



OXFORD GUILD OF PRINTERS NEWSLETTER

April 2018

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NICK HAND AT THE BULL

Please remember that May's meeting will take place a week later than usual due to the Bank Holiday on the 7th. Nick Hand will speak about printing with an Adana on the back of his bike on Monday **14th** of May at The Bull in Charlbury. The talk will begin at 8:00pm, but The Bull has a very tempting menu, so members may like to arrive early for a drink and dinner before the meeting. Could we please, for the sake of a little variety, have a volunteer to write up Nick's talk for the *Newsletter*?

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Peter Parker: We have been informed by his daughter that Peter Parker died in August of last year. Quiet and unassuming, he had been a member, I believe, from the Guild's earliest days. We offer our condolences.

Picnic - Sunday 5 August: Tony and Ann Lloyd have kindly offered to host this event at their home in Charlbury. Their house, Royal Oak Press, Church Street is about 50 yards down the hill past The Bell [of fragrant memory]. Usual plan: arrive midday onwards bringing your own food, contrived in such a way as to share it with others. Both croquet and flim-flam are threatened.

Wayzgoose - Saturday 3 November: Oxford Brookes University, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Currently I have bookings for 40 tables. I have been to see the FPBA Fair there and find there will be ample room for us. I expect to accommodate all who wish to come. Richard Lawrence has kindly [an elegantly] printed a flyer. If anyone would be prepared to display or distribute these please let me know.

Congratulations to Louisa Hare and Jonathan Atkinson on the occasion of their marriage at Lower Brailes on Friday 13th April. It was a lovely day.

Fine Press Book Fair at the Kassam Stadium: So far I have only heard good spoken of the weekend. The venue, catering apart, seems to have been well received. I counted twenty-three representatives of the Guild with tables. Thank you to those of you, particularly Andrew Boag, who ran the OGP table. There was spectacular work on view: of the Judges Choice Awards — Elies Plana, *A Modest Proposal* [Salvage Press — Jamie Murphy] and *Running Rings* [Grapho Editions — Paul Kershaw], two were from guild members.

The much vaunted OGP Private Press Prizes produced a flurry of varied entries. I'm most grateful to Jamie Murphy and his assistants, Kate Holland and Mark Askam for selecting the winners: Best book — *Pandemonium* [Simple Press — Rachel Marsh], Best single section booklet — *Wind* [The Fork and Broom Press — Anette Dißlin] and best single sheet ephemera — *Prospectus for Kinship & Light* [Greenboathouse Press — Jason Dewinetz]. All three received cheques for £100. Thank you to all who submitted work for consideration.

I rarely managed more than a cursory glance at many tables but I was struck particularly by the ease with which James Freemantle at his St James Park Press has launched himself into the upper echelons of high-class letterpress printing with both *The Twelve Labours of Hercules* [40 copies in Centaur on Sunome Senaka

GUILD MEETINGS

Please check *Newsletters* for meeting locations, as these are liable to change at short notice; 7:30 for 8:00pm.

Monday 14 May: Nick Hand: Man with Adana on his Bike. Location: The Bull in Charlbury.

Monday 4 June: Ian Beck: The Photographs of Janet Stone.

Monday 2 July: Alan Brignull: Adanaland.

Sunday 5 August: Picnic hosted by Ann and Tony Lloyd at the Royal Oak Press, Charlbury, from noon onwards.

Monday 3 September : Robin Phillips: The Curwen Press.

WAYZGOOSE

This year's St Bride Foundation Wayzgoose will take place on Sunday the 20th May (the day after the Royal Wedding) from 11:00am until 4:00pm. As well as a chance to meet some fellow printers, there will be type, ornaments, printing equipment, prints, books, and stationery for sale.

TYPESETTING RACES

Peter White has drawn our attention to a recent piece by in *The Economist* about the competitive sport of typesetting in the 19th century:

