

# British Printing Society



## Annual Report 2016

# Executive Officers

## **President** — *Jean Watson (3712)*

How time flies, can another year have passed so soon.

In April we were all treated to a great Convention weekend at Bristol, hosted by the Maidenhead branch fronted by Bob Edwards who worked really hard the entire weekend with the backing of the branch to provide us with one of the best conventions I've attended.

In May I visited the Amberley Museum during the print weekend, it's always a good day out for friends and families with plenty to keep the children interested and occupied.

At the end of August came the shattering news that our Vice President and good friend Bob Edwards had died while away for the weekend. Twelve members attended the thanksgiving service at Fleet Methodist Church where I was asked to say a few words from the Society. Several members have visited Jane for a chat and to help towards clearing Bob's office.

October was our visit to The Print Show at Birmingham. 3D printing was on show creating everything from a thimble to prosthetic limbs, incredible. We met Michael Clayton at the St. Bride's stand, then sat to enjoy a cuppa with Bob Richardson and Peter Scarrett.

At the beginning of December Ron and I travelled to Stroud for the Printers Wayzgoose, a busy enjoyable event. There were several other studios open in the area, we visited three.

This year I have printed bundle items for the Newport Convention and several Publishing Group bundle items. The PG has done really well this year. Rachel Marsh suggested Glint and the members responded with a truly amazing result.

## **Secretary** — *Peter Salisbury (5510)*

Once again I have attended each Executive Council meeting and taken the Minutes. I also attended the excellent Convention at Bristol last April. I have dealt with correspondence as necessary and have supported members of the Executive Council as required.

Following Bob Edwards' sudden passing, I together with other Society members attended his Thanksgiving Service. I have also, with other EC and Maidenhead branch members visited Jane Edwards to assist with the disposal of some of Bob's equipment

In addition I have attended many of the Surrey & Sussex Branch meetings and also their Practical Print day when we printed a keepsake for the Convention.

## **Treasurer** — *Robin Munday (10392)*

To be reported in *Small Printer*.

## **Councillor** — *Paul Hatcher (10648)*

During 2016 much of my time has been taken up with being Secretary of the Maidenhead Branch, and being part of the team of Branch Members preparing for the 2016 Convention at Bristol. However, I also attended all the EC meetings in 2016,

and the 2016 Bristol Convention. I represented the BPS at a stall at the St Bride's Wayzgoose in May and at the Oxford Guild of Printers Wayzgoose in October. I also attended the Chipping Campden Wayzgoose in June, an artist's book fair in Reading in October, and gave a talk to the Oxford Guild of Printers in December. Although I have visited some other members this year, I did not manage to attend the meetings of any other branches, something I hope to rectify in 2017.

### **Councillor — Ron Rookes (4682)**

As Councillor I attended all the meetings of the EC held during the year except the one held on the 5th November. I joined the Essex Branch for their Road Show at the Langford Museum of Power and along with the Membership Secretary the Road Show at Thaxted Church Craft Fair with a table promoting the Society and its activities. We also visited the St. Bride Foundation Wayzgoose, where we were able to chat to visitors and exhibitors and once again promote the Society.

### **Councillor — Ron Watson (6955)**

I have spent time working on some of the printing and publishing items for the Newport Convention during the year. This involvement will continue into 2017 leading up to the Convention.

Other activities have been connected with attending E.C. Meetings.

### **PG Councillor — Margaret Rookes (10701)**

At the PG AGM in April Rachel Marsh was elected as Chairman of the Publishing Group. There has been renewed interest shown in the PG this year, membership numbers have increased by 50% over the last few months, with more members considering joining during 2017. Current membership stands at 32, plus three honorary EC members. We have had great success with the bi-monthly PG Bundles this year, with a total of 130 items being produced and mailed out to all members. Many members responded to Rachel's encouragement for experimental printing, which resulted in some very original and interesting items being produced and shared, requiring a whole new interpretation of 'collating the Bundle' in order to ensure it's safe arrival and minimise the cost of postage and packing!

