

British Printing Society



Annual Report 2014

All Officers (Executive and Non-executive), Branch Secretaries and Honorary Members have been asked to provide a report.

All those received are included here.

Executive Officers

President

Chris Green (7614)

The year 2014 saw several milestone events in the Society's history.

The most significant was the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Society at our annual Convention. We were in safe hands, as Dorset Branch hosted the weekend with their usual quiet competence.

The Convention weekend coincided, more or less, with the first issue of *Small Printer* to be produced in full colour. For many years we had been limited, because of cost, to using colour on just four pages (plus the cover), but recent changes meant that we could change to the luxury of a full-colour magazine. This has made a huge difference to the look, thanks to the editorial team. If only they had more material to work with!

The third event of note was the attendance of the BPS at IPEX. It was an interesting week, and it gave several members the opportunity to have a good look at what's going on in the world of printing, but possibly one that we shall not choose to repeat.

2014 also saw my last full year as Society President. At the AGM, after five years as President and over twenty years continuous service on the EC, I shall be handing over to Jean Watson. I have no doubt that the Society will be in excellent hands.

Vice President

Bob Edwards (9527)

It is a privilege to serve on the Executive Council as Vice President. Because my role does not have any definite duties except deputising for the President in his absence, I have continued to take an interest in BPS branches. I monitor new and first renewing memberships and wherever possible encourage members to form social groups which hopefully will evolve into branches.

The EC has taken some brave decisions concerning branches in the past few years and it is now positively encouraging them to organise open days, conventions and other events. This has to be a good thing; a strong branch network will help the Society to regain former strength and numbers. The continued friendly rivalry between branches submitting entries for the Rosen Award is a sign that small printing is alive and well.

On a broader front, I would like to see a more active membership generally. At present, too much is being done by too few. Greater support for the magazine

is a good example. There is a lot of printing taking place out there and we would like to know about it, so more members occasionally sending in articles is to be encouraged.

Secretary

Peter Salisbury (5510)

I have attended each Executive Council meeting and taken the minutes. I have dealt with correspondence as necessary and have supported members of the Executive Council as required. I assisted on the Society stand at the IPEX exhibition in March 2014. I also assisted at the Oxford Guild of Printers wayzgoose at Oxford Brookes University in Oxford in October 2014. Both events were very interesting: at IPEX we could see what the commercial printers and print-related businesses used and at Oxford there was much about high-quality small-scale printing, book production and book binding, either done as a hobby or professionally.

In addition I have attended as many of the Surrey & Sussex Branch meetings and also the Maidenhead Branch Open Day.

Councillor

Paul Hatcher (10648)

I attended the 2014 Bournemouth convention and all of the EC meetings subsequently. Apart from my activities as secretary of the Maidenhead Branch, and organising their open day in September, I visited the Chipping Camden wayzgoose and the Whittington press Open Day and gave out BPS literature. In October I organised a table for the BPS at the Oxford Guild of Printers Wayzgoose. I also managed to visit the Essex Branch at one of their meetings, and I look forward to meeting other branches as time allows.

Councillor

Jean Watson (3712)

In my position as councillor on the EC I have done very little, though I have attended all meetings.

Ron and I are also Advertising Managers. Ron does most of the work; he has the computer. When we lose an advertiser I say "oh, dear" and when we gain an advertiser I say "oh, good!"

I have been very busy with branch activities. We use the Adana 8x5 at most meetings printing blocks, borders, fridge magnets etc. My rollers are almost on melt-down and have even created ink fly!

Councillor

Ron Watson (6955)

Since being elected as a Councillor at the 2014 Convention, I have not had any specific duties, as I was volunteered to take on the duties of Advertising Manager by my wife Jean. This report is therefore very brief.

Publishing Group Councillor

Ron Rookes (4682)

As PG Councillor I attended all meetings of the EC held during the year. We have had another successful year with the PG Bundles that I mail out to PG members. 52 items were produced, which were mailed out in six Bundles. The 'Publishing Group Annual 2013', formerly 'Small Printing', was also produced, with the subject of 'A Bouquet of Flowers'. This had 27 pages contributed by 16 members, three of which were first-time contributors, with a fantastic cover once again printed by Bob Richardson. Thanks go to all those who contributed to the PG Bundle and the PG Annual. This year we gained one new member bringing us to a total of 22 plus 5 honorary EC members. As part of my Councillor duties I organised the Society stand at IPEX2014, consulting with the organisers, designing the layout and panels with Margaret and the construction of the stand with her and Len Friend at ExCel. New roll-up banners were also designed and produced for use at Branch Open Days and other events.

