



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS

NEWSLETTER

September 2014

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Meeting recall:

A Year in the Nomadic Life of Pat Randle.

Pat talked us through his activities over the last year, not only at Whittington Press but letterpress printing across Europe. This included a visit, with fellow members of the Occasional Print Club, to Kulturwerk des BBK in Berlin where a huge lower-case black-letter 'b', composed of Berlin-related words set in many different typefaces, was printed. They also called on paper-maker and conservator Gangolf Ulbricht who produces Berlin Tissue – one of the thinnest papers in the world.

A trip to Milan for the third Letterpress Workers International Summit. Presses and wood type were laid on for a select number of designers and printers to come together and create letterpress prints around the theme of 'Borders'.

Pat was at the Glastonbury Festival for the second year this summer as part of the Glastonbury Free Press. Printing 44,000 copies of the festival newspaper in two editions, each taking around 24 hours to print on a Heidelberg Cylinder Press.

Secret Cinema, an immersive film experience where audiences can feel they are part of the story, found Pat running the press room at the Hill Valley Telegraph, recreating the newspaper offices in the fictional home town of Marty McFly in *Back to the Future*.

Time was spent at Whittington working on Matrix; Pat presented photographs of layouts for paste-up and galleys on the imposing stone. Over a fortnight in the Summer, a group of Hungarian students were in residence at Whittington and with guidance from Pat produced a 16-page book with each student responsible for creating and printing their own page using wood and metal type, wood engravings and linocuts. Few had any prior experience of letterpress but the results were brilliantly imaginative. Then to Bristol to run workshops for Nick Hand and the Letterpress Collective.

Pat still finds time for personal work such as his exquisite decorative border series laid out in the style of original type specimens from Monotype. Despite acknowledging his purist roots in Caslon and Albions, Pat has embraced the newer technologies, which have enabled him to be graphically more expressive with his large-scale type compositions.

Over 75,000 people attended the Secret Cinema screenings, while 120,000 were at Glastonbury. Pat's letterpress work is inspiring, his quiet crusade to bring letterpress to a wider audience, inspired.

Joe Swift

Guild meetings

Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are held at the Bell in Charlbury, at 7:30 for 8:00p.m. The Bell serves food (as well as drink, naturally) and some members have taken to dining there before meetings. If you would like to order food in advance to avoid the rush, please contact Lidia Dhorn on 01608 810278.

Saturday 11th October:

Wayzgoose at Oxford Brookes (see overleaf for further details).

Monday 3rd November:

Miles Wigfield: Private Press Printing with *some* reference to T.E. Lawrence. Miles will be reprising the 'paper' read to the T.E. Lawrence Society at their 13th biennial symposium in September in which he discoursed not only on Lawrence's involvement with printing but also on the enthusiasm with which the private press movement subsequently mined the rich seam of Lawrentian ore.

Monday 1st December:

A.G.M. followed by Chip Coakley & the Jericho Press.



Notes from the Chairman:

OGP Wayzgoose: Oxford Brookes University on Saturday 11th of October, 10:00am to 5:00pm (entry free). This biennial event will be larger than in previous years. There are over 40 tables, mainly of private presses but also specialist booksellers, paper suppliers, bookbinders as well as organisations including the Society of Wood Engravers, the British Printing Society and the Private Libraries Association. It should prove a day of conviviality and fun: something of interest for everyone.

There will be a Guild table. Volunteers to spend an hour or so manning (or womanning) it would be appreciated. If you want to sell anything from the table you may do so but then you should a) help to look after the table and b) give a 25% commission to the Guild.

I will be in touch with all who have booked tables a couple of weeks before the event with table plans &c.

Note from the Editor:

The second annual OGP Picnic was held at The Reading Room Press in Quenington on the 10th of August. The turn-out was good despite some dubious weather in the morning and the rain held off long enough for a lovely lunch in the garden. Everyone enjoyed the obligatory snoop round Miles' print room and there were printed keepsakes once again. Many thanks to Miles and Judy for hosting a lovely afternoon. Volunteers to host the 2015 event should form an orderly queue.

Printing Open Day:

Hosted by the Maidenhead branch of the British Printing Society on Saturday the 27th September from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Wokingham Methodist Centre, Rose Street, Wokingham, Berks RG40 1XS. Letterpress demonstrations, sale of letterpress equipment and paper, new and second-hand type, refreshments, and free entry.

Eynsham Bookbinding Workshops:

£70 per day including tea, coffee, and all materials. Contact Arthur Green (arthurfgreen@yahoo.co.uk or 07921 457174).

Single section binding: Saturday 4th October. Make a simple, single-section notebook with marbled paper covers and a hand-printed label. Learn about the materials, tools, and terminology used in traditional bookbinding. An ideal introduction to the subject.

Ethiopic style binding: Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th November. Make a simplified version of an ancient Ethiopic binding with solid wooden boards. The course teaches the sewing of multiple paper sections and some basic wood-working skills.

German case binding: Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th November. Make an elegant paper binding based on an 18th century German design. Learn to sew a book on a frame as well as round and back the text-block. The book will be finished with a case made from hand decorated paste-papers and a printed label on the spine.

New member snippet:

Catherine Dawson started Ram Press in 1978 to print and publish new poems in letterpress and to attempt a new approach to illustration. Publications include a series of poem cards and *La Lanterne des Morts*, a poem in English with relief etchings, both by Catherine's mother Patricia Dawson.

Catherine took part in the OGP/Inky Parrot Press exhibition in 1986 but having always lived in London was not a member. Paid work, ill health, and family caring duties put Ram Press on hold for many years but in the last year Catherine has very much enjoyed getting back to it. She is currently working on an illustrated poem card.

New member snippet:

Paul Butler is the Project Leader for the St Botolph's Letterpress project, which is a nascent community-access letterpress studio in Colchester, Essex. It is part of a larger project called *The Waiting Room*, which is making use of the old bus station in the town, until the local council decides what they want to do with it.

Until that time, the Project is building links with local printers, putting on talks, exhibitions, film screenings and will soon be setting up a membership scheme which will allow people to take part in workshops and also create their own projects.

Everything is done by volunteers, and all of the equipment has been donated, lent, or purchased through funds raised by the project – we're always on the lookout for unwanted equipment.

For further information:
www.st-botolphs.org/printroom/