'The Publishing Group Annual 2016' was also produced, with the subject of 'Outrageous Fonts'. This had 34 pages, including the covers, contributed by 22 members, six of whom were taking part for the first time. Four members generously contributed multiple pages. Thank you to all who have taken part in PG activities this year, it has been interesting and invigorating, we hope for even more interesting and exciting items to share during the next year.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Rachel for taking on the role of Chairman with such enthusiasm and playing a huge part in encouraging both existing and potential members to take part in the Publishing Group.

# Non-executive Officers

## **Advertising Manager — Ron Watson (6955)**

I wish to record my thanks to those members and other advertisers who continue to support the Society by advertising in the *Small Printer* magazine and those who also make use of the Society Website.

It has also been noticeable that we continue to be the source of help when it comes to helping with the disposal of printing equipment from members who have passed away. The Society has also helped other members of the public to move equipment they have found in sheds and garages belonging to their relatives.

## **Editor — Chris Green (7614)**

Each of the 12 issues of *Small Printer* produced during 2016 has been well received. This is due in no small part to all the work put in by Ron Rookes, whose design skills have transformed the magazine.

Each of the twelve issues has been 24 pages, apart from two produced in the wake of the Convention that ran to 28 pages each. I am aware of the page limit set by the EC and I foresee no problem with that during the coming year. If anything, we are likely to see some 20-page magazines as the problems with lack of material are still with us. We are in danger of entering a chicken-and-egg situation as shorter magazines = members failing to renew as they are not getting value-for-their-subscription = fewer people writing articles for the magazine = shorter magazines . .

Were it not for regular contributors such as Bob Richardson and Ron Watson we should already have had some thinner magazines. I should welcome any ideas from the EC about obtaining fresh material: perhaps members of the EC would like to set an example and each provide something during 2017.

I shall again remind the EC that I took on the role of Editor for two years: we are halfway there.

## **Enquiries Officer — John Easson (2959)**

I'm afraid I don't really have a great deal to report. As Enquiries Officer I have only had a handful of queries which I have managed to deal with, although there have been a larger number of spam messages offering the Society commercial services from China, etc.

## **Librarian — Libby Green (7614)**

Early in 2016 members of the EC met to review the contents of the Library with a view to reducing it to a more manageable size. This turned out to be easier than had been envisaged and within a couple of hours nearly 80% of the books had been discarded because they were out of date and obsolete. Many of the surplus items were subsequently sold to members, recouping over £200, but some were taken for recycling.

During the year the Society had been given quite a large number of books by the executors of the late Norman Lailey. Although the majority of these were sold, raising £460 for charities named in Norman's will, several were added to the Library. The much reduced Library and new catalogue made their debut at the Convention

and generated some interest. Significantly, because the books all now just about fit into two large plastic crates, the entire Library can be on display instead of just the Librarian's selection. I had hoped that the portability might encourage Branches to borrow the Library periodically but this has not so far happened.

Requests for loans have again been few. A new member who looked through the books at the Convention subsequently requested a book in May and has yet to return it despite requests to do so.

### **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. Most of the bundle items were promoting Branch and Society events, but some were from members displaying examples of their print, my thanks go to them for all their time and effort used to provide members with samples of their printing. Why not help to make the magazine more interesting by printing a Bundle item yourself, there is no charge for non-commercial items? The only hiccup of the year was the mailing of the January 2017 magazine as, due to Christmas post problems, the proof did not arrive in time for them to be printed and dispatched before the holiday break. Cassie and her team printed and dispatched them on their first day back in the New Year and they were posted before the end of the week.

### **Membership Secretary — Margaret Rookes (10701)**

Once again little has changed in my post as Membership Secretary over the past year. I have dealt with much the same sort of problems as in previous years, most were dealt with by email with the exception of one issue which was discussed and dealt with by the EC. I have had a lot of contact with members on a variety of issues, often unrelated to their membership. Following the sudden loss of our Vice President I have been providing new members with information about their local branch if there is one and encouraging the possible formation of new ones. Where appropriate I have informed the relevant Branch Secretary of any new member in their area. This has added to my workload and I hope that someone else may soon take on the role of Branch liaison.