Non-Executive Officers

Advertising Manager

Jean & Ron Watson

At the first E. C. meeting following the convention, Jean and I took on the position of Advertising Manager from Tony Jewell. There were several issues regarding the running of the adverts on the website, which took a few weeks to resolve. We have gained a few new advertisers and lost another due to retirement. We have contacted several companies about advertising in *Small Printer*, but these have not produced any results to date.

There will be a review of the advertising rates in due course, in order to help generate more revenue.

Editor

Tim Honnor (5578)

I have little to report, other than I have agreed to continue as Editor until the end of the year. I will try and give the EC at least four months warning of when I wish to step down from the post.

The magazine is easier to edit with slightly more copy coming in from BPS members. However, this situation could still be much improved.

Giles Edwards, responsible for the production and design of the magazine, needs a special mention and thanks for the thought, time and skill he puts into the layout of each month's issue. I would like to believe that the magazine is being well received both within the EC and without.

Kim Lowe, as assistant editor, seems to have dropped her input; possible because of computer problems. However, it might be useful to find a new assistant editor, who would like to take over from myself in due course.

The relationship with Moulton Printers remains good and I have had no issues with their quality of printing, or timelines of production of the magazine.

Enquiries Officer

John Easson (2959)

As far as this role goes, enquiries have very much declined recently, the most interesting being a request by Radio Scotland for a very brief interview on the 200th anniversary of The Times installing the first mechanised newspaper press in 1814. BPS got a mention in their introduction to me: I think my bit lasted all of 20 seconds.

Librarian

Libby Green (7614)

There has been disappointingly little activity with the Society's library during 2014. After a flurry of loans which were taken out as a result of the Library Table at the Convention there have been no further requests. I have received four enquiries about machine manuals, three of which unfortunately we didn't have. We have had a collection of Rotaprint manuals donated to us, some of which were welcome additions to the library and others which replaced dirtier copies.

Mailer

Ron Rookes (4682)

Once again it has been an uneventful year for the Mailer. Thanks to our printers, Moulton Printing, *Small Printer* arrived on time each month and the magazines were usually in the hands of Royal Mail by the end of the month. Even though we only use 2nd Class mail many members have reported receiving their magazines the next day. Apart from notices for Branch Open Days and Official notices there were very few bundle items this year, although mention must be made of the excellent broadsheet printed and supplied by John Easson.

Membership Secretary

Margaret Rookes (10701)

Over the past year little has changed in my post as Membership Secretary. I continue to encounter problems with some renewal payments: it is important that these are accompanied by the details requested on the renewal form so that the member can be identified, whether payment is made electronically or by cheque.

On 31st December 2014 the active membership of the Society numbered 297, which is 22 less than at the end of 2013. During 2014 the Society gained 40 new members; 36 of these joined directly via the Society's website, paying online via PayPal. During the same period the Society lost a total of 71 members: six of these had died. Donations were received from 33 members and one non-member.

PayPal continues to be the most popular method of electronic payment for both new and renewing members as it is accessed quickly and easily via the BPS website. Some members still pay by BACS whilst others prefer to use cheques, but the use of these is slowly declining.

I continue to supply details of new members and updates to the Editorial Team for publication in *Small Printer*. I provide the President and Vice-President with monthly updates on lapsed members and the latter also receives details of all new members. Additionally I prepare a detailed monthly financial report for the Treasurer so that he may correctly allocate the funds received. I have collaborated with the Mailer in the preparation and distribution of the new Membership List for 2014 - 2015.

I interact with members of the Executive Council, UK and Overseas Branches and individual members to provide updated membership details whenever requested and regularly respond to emails and other communications from members on many subjects. Once again I would like to thank everyone for their patience when I have been unable to reply promptly.

During 2014 I was involved with the planning, logistics and management of the BPS stand at IPEX2014, attending on 4 of the 7 days. This was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the Society and it continues to reap the benefits of having taken part. During September I attended the Annual Essex Country Show at Barleylands, Billericay, with the Essex Branch Roadshow. This was a two-day weekend event with an attendance of 30,000, which was another excellent opportunity to publicise the Society. The BPS presence on social networking sites Twitter and Facebook is also proving beneficial by introducing new members to the Society.

