivalry between the printers Estienne Roger and John Walsh; their efforts to out-do each other in both the printing and publishing of the music of the greatest composers of their time.



**NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR**  
**A WAYZGOOSE**

**IN THE FAIR CITY OF**  
**SOUTHAMPTON**

**LADY AND GENTLEMEN PRINTERS**  
**(AND JOURNEYMEN)**

**are invited to attend a Printers' Wayzgoose**  
**& Artists' Bookfair in**

**SOUTHAMPTON, HAMPSHIRE**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND 2018**  
**10AM - 4PM**

**ST. DENYS COMMUNITY CENTRE,**  
**ADELAIDE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON**

**SATELLITE NAVIGATIONAL DEVICES USE: SO17 2HW**

**Printers, Book Artists, Purveyors of Letterpress and**  
**Masters of the Graphic Arts wishing to be stall**  
**holders should send email correspondence in the first**  
**instance to [katherineantoney@gmail.com](mailto:katherineantoney@gmail.com)**

**HOSTED WITH SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH PRINTING SOCIETY**