On December 31st 2016 the active membership of the Society was 294, this is 10 more than at the end of 2015. During 2016 the Society gained 42 new members, 7 more than in the previous year, 37 of these joined directly via the Society's website, paying online via PayPal. During the same period the Society lost a total of 49 members, 7 of these had died and a few had left due to serious health problems. (This total of 49 includes 13 members due to renew by the end of December who had not done so, some of these may renew during the next few weeks.) Donations were received from 26 members.

In 2016 PayPal became the preferred method of payment for half of our members, however cheques remain popular, mainly with older, longstanding members. A few still pay by bank transfer, this can sometimes create a problem in identifying the member when a payment is accompanied by insufficient or incorrect information.

I continue to provide a monthly column for inclusion in *Small Printer*, giving details

of new members and other updates. I have provided the President (and Vice-President until August) with monthly updates on both new and lapsed members. I have also provided my usual monthly financial reports to the Treasurer to enable the correct allocation of membership funds received. I updated the artwork for production of the Membership List 2016 – 2017 and assisted the Mailer in the distribution of this. I have provided Executive and Non-Executive Officers, UK and Overseas Branches and individual members with updated membership details whenever requested.

During 2016 I attended two events open to the public where I was able to promote the Society. I visited the St. Bride Foundation Wayzgoose, which provided an opportunity to talk to both visitors and exhibitors about the BPS. With my local Essex Branch I attended a large Craft Fair held at Thaxted Church, with five presses being demonstrated. This proved very popular and was a useful opportunity to promote the Society. Most of our new members have been introduced to the BPS by our website or social networking sites via our own presence or that of existing members.

### **Sales Secretary — Terry Shapland (10727)**

I can report that activity in sales has been very slow, with only three orders since the last AGM. I wonder how this compares with previous years, as the job seems one of storage rather than activity. One new member purchased seven complete years of *Small Printer*, another an apron and two badges and one further apron completes the total. There have not been any orders for polo shirts.

As a pastime, I embroider designs for local clubs and tradesmen, using a professional multi needle machine.

I have digitized the club logo for future orders, which I propose to do on an order by order basis from a small shelf stock. As I buy wholesale this may result in a lower item price. I am also looking at baseball caps with the logo embroidered on the front. I propose to have some on sale at the AGM.

Back issues of *Small Printer* do not seem to attract much attention, so I wonder if a special offer to new members would attract more sales. I am also thinking about binding whole years into volumes, at materials cost to the club. The AGM could be a taster promotion possibly. Some years have substantial numbers of issues and the entire stock occupies space of about 5 feet by four feet, with considerable weight on the floor of an upstairs room. I note that recent years have limited quantities, so clearly a decision to restrict supplies has been made. Perhaps we should make a stock-take decision on earlier years? I also note that no issues exist prior to the 1990's so a major decision has been taken for earlier years.

We have substantial supplies of club lapel badges and cuff links, the latter not selling at all.

### **Small Printer Design — Ron Rookes (4682)**

There was much discussion at the October 2015 Executive Council Meeting as there had been no members volunteering for the post of Editor and those approached by the EC declined. It was agreed to ask Chris Green if he would be prepared to take on the role again if I agreed to help him by taking on the design aspect of the production. Chris accepted and we set about producing the January 2016 issue of *Small Printer*. Our aim was to provide an interesting, easy to read magazine, which I

hope you will agree we have managed to achieve. This would not be possible without you, the members, providing material to include in the magazine. Many thanks to all who have, and to those who haven't please consider writing something during 2017. Thanks must also go to Cassie and her team at Moulton Printing for their excellent, high quality printing and service, even managing to deliver on time when I have been late letting them have the artwork and when the printed proof has been delayed by Royal Mail.

## **Web Master — Ron Rookes (4682)**

I have been unable to update the website with new material as much as I had hoped over the past year as I am now spending many hours each month designing and producing *Small Printer*. I have, however, managed to continue adding the e-books and pdfs of *Small Printer* and we now have Volume 52 – 2016 in the Members' Area along with Volumes 51 and 50.