Webmaster

Ron Rookes (4682)

Work has continued on the 'Members Only' area which includes a Diary of Events, links to other Members' web presence and the Library Catalogues. Log-in details can be found on page 2 of the current Membership List; they are changed annually each time a new Membership List is published. There is now a page of Line Ads for Members' 'Sales and Wants', advertising is free to Members and should be sent to the Advertising Manager. It is also possible to advertise on the display adverts page for a small fee: this can be accessed worldwide, not solely by Members. Posting on the Forum is slow although the topics are read by thousands of viewers. Feedback regarding the website is welcome: what would you like to have included in the Members Section? Our social networking pages remain popular and currently we have 182 Likes (followers) on Facebook and 494 followers on Twitter. As a direct result of the Society being on Twitter we have gained some new members.

Branches

Dorset Branch

Ron Watson (6955)

Members: 11 Meetings: 12 Average attendance: 8

The beginning of the year, saw the members finalising their plans for the 70th Convention; with the number of bookings having picked up, it was felt we would have a fairly successful event. As things turned out, we were pleased to receive very favourable comments from those who attended.

After April, the Branch members decided to go back to their routine of having practical meetings. We were still meeting at the home of Liz Nelson, although

her health was proving to be more of a problem and as she went back into hospital, we moved back to holding our meetings at the racing stables.

The Branch AGM saw the members change their meeting time to starting at 4.00 p.m. This would enable members to travel during daylight for more meetings, although everyone accepted that others might find it a problem. We would look again at this topic in the future. The change has allowed George Webb and Suzanne to attend from their home in Devon.

The next few months saw Jean help to print a series of blocks that Pat Swadling had acquired on his visits to the second-hand shops. These were printed on the Adana 8x5, along with two Rejafix machines owned by Win and Ron. The meetings have proved to be entertaining and informative. We will be producing our annual Printers' Pie booklet again.

Unfortunately, Liz lost her battle with cancer at the end of the year.

Essex Branch

Gwen Harper (5992)

Members: 12 Meetings: Average attendance:

The Essex Branch is a relatively strong branch made up of 12 Society members who along with their partners provide a Branch membership numbering 17. 15 of these attended the first meeting of 2014, braving the flooded roads to attend the AGM and Annual Lunch. Heavy rain dampened the next meeting, at the Langford Museum of Power, on Easter Sunday for our Roadshow, where seven members demonstrated printing and chatted to the damp visitors who were escaping the rain. By May the weather had started to improve, and 15 members made their way to the seaside to visit the Haven Press of Chris Brinson for the unveiling of the Essex Arab. This was followed by a mid-week visit in June by seven members to the Repro House in Boreham. July was a busy month with two visits, 10 members visited the print shop of Gwen Harper and then a week later 7 of us ventured across the border into Suffolk to visit Pat Walker at the Aspen Press. August, and it was passports and visas at the ready to visit Adanaland and the Hedgehog Press of Alan Brignull with 14 present including one guest and three Society members from further afield: such is the appeal of Flatby. Our year's activities ended with our annual visit to Barleylands with our Roadshow at the Essex Country Show. Nnine members spent two days of intense printing and chatting with the visitors in Len Friend's marquee. Full reports of the Branch activities can be found in the Branch Reports pages of *Small Printer*.

Lincolnshire and District Branch

Mike Edwards (10374)

Members: 6 Meetings: 9 Average attendance:

The year started with our Christmas get-together held in February (better weather and better prices are the reasons for choosing post-Christmas Christmas dinner). On the same day, one of our members (who has since left the BPS) proposed that we could function as a branch, or rather group, outside of the society. This was put to a vote at our AGM, and I'm glad to report that the branch voted decisively to stay within the BPS.

The highlight of the year for the branch was the trip to the Paper Trail Project in Hemel Hempstead. The success of this trip has encouraged us to make plans to travel further afield in the coming year for some of our meetings.

The end of summer barbecue is another highlight of the branch's hectic social diary. Otherwise, we have carried on with business pretty much as usual, and as usual ended the year by submitting another entry for the Rosen Award. This year has also seen us contributing to *Small Printer* in the shape of regular branch reports.

