



# GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

Newsletter No.7

September 2012

## RUSSIAN SUPREMATIST STYLE IN THE COTSWOLDS

Local councillors and members of the Broadway Trust joined auctioneers, dealers, museum officials, furniture makers and blacksmiths at the private view of the Gordon Russell Design Museum metalwork exhibition on Friday 14 September 2012. Hugh Williams' Russian suprematist style display perfectly set off the work of three recent blacksmith graduates from the Hereford College of Art. The development of their design ideas could be seen in the sketchbooks and working drawings which accompanied their finished pieces. In his opening speech Master Blacksmith David Gregory, whose commissions include the refurbishment of the railings for the Georgian Group headquarters building in Fitzroy Square, and the hinges and handles for Dover Castle, encouraged the young blacksmiths to persevere in making their work stand out, as there would always be a place for distinctive bespoke work he told them. An anodised aluminium staircase treatment by the avant garde designer Fred Baier complemented the students' work.



In contrast the show also includes several loan items of early Gordon Russell metalwork in the Arts & Crafts style. The Museum's Curator, Jennifer Pieperit, displayed albums of archival photographs to demonstrate the large range of Gordon Russell's designs.



To conclude the evening a group retired for dinner at Russells, the restaurant which now occupies the old headquarters of Gordon Russell's company. This selling exhibition is on until 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## VOLUNTEERS 2012 SUMMER PARTY

Volunteers were disappointed that due to heavy rainstorms the 2012 summer party could not be held in the garden at Kingcombe. However, everyone was delighted that the event could still go ahead inside the Museum.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who helped the party go with a swing, and everyone thanked the Curator, Jennifer Pieperit, for all her hard work. The Chairman updated the volunteers with developments over the past year and acknowledged their part in ensuring that this 'gem' of a museum remained open to visitors. However, he added we were in need of more volunteers and asked them to encourage friends and neighbours to sign up.



## GORDON'S IRISH COUSINS VISIT THE MUSEUM

While they were in the UK, on a visit from their home in Portlaoise in Ireland, Elena and John H.G. Russell took the opportunity to visit the museum to see the work of their English cousin, Sir