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 417 Likes (followers) on Facebook and 934 Followers on Twitter. Unfortunately I find little time to post to either, the Society sorely needs a Publicity Officer to keep us in the public eye.

## **Branches**

### **Dorset Branch — Win Armand Smith (10716)**

**Members: 12    Meetings: 10    Average Attendance: 10**

At each meeting we have a topic or a talk.

This year we had several talks by George Webb, on a variety of topics including on make ready, he has various combinations of paper, card, acetate, tissue paper and a very fine smooth glue that he uses to get the best possible impression.

We have looked at and experimented with hot foil printing, we had three machines in use with varying results. Jean brings her Adana 8x5 in occasionally and we experiment with blocks and borders.

We had a most interesting visit to Henry Ling, printers in Dorset, and marvelled at the speed of book production, wonderful machinery folding, cutting, gluing and binding books.

Some members of the branch went to the excellent Convention in Bristol, where amongst others happenings we offered to host the 2018 Convention. Some meeting time has been taken in deciding where to hold it and how it will operate.

We still hold our meetings at Whitcombe Stables, the staff that are still there give us a warm welcome and we have the happy interruption occasionally when the staff come in to watch a race featuring one of the horses from the stables. We had a Christmas lunch in a local pub this year and at every meeting we have an afternoon tea following the meeting.

## Essex Branch — Gwen Harper (5992)

**Members: 18    Meetings: 7    Average Attendance: 10**

Two meetings were held at Members Presses, Chris and Jenny Brinson, The Haven Press and Alan and Julie Brignull, the Hedgehog Press, Adanaland.

Roadshow events two, Langford Museum of Power and Thaxted Church Craft Fair, both very successful. These events have encouraged new members to join us and we have been able to help them to find the equipment to set up.

Visits were also made to Justin Knopp at Typoretum and the Type Archive, Stockwell.

I try to make contact with all BPS members in the county at least once a year and this has proved useful. Any new members get a welcome letter or e-mail.

Health issues have interfered with my usual pattern of frequenting every branch meeting, but I am able to deal with any correspondence and phone calls.

We will be meeting for our AGM/planning over lunch in February.

## Lincolnshire and District Branch — Michael Edwards (10374)

**Members: 6    Meetings: 7    Average Attendance:**

2016 has been a particularly sad year for the Lincolnshire and District Branch, with the death of our senior member Robin Clarke. Robin's wife, Jean, is now living at her son's and is now unable to attend branch meetings.

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). The dinner is usually the time we hold our AGM and plan the year ahead. The most important thing to agree on is what we will produce for the annual Rosen Award competition.

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 the *Small Printer* in the shape of regular branch reports.

*The end of summer barbecue is a highlight of the branch's diary. Due to torrential rain, this year's 'barbecue' was held indoors, but was still quite a success. At this point, I really must mention the fantastic work and tremendous hospitality of Wendy Warne and Sandra Hull. These two wonderful ladies never fail to provide superb refreshments at branch meetings.*

The last meeting of the year is always the one where we all meet to put our Rosen Award entry together. This year we met up at Rotaset in Louth, and ended up producing a quite remarkable entry. Although we always do our best to produce a prize winner, the real joy, and perhaps even the point of the Rosen Award, is getting together and enjoying printing

## London Branch — Matt McKenzie (10577)

**Members:            Meetings:            Average Attendance:**

The London Branch has been a little quiet in the last year, although members have met up individually and at various events in London such as the St Brides Wayzgoose in June and the Paekakariki Press Open Day in November. We do have a London Mailing List which alerts members to London events and exhibitions that might be of

interest. I would urge members living in London to get in touch and add their names and maybe come up with some suggestions of activities, meetings or events that might be of interest to London members.

## **Maidenhead Branch — Paul Hatcher (10648)**

**Members: 8      Meetings: 9      Average Attendance: 6**

The Maidenhead Branch had a meeting most months in 2016; we usually meet at members' houses on a weekday evening but we also have social events at other places and times, including during the weekend. 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!