London Branch

Bob Richardson (9718)

Members: Meetings: Average attendance:

The London Branch has been in existence since 1948 and serves members living in London and the Thames Valley. In recent years the membership of the Branch has declined, although it has been kept active by the sterling work of the Acting Secretary, Bob Richardson of St Bride's.

On 22 May 2014 a group of London-based BPS members met for a tour of the St Bride's Printing Library given by Bob Richardson. There was an introduction to the history of the St Bride's Foundation and a visit to the Passmore Edwards room (the old reading room) and the associated recreation of William Blades' study with his collection of books — the Library's first acquisition. Such treasures as Caxton's *Boethius* and a Kelmscott *Chaucer* were shown followed by a visit to the main library stack where the group saw Eric Gill's original drawings for Gill Sans and the vast collection of matrices and punches from the Caslon type foundry.

Then followed a branch meeting where the assembled members officially joined the London Branch and William Rouse offered to take on the role of Branch Chairman and Matt McKenzie the role of Secretary. In the small amount of time left, the newly invigorated London Branch had a quick look around the workshop and marvelled at the equipment ranging from an 18c wooden press,

a Stanhope, Albion, Columbian and the inevitable Heidelberg Tiegel (which was produced from 1950 until 1985).

As the group saw only a fraction of the collection another visit is absolutely necessary and it is hoped that even more members will benefit from the excellent generosity and knowledge of the evening's guide, Bob Richardson.

In June a small group of BPS members gathered at Paekakariki Press in Walthamstow (birthplace of William Morris) and had a tour round the workshop, which now has a working Monotype Composition Caster and Super Caster as well as a Heidelberg KS Cylinder and a good collection of type.

In July, branch members met at the London Centre for Book Arts for a tour with founder Simon Goode. Despite a small turnout, blamed on the heat and the nearby music festival in Victoria Park, members had a good look around, being introduced to the space and facilities on offer at the LCBA (an open-access studio, available to members of the public to join and have access to the range of bookbinding, letterpress and finishing equipment — including four cylinder proof presses, guillotine, foil blocking presses and a paper beater).

In September, BPS London members joined with the Lincolnshire Branch for a tour of the Frogmore Paper Mill, hosted by Paul Woolley. Frogmore Paper Mill is the world's oldest mechanised paper mill and today it is still a working paper mill producing around 100 tonnes of specialist grade paper every year on the historic paper machine dating back to 1902.

Jim Patterson of Two Rivers Paper gave a demonstration of making paper by hand and described the current range of hand-made papers with decorative inclusions such as shredded banknotes! There was also an exhibition of letterpress equipment with a commentary by Paul Woolley.

In all it was not a bad year for the London Branch, although we are now seeking suggestions for more group outings to put in the diary for 2015 and seeking to add more members to our group. There is such a rekindling of interest in Letterpress Printing at the moment with young graphic designers in particular becoming a little disillusioned with sitting in front of a computer all day and wanting to be involved in the acts of physical creation that Letterpress affords and surely they would benefit from the mutual support and depth of shared knowledge that membership of the British Printing Society can bring!

Maidenhead Branch

Paul Hatcher (10648)

Members: 11 Meetings: 12 Average attendance: 7

The Maidenhead Branch had a meeting every month in 2014; we usually meet at members' houses on a weekday evening but we also have social events at

other places and times, and for the second year running we organised an Open Day. We do try to send details of our branch meetings to *Small Printer* and I hope that members can see from these that we are a friendly branch. New faces, whether local members thinking of joining the branch or visitors passing through the area, are assured of a warm welcome, and there is always plenty of chat! In January we met up for our annual meal in a local restaurant; this was a success and holding it at lunchtime this year avoided people having to drive in the dark in potentially poor weather. In February we met at Dorothy Sydenham's in Thame to hear a talk by Tim Honnor, who kindly extended his journey down south to give us a talk on his printing exploits. Then in March we met at Bob Edwards' in Crookham for the first of several meetings to discuss our Open Day, which was continued at the next, April, meeting at Chris Daniells' in High Wycombe. The May meeting at Richard Owen's in Cookham was taken up with discussing the Convention, from which some of us had recently returned, and we had further discussion on a number of topics the following month at Anke Ueberberg's in Reading. In July the branch assembled at Paul Hatcher's in Woodley where people were persuaded to do some letterpress printing of an Open Day flier for the bundle. In August we had a highly enjoyable BBQ at Barry Gilbert's in Reading and in September we ran the Branch Open Day at the Wokingham Methodist Centre. Almost all Branch members had a table (or several) at this event and it turned into almost a Branch meeting. It was great to welcome stall holders and visitors from other branches and the wider BPS community. Our October meeting was the Branch AGM back at Dorothy Sydenham's in Thame, where we reviewed the year; and as the Branch committee didn't hide quickly enough they were re-elected for another year. The end of the year was taken up with preparing our Rosen Award entry: planning what to do at Chris Daniells' in November, and sticking it all together and binding it at Sarah Battyll's in Bracknell in early December.