www.economist.com/blogs/prospero

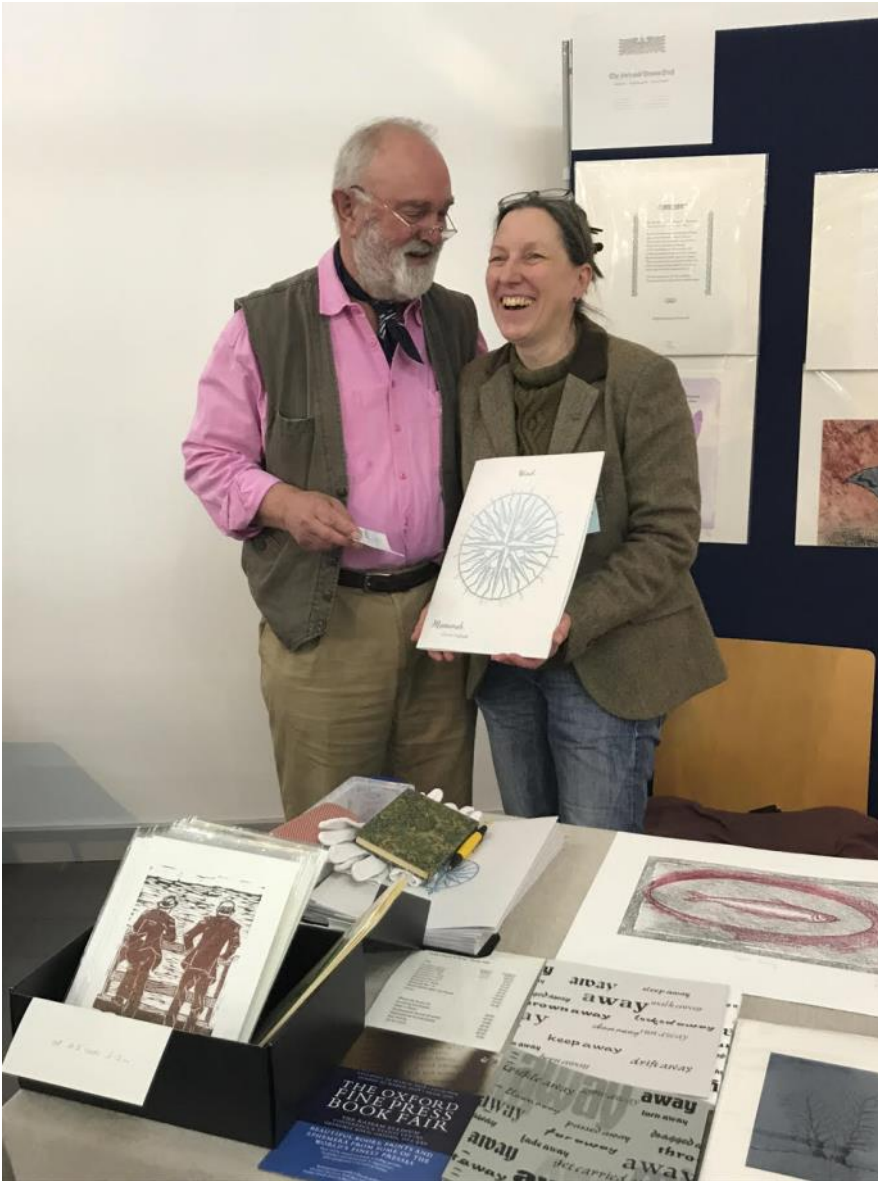
WORMSLEY LIBRARY

Priscilla Frost has arranged for a group to visit the Wormsley Library on the 20th September. There is a limit of 26 people at £15.00 per head. If interested, please email: priscilla@oxfconf.co.uk

paper with wood engravings by Harry Brockway] and *Report on the Birmingham School of Art*, [a previously unpublished essay by Eric Gill, introduction, John Randle]. You will not be surprised that I was again in awe of the Chevington Press oeuvre: he was presenting Thoreau's *Plea for Captain John Brown*, but how ironic that during the week before the fair the last male white rhino, 'Sudan', depicted in his magnificent *Going, Going, Going* [2015] should have died.

FROM PATRICK ROE

I grew up in Durham and discovered a Cropper Charlton benchtop platen in the back art room at school. My parents wrote a sick note and I took the coach to London to buy a new Adana 8x5... the coach ticket said "one item of luggage" and that was it. I was given a broken Arab Foolscap Folio by Durham University and, as a schoolboy c.1974, printed David Burnett's letterheads and posters for the University as well as a catalogue for a Richard Shirley Smith exhibition. I got married and moved to Gloucester. I became a founder member of the Oxford Guild of Printers and drove across to Steventon every month for meetings. We would talk until after midnight and I used to get home in the early hours. The attached is a photo of a poster I printed from woodletter for an OGP talk on poster printing. At the bookfair last weekend I couldn't resist buying a copy of David Burnett's "Vines" with engravings by Richard Shirley Smith and printed by Jonathan Stephenson.



Our Chairman with OGP Member, and Private Press Prize winner, Anette DiBlin (photo by Joe Swift).

A Note from the Membership Secretary:

A thank you from Christabel. Many thanks to those who have set up standing orders for future membership payment. Please may I encourage more members to follow their lead?

RAVILIOUS & CO. EXHIBITION

The works of Eric Ravilious and his associates are celebrated this year in an enormous exhibition at Compton Verney Art gallery & park in Warwickshire. On display will be nearly 500 items ranging from books, paintings, prints, drawings, engravings, ceramics, textiles, and wallpapers.

If you're lucky enough to visit on Thursday the 3 May there will be a talk by Andy Friend, the co-curator and author of the book on which the exhibition is based. The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 11:00am-5:00pm. For directions and more information, see the website: www.comptonverney.org.uk/thing-to-do/ravilious-and-co/