It has been a very eventful year for the branch; with the organisation and running of the 2016 BPS Convention at Filton taking up much of the branch's time early in the year and the very sad passing of our chairman Bob Edwards at the end of August hitting the branch hard later on.

Our first meeting in 2016 was in January with a return visit to the Reading East Holiday Inn for our branch Christmas lunch. Although we just missed Christmas we still were able to have a full Christmas meal with all the trimmings and decorations! In February we met up at Bob Edwards' in Crookham Village and in March at Anke Ueberberg's in Reading. At both meetings we, not surprisingly, concentrated on the advanced plans for the Convention. The Convention in April went off very well and you can read about that in *Small Printer* last year. The branch reconvened in May at Richard Owen's in Cookham for a Saturday afternoon meeting, at which we discussed how the Convention went and other printing-related matters. In July we held another Saturday afternoon meeting at Paul Hatcher's in Woodley, with more chat and even the opportunity to sit outside in the nice weather. In August we held our annual branch barbeque at Dorothy Sydenham's in Thame, where we were joined by several partners and prospective members and had a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon. In October we returned to Dorothy's for a more subdued AGM after Bob's passing, but in the spirit of carrying on, we elected Richard Owen as the new Chairman, reconfirmed Anke as Treasurer, after she stepped in to fill the role in January after Barry Gilbert's incapacitation the previous year, and welcomed a new branch member, Helen Westhrop. At the AGM we planned a range of meetings for the following year and decided to enter the Rosen Award this year. In December we met at Chris Daniells' in High Wycombe for our pre-Christmas meeting and to plan our Rosen award entry.

## **Overseas Branch — Kevin Thorp (10244)**

**Members: 16**

The past year has seen a series of ups and downs for our Branch. We got off to a rather sad start when one of our oldest members and the one I was acquainted with best, died a couple of days before I was due to meet up with him again at the Convention in Bristol.

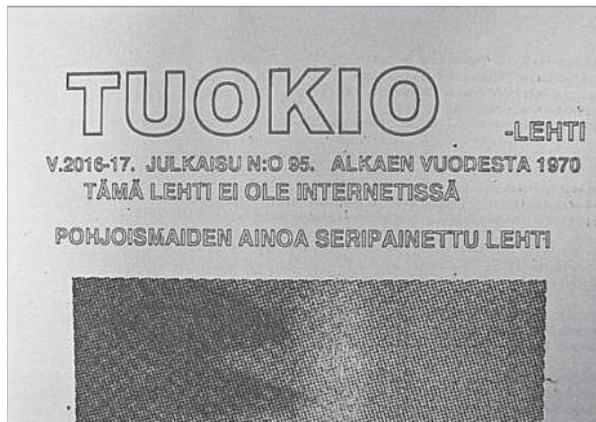
Unlike other branches we only ever meet up at Conventions. My other close friend

Geoff Moor from Western Australia was unable to attend the Convention as he was needed to help organise a historical symposium in the Kalgoorlie region where he gave a talk on the history of printing in Australia. He wrote a comprehensive report on this for the *Overseas Newsletter* and also provided us with another article on the history of gold mining in Australia.

Nowadays, apparently mine shafts are a thing of the past. They just strip the topsoil from an area of a couple of square kilometres and dig a very big hole scooping out the ore with monster diggers. The old mining towns are now ghost towns visited just by tourists.

We received a report from Ted White in North Island, New Zealand who said that since the first earthquake on November 12th 2016 they have had at least 2,000 aftershocks. All bookshelves in the print museum are now screwed to the walls otherwise the books fall off every time there is an aftershock. Dr. John Holmes

was in touch with me from the South Island but did not mention whether they have had another earthquake as well. I believe there are two Wharfedale printing machines in storage in New Zealand. My friend Len Friend of the BPS Essex Branch is presently attempting to repair an old Wharfedale and needed to discover what exactly an important but missing piece of the machine looked like so he could get a replacement