Overseas Branch

Kevin Thorp (10244)

Our branch has been on the go now for five years and we recently published our 15th Overseas Newsletter in which a cross-section of our members regularly report on projects that they are currently engaged in and exchange views and reminiscences of times past.

To date well over 75% of our branch members have contributed items for publication in the Newsletter. We are also fortunate that we have had a steady level of membership with a net growth in membership of one and a half members per year. This would doubtless be many more if I had kept my promise to our webmaster Ron Rookes and provided him with useful and

scintillating information to be placed on the Society's website outlining the advantages to be gained by casual web surfers overseas joining our ranks. This is my number one New Year's Resolution and by the time you read this it should be up there with the other important items on the Society's Website. Notwithstanding my procrastination we have been blessed this year by the arrival on board of three new members, one from the Old World and two from the New. Mr Saukkola from Espoo in Finland, Mr Reid from San Francisco and Mr Grossman from Cambridge (Massachusetts).

I have so far had the great pleasure of meeting up personally with only one other branch member – Geoff Moor, whom I met at the 2013 Convention in Colchester, England. He's a real ball of energy and enthusiasm which he expends on a variety of hobbies including vintage cars. To that extent he mirrors many of our other members in other parts of the globe who take the business of creativity seriously. Paul Jay runs a coffee shop in Ottawa and prints his own coffee cartons and bags.

Dennis Wild in Tasmania, besides printing books, runs an organic farm where he also looks after orphaned kangaroos and various poultry, besides helping his wife Joanne who produces a variety of craft items including hand-printed cards of all descriptions. Both our New Zealand members, Ted White and Dr John Holmes, like Lonnie Smith from Colorado in the USA, run antique letterpress operations in colleges and museums besides producing one-off editions of hand-set poetry books. Chris Bergthorson in Spain has had what the Chinese would call an interesting time with his properties. The first one he bought turned out to be situated in probably the only very wet and cold place in Spain. The next one took a very long time to build and in the process he incurred some serious injuries and the most memorable photo I have of him is on crutches. Steve Gill, who recently turned 82, cycled four miles through the wild boglands of the Isle of Arran to register his 'yes' vote in the Scottish referendum last year and is presently experimenting on a new etching process to express his artistic flair. He is also learning Gaelic to improve his street cred if he happens to accidentally run into a gang of Celtic supporters when attending the Convention in April.

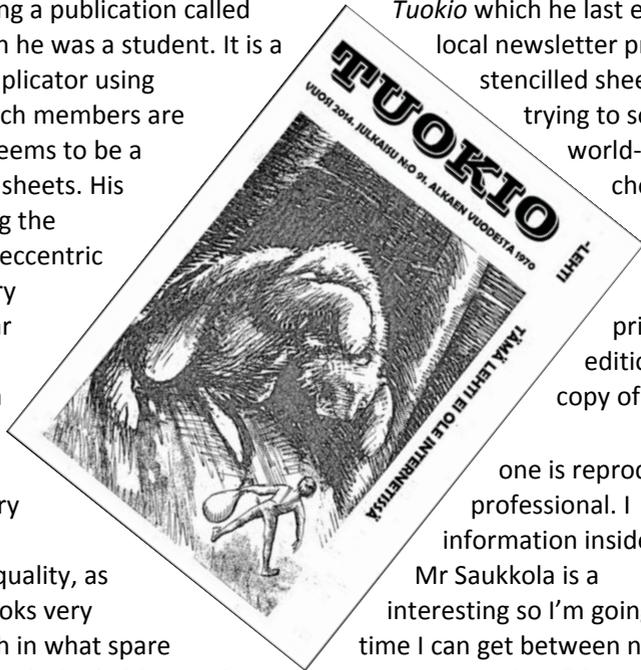
Dan Worley, who is American and lives in a small French town called Chef Boutonne, invited some English friends over to his place for the Thanksgiving Dinner last November and also sent me some funny cartoons which I judged inadvisable to publish at the present time in case he joined me in a mutual self-destruction pact in the cause of free speech . . .

