

# GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

Newsletter No.2

October 2011

## *Volunteers Garden Summer Party 2011*

We were very lucky that the rain held off for our party on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August which was once again held in Gordon Russell's garden at Kingcombe, thanks to the generosity of Jamie and Joey Ritblat. The Chairman, Richard Paice welcomed new members and thanked all the volunteers for their support. He encouraged suggestions



from everyone on how to get more people not only to visit the museum, but also to join as volunteers. Everyone received a copy of the DVD and book on Gordon Russell which they were encouraged to pass on.

## *Volunteers*

We are delighted to have welcomed eleven new volunteers to the team this year. Our most recent members are Josephine Barnes (Broadway), Marjorie Buck (Bourton-on-the-Hill), Lucy Harris (Defford), Jenny Morecroft (Mickleton) and Farah Sadoq (Pershore). Without our excellent team of volunteers we would not be able to keep the museum open. As well as stewarding our visitors around the museum there are plenty of other jobs that need doing and we hope that you will encourage others to come along and offer their time and skills to ensure that we can pass on Gordon Russell's vision to future generations.

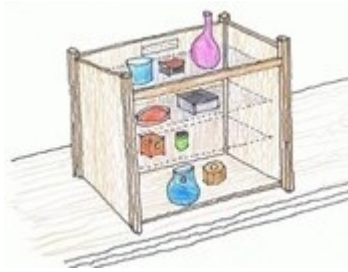
## *A big pat on the back for our Stewards*

In response to the question 'What's the first piece of advice you'd give to somebody new to the Cotswolds', during an interview for the October issue of *Cotswold Life*, Gordon Rowe, Chief Executive of The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham said that 'Compton Verney Art Gallery and **The Gordon Russell Design Museum must be visited**'. He added that 'the museum has some of the **best volunteers** I've ever come across. There's no "We have to shut at 5pm" about them'. Quite an accolade so well done to all Stewards

Our visitor numbers are down this year. We need to bring in more people so this type of publicity is most welcome. Stewards, when visitors come into the museum can you please ask 'how they found out about us', and write their reply in the Visitors' Book, which is being modified for their answers. Also do encourage them to take a brochure and tell their family and friends to come along too.

Equally important: We need to widen and record our distribution of brochures – hopefully, our excellent group of volunteers will be able to help in this work.

## ***New display cases for museum reception***



Cabinet maker John Freeborn made two English oak display cases from this sketch design by Ray Leigh. He has presented them to the museum in memory of his late father, Ernest Freeborn, who worked as a cabinet maker for Gordon Russell from 1926-1939.

Returning from war service he settled in York and established a successful cabinet making business which his son, John, continues to run today. Ernest Freeborn paid a visit to the Gordon Russell museum a couple of years after it opened. These fine display cases make an excellent addition to the museum's reception area.



## ***Rycotewood College: Recent Gordon Russell Winners***

### **Ben Croft**

On completing his Rycotewood Furniture Centre BA (Hons) course this year, Ben Croft, who received the 2011 Gordon Russell prize for his project piece, *Aviator Desk and Chair*, explained that he felt he had developed an individual style of design. He tried to balance form and function. While wanting to produce practical furniture he also wanted it to be visually dynamic.



### **Tom Pugh**

A piece of furniture for use in a reception space, break out area, hotel lobby, etc. was the brief for the Gordon Russell prize in 2009. Tom Pugh's design, for this aesthetically beautiful and simple walnut chair, was chosen from twelve submissions from students at Rycotewood Furniture Centre as worthy of the award.



## ***A new Patron of the Museum : Sir Terence Conran***



The designer Sir Terence Conran wrote that 'Gordon Russell's multi-faceted life should be an inspiration to everybody' and has agreed to become a Patron of the Museum. His professional design work began at the Festival of Britain and led to the opening of his first Habitat shop in 1964. He takes a close interest in all aspects of design. In turning his talents to the regeneration of the Shad Thames area of London, he encouraged the establishment of the Design Museum on the site.

Please email Susan Bennett at [susan@bennett.as](mailto:susan@bennett.as) with any suggestions for content for future newsletter, or any other comments you wish to make.