part made. By a great stroke of luck I, along with some print colleagues from Canada, Paul Jay, Mike Pomeroy and Larry Thompson plus Alexander Tsyganenko and Alexander Samarin, the leading experts on the History of Printing in Russia was asked by Mr. Zhou, the proprietor of the Beijing Print Museum in China if I would write a chapter in a book he was publishing about printing around the world. I wrote a pretty comprehensive article on the history of Printing In Ireland. In order to get some illustrations for it I went down to the National Print Museum in Dublin. When I walked in to the place what should I see but a Wharfedale printing exact copies of the Irish Proclamation of Independence. The museum people were more than helpful and stopped the machine so I could photograph and measure up every single bit of the machine, especially the bits that Len was missing from his machine in England. So this collaboration alone involved people from England, Ireland Canada, New Zealand, Russia and China – a truly International effort.

We have three members currently living in the USA and I received a report recently from Lonnie Smith from Colorado who is engaged in fixing up the old Santa Fé railroad station in Englewood, Colorado for use as a Print Museum.

Another Overseas Branch member, Arsi Saukkola publishes his own local Newsletter in Espoo, Finland. It is called *TUOKIO* and is printed on a Gestetner Duplicator. (See the masthead above) Last March I sent him a copy of our local

Newsletter, the *Rush Community News* which contained an article about the Moon written by our resident astronomer, Liam Gavin. Arsi asked could he re-print the article in his local newsletter because there were some things in it that he thought would interest people in Finland who can apparently all read English. Liam contacted him and the article was re-printed in English along with the rest of *TUOKIO* in Finnish.

Dennis Wild who is no longer a member of the BPS still writes articles for the *Overseas Newsletter* and also pieces for the *Rush Community News*. Just off the coast near Rush is Lambay Island which is owned by Lord Revelstoke. His grandfather, Rupert Baring introduced wallabies to the island in the 1940's and they are still there. Dennis wrote a very interesting piece for us about all the different species of kangaroos found in Australasia including the tree kangaroo. This article was very well received here, as was a short autobiography written by Len Friend about his time working on the *Queen Mary* in the 1960's.

I normally edit three *Overseas Newsletters* a year with the last one being the Christmas Edition which is posted out in late November along with the December issue of the *Small Printer*.

Unfortunately I got held back this last time by a heart attack which slowed me down somewhat. George Hamilton from Vienna who, at 85, I believe is now one of our oldest Overseas Branch members told me that he was on business in London some time ago when he suffered a heart attack. He had read so much stuff in the English papers about the meltdown of the NHS that instead of getting an ambulance he headed straight for the airport to get back to Vienna. When he got there the doctor said that he needed to be hospitalised but the hospital was just a couple of hundred yards away and he may as well walk over there as he had already been staggering around for two days and five minutes probably wouldn't make that much difference and it would be faster than waiting for the ambulance.

This past year has taught me a very important lesson – Keep in regular touch with Print colleagues from all over the world who are either present or past members of the BPS. You never know when they might give expert advice and guidance not just to you but to other friends of yours and vice-versa.

## **Scottish Branch — *John Easson (2959)***

**Members:**      **Meetings:**      **Average Attendance:**

The Scottish Branch has not been active.

## **Shropshire Branch — *Peter Criddle (6562)***

**Members: 12      Meetings: 10      Average Attendance: 9**

We started the year with our usual third Monday of the month meeting at a local pub; following it with a further eight meetings at friends' and members' presses through the year, and our usual Christmas dinner (in March) and summer barbecue.

On a visit to the Hedge Sparrow press in April we welcomed two new members, Margaret and Ian Hutchings; and also in that month had an unprecedented seven members attending the convention.

Later in the year we had an entertaining evening at a signmakers, coupled with a model railway builder; and then in August another double visit to a bookbinder in Ludlow and the Mostly Flat press of Dulcie Fulton.

Our usual AGM in November was literally a wash out as heavy rains kept members away and so plans for 2017 will be made in January.

## **South Wales Branch — Dominic Hartley (10627)**

**Members: 10 Meetings: 5 Average Attendance:**

**Brief summary of 2016 meetings.** 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.

This year was particularly challenging as many members dropped out last minute due to illness/crowded diaries. It was decided at the September planning evening to dedicate the Nov 2016, January 2017 and March 2017 meetings to Convention planning. We seldom manage to inspire more than 4 members to attend any one event.