Early in 2014 one of our members, George Hamilton, who lives an idyllic life in old Vienna gave us a graphic account of his visit to Berlin in November 1989 where he witnessed the tearing down of the infamous Wall and the painful and

costly birth of a new Germany. Frank Mattocks, who now lives in France, also sent us recently a very amusing article describing a visit to Beijing and what he saw in the printing museum there. The type cases were six feet high and ten feet wide with thousands of different sorts of type, which sounded like a compositor's nightmare.

Needless to say our twenty members do not attend regular Branch meetings but probably most of us know as much or more about each other as some members of regular Branches on the British mainland, and share in their joys and tribulations. One of our new members, Arsi Saukkola from Finland, has returned to printing a publication called 37 years ago when he was a student. It is a on a Gestetner duplicator using which fellow Branch members are for him as there seems to be a shortage of these sheets. His method of printing the sletter may seem eccentric the results are very ssive. He has so far two of the new and has sent me a of them.

Edition number here and looks very assume that the of the same high quality, as perfectionist. It looks very learn some Finnish in what spare and the Convention in April. Meanwhile, mentor from the Essex Branch, who has given us so much help and advice over the past five years . . . keep on truckin', Len.



Tuokio which he last edited local newsletter printed stencilled sheets, trying to source world-wide chosen new but impre printed editions copy of both

one is reproduced professional. I information inside it is Mr Saukkola is a interesting so I'm going to time I can get between now many thanks to Len Friend, our

Scottish Branch

John Easson (2959)

Members: **Meetings:** **Average attendance:**

Scottish Branch activity has been solely about the Convention, but has not included any Branch meetings.

Shropshire Branch

Peter Criddle (6562)

Members: 8 Meetings: 9 Average attendance: 6

During the year we have gained two new members, Dulcie Fulton and Emma Woolley, and are grateful for the contributions they have made: also we are glad to have back David Leake, and now he has retired we hope to see more of him (Coronation Street permitting). The last year we have met at our usual venue several times to discuss anything print related, also we had our annual dinner in January, a wonderful visit to John Neave Printers at Wolverhampton where he had set up a lot of his old letterpress machines for us to try, the BBQ at David Leake's where we had good food, good company and fine weather. There was an open day at the at the Grange in Ellesmere and an evening at Peter and Margaret Criddle's where Peter demonstrated his new machine. Everyone attending these visits had a very enjoyable time. More visits will be arranged for 2015 once we have decided on them. Our Rosen Award entry 'Just Our Type' for 2014 did not win but was well received. Next year's entry for the Rosen, entitled 'Proverbs', is looking good, but we will have to see what the judges think. At our February meeting next year we will decide on a theme for the Rosen Award for 2016 and I hope we get lots of contributions. As for next year I am sure that we shall continue to meet as a group of friends who enjoy printing whether for pleasure or profit.

Solent Branch

Greg Barnett (3858)

Members: 4 Meetings: 2 Average attendance:

Solent Branch held only two meetings in 2014: the AGM in March and the annual Christmas dinner on 13th December. The small number of meetings was due in the main to age and health problems in the membership. We only have four members: myself, Ken Gould, Trevor Jones and David Smith, with our youngest member in his mid-sixties. Our low current membership is due mainly to the absence of suitable possible recruits in our catchment area, as Branch Secretaries are now only permitted to recruit members of the Society and not to recruit non-members who would be useful as members of the Branch, a route we have used in the past to bring new members into the Society. After Dinner we had a serious discussion on the future of the Branch. It was decided that as the future of the Branch was no longer viable then the Branch would, with much regret, close. The members and friends present agreed that they would remain in contact as far as possible. The meeting then closed after the Secretary was asked to inform the Society of the decision.

South Wales Branch

Dom Hartley (10627)

Members: 10 Meetings: 6 Average attendance:

We aim to meet on the last Thursday of every second month and as our area spreads from Chepstow on the East across to Pembroke on the West we aim to find venues along the M4 corridor.

January 2014 - Our first meeting of 2014 was a practical letterpress evening at Cardiff Met using Adana 8" x 5" and 5" x 3" . Three members attended plus 3 students and Olwen, Graphic Design lecturer. We printed envelopes and thank-you cards.