**January 2016** - Our first meeting of 2016 was a visit to Steph's Elysium Studio in Swansea. Our evening printing & proofing was featured on the front cover of *Small Printer* a few weeks later.

**March 2016** – March 31st 2016 saw our branch visit McLays, a large Cardiff Printing Company with quite probably the largest digital print operation in Wales.

**May 2016** – May 31st 2016 saw our annual bookbinding workshop run by Ron in Newport. Once again Ron's effort was much appreciated and the quality of the final products produced were testament to his preparation & planning.

**July 2016** – Cancelled due to holidays

**Sept 2016** – Planning meeting for 2017 Convention held in Newport. The only BPS members attending were Dom & Ron plus Peter as we had a couple of last minute apologies

**Nov 2016** – Planning meeting for 2017 Convention held in Newport. The only BPS members attending were Dom, Ron plus Peter and Steph as we had a couple of last minute apologies.

## **Surrey and Sussex Branch — Libby Green (7614)**

**Members: 8 Meetings: 8 Average Attendance: 6**

Branch duties were light this year, as we did not have an Open Day, but we had a good programme of events.

We met on eight occasions starting on January 9th with a pleasant meal at the Red Lion, Ashington, attended by most members and partners. On February 9th we had an evening of lino cutting and printing at Noddyshall, producing a corporate "picture", which featured in our Branch report in April *Small Printer*. On Saturday 19th March we again met in Merstham for a practical printing day and produced a notebook as a Convention keepsake. The Convention took place in Bristol over the weekend 8th – 10th April and was attended by five Branch members. On May 10th we met at Peter Salisbury's in Redhill, discussed our Convention experiences and made plans for our *Print'n'paper* event which was scheduled for autumn but subsequently postponed until Spring 2017. Our planned London walk to be led by Peter Scarratt had to be cancelled, largely due to the ill health or incapacity of several of the intended participants, but on July 5th we had our annual trip to the seaside for some printing and thermographing in Adrian's spacious garage/workshop.

We met again on September 13th at Mark's workplace in Westcott for a pleasant evening of printers' chitchat and some excellent refreshments, and were pleased that Rachel had managed to make the journey from Farnham. Our final meeting before the November AGM was at Peter Scarratt's in Crawley on 11th October when he gave us an interesting talk on Glint and showed us some of his printing curiosities. So not only a good range of activities but also spreading our meetings around the Branch catchment area.

Our membership increased to eight which for a branch which, like many, has lost members in recent years rather than gaining any, was very encouraging. Disappointingly, as in 2015, letters were sent to several Society members living in the Surrey and Sussex area, enclosing our 2016 programme and inviting them to make contact with us, received no response.

## **Honorary Members**

### ***Colin Angior (4219)***

2016 has been, for me and Ros, a somewhat muted one in many ways. Apart from the BPS convention in Bristol, we have not spent much time away except for a week in Constable Country in Suffolk. Family matters have taken precedence and we watch our grand-children grow up and become increasingly more competent than we are on the computer (and everything else!!)

One highlight of my year is the annual pleasure of receiving the Branch contributions for the Rosen Award. It always takes me back to the first time I met Bernard Rosen. One cold morning near Shoreham-by-Sea, at the start of a time trial cycle race in 1955, we were both standing shivering in the cool post-dawn air, all the competitors waiting to leave at one minute intervals. Bernie rode a tricycle, and he said 'would you like to try it?' I did, but managed to steer unerringly into a wall. I've never ridden a trike since! Enough of my rambling!

I have judged the Rosen Award for 16 years, and in latter years have enjoyed the assistance and wise counsel of Ron Prosser, who has dozens of years of printing experience, both amateur and commercial. His knowledge of printing, finishing and binding techniques is unequalled (have you seen his collection of miniature books? Superb!) I look forward to his help yet again for the 2016 entries.

The Convention was a delight to attend. Attendance was better than usual and the organising committee had persuaded a large number of students from Bristol to attend. They were made welcome, and they soon fitted in like old stagers. Each segment of the event went off like clockwork, and apart from a few minor problems at the Dinner, everyone had a good time.

The late and much-missed Bob Edwards had a great part to play at Convention, and his absence will be keenly felt. His influence within the Society was general and he will be hard to replace.

Ros and I look forward very much to meeting old friends and make new ones at the next 'bash' in Newport, Wales, in 2017. See you there!

### ***John Easson (2959)***

I have led a few classes on letterpress at the local Arts Centre, and there has

been as elsewhere an encouraging growth in interest in letterpress, with one new member locally setting up commercially, and another working in art just beginning to establish their printshop.

### **Mike Elliston (1613)**

Nothing to report.

### **Roderic Findlay (10458)**

I am still doing a small amount of printing, and I enjoy reading *Small Printer*, which seems to be getting better and better. Dorset Branch meetings have been very interesting, focussing on letterpress printing, and I enjoyed last year's convention and look forward to this year's.

### **Len Friend (8988)**

During the past year my BPS time has been spent in helping to arrange Essex Branch events and writing a couple of articles for the *Overseas Newsletter*. I have assisted with the repair and adjustment to a few machines in the Essex area and this sometimes involved calls to the Society Enquiries Officer.

Sandra and I attended the Bristol convention in 2016 and as we have an extended stay at Newport in 2017 we look forward to meeting many of our BPS acquaintances.

### **Chris Green (7614)**

As an Honorary Member of the Society I continue to take an active interest by editing the Society magazine, *Small Printer*, with considerable assistance from Ron Rookes. I am also acting as Bookings Secretary for the Annual Convention, as indeed I did last year. Along with my wife Libby, who is Branch Secretary, I attend all the activities and meetings of the Surrey & Sussex Branch.

### **Bob Richardson (9718)**

In the past year or so I've spent a great deal of my spare time in the archives of St Bride Library in Fleet Street. Although it is only open to the public two days a month, I work as an unpaid volunteer, which permits special access to the collections, and this has been of enormous benefit to the Society.

As the Editor often tells us, *Small Printer* cannot exist without articles for publication, so I've used my position at St Bride to source original material for the pages of our monthly journal. It's not as easy as it might seem, for every article involves a considerable amount of research and cross-checking of facts from several sources where possible. Solid pages of text can be a challenging read, so I also try to provide a good selection of illustrations to Chris Green. St Bride is not a lending library, and the rarity and high value of many titles precludes taking them home to scan them in high resolution, but I'm usually able to obtain reasonable quality images which can be cleaned-up and re-sized in an image editing programme on my PC. Ron Rookes, who assembles the magazine, is able to take this process a stage further by making adjustments to colour balance and luminance, to provide the best quality

images on the printed page.

My voluntary role at St Bride keeps me very busy for much of the day, so research is often carried out after hours, in the main book stack, known to staff and volunteers as Room 19. This Orwellian-sounding space is a vast area, consisting of several rooms which have been knocked together over the last century, and contains the bulk of the books and small artefacts.

“Out of the Archives” is a feature which will hopefully appear every month, and will allow me to provide at least one regular short feature for *Small Printer*. These monthly articles will not contain as much detail as some of the longer pieces, and will focus on items which are not ‘headline’ artefacts, but smaller, lesser-known items in the St Bride collections.

I hope that readers of *Small Printer* will enjoy the fruits of my labours over the next year.

### ***Dorothy Sydenham (6838)***

I enjoyed the Convention in April, and meeting friends old and new - thanks to my colleagues in the Maidenhead Branch who did all the work. It has been a sad year for us. The sudden death of Bob Edwards, our Chairman, and the devastating stroke that Barry Gilbert, our then Treasurer, suffered was overwhelming. However, the branch members have rallied round. I am sorry I can't help more but I did host the August BBQ and the AGM in October and managed to catch up with the news. I am now looking forward to attending Newport Convention in April.

All Officers (Executive and Nonexecutive), Branch Secretaries  
and Honorary Members were asked to provide a report

All those received are included here