March 2014 – Really well-attended bookbinding practical workshop held by Ron Prosser in Newport. Five members attended plus six invited guests. We were shown how to produce a case-bound notebook with foiled cover.

May 2014 – Well-attended visit to the Trinity Mirror newspaper plant in Cardiff. With students we numbered approx. 10 and had the complete tour of studio, pressroom and post-press departments.

July 2014 – Cancelled due to holidays.

September 2014 – Planning meeting for 2015 held in Cardiff. Five members attended and a programme planned for the following 12 months.

November 2014 – Fantastic tour of the National Waterfront Museum print exhibition and hands-on letterpress printing on Stanhope Iron press: five members attended plus two guests

Surrey and Sussex Branch

Peter Scarratt (5028)

Members: 6 Meetings: 7 Average attendance: 6

The Branch's year began with our annual lunch in January, held at the *Frankland Arms* at Washington and attended by ten members and spouses – a very enjoyable social event at which printing was not the only subject of conversation!

We spent our February meeting in Redhill planning our annual Open Day, which took place on 15th March in Merstham, and was the usual good team effort by our small Branch. We were pleased to welcome a number of friends from the Society who made the effort to join us.

Four Branch members attended the Annual Convention and we were delighted that two of them – Chris Green and Peter Salisbury – were again elected respectively as President and Secretary of the Society.

Surrey and Sussex Branch spans quite a large area geographically; Merstham is in the north of the area, just outside Greater London, and in May we were 45 miles further south on the Sussex coast when we met at Shoreham-by-Sea. We spent the evening discussing our ideas for a submission for the Rosen Award, and the discussion continued the following month when we met at Billingshurst. Sadly this year the actual publication didn't get beyond the planning stage, probably because there was a lack of common vision about what we wanted to do, but it was a useful and constructive learning experience.

Most years we try to have a branch outing during the summer and this time two members went to *Art In Action*, an annual four day event held at Waterperry House near Oxford (rather a long way for a day's outing for our Sussex members). Artists and craftspeople from all disciplines demonstrate their skills which this year included etching, wood and lino cuts, screen printing using multiple stencils, and bookbinding.

In September we met in Crawley and spent a pleasant evening chatting about various printing-related topics and in October we were back in Merstham for our AGM. Peter Scarratt stepped down as Branch Secretary after many years in the post and Libby Green was elected unanimously in his place (being the only nomination!). In December we met in *The Hatch* pub in Redhill and started to plan our 2015 Open Day which will be more ambitious than in recent years and which we hope will have greater appeal to Society members and to the general public.

Honorary Members

Colin Angior (4219)

2014 was much the same as 2013 in many ways. The house move finally took place, and our attempts at downsizing resulted in my being able to rehouse all my back copies of *Small Printer* (38 years' worth), all of my Publishing Group's missives (about 20 years' worth), and all of my Sussex Cup entries (about 25 years' worth) to the BPS Library. We went to the Convention, and had a jolly time, as we do every year. Didn't make many lectures (Tim Honnor's talk about the Battle of Jutland was most interesting). In collaboration with Ron Prosser, I judged the entries to the Rosen Award. Our article won some critical acclaim (it had been greatly enhanced by Giles Edwards, BPS's graphics person). It's the fifteenth year in a row, and I sometimes feel that my messages are getting through at last, because the quality of the entries continues to improve.

We will be attending the Convention in Montrose (in the Republic of Scotland), and naturally hope to see as many old printing friends as possible. Should be good - be there!

John Easson (2959)

See report under 'Enquiries Officer'.

Mike Elliston (1613)

Mike Elliston regrets that due to illness he has been unable to provide a report this year.

Roderic Findlay (10458)

I am not doing a great deal of printing, but I am working on a book of old postcards for Pat Swadling. We have had some interesting branch meetings in Dorset: two of our members have acquired some unusual machines. As a result of a chance conversation about lacing tea and coffee with whisky, I found that one of my acquaintances is the son of W. Turner Berry, featured in a very good article by Bob Richardson in December's *Small Printer*.

Dorothy Sydenham (6838)

It's been a good year for me – Tim Honnor came in February to the Maidenhead Branch meeting at my House and we had the Annual General Meeting here in October .

I enjoyed the convention in Bournemouth. Sorry I will not be able to make it to Montrose in April , but hope to be able to attend the convention in 2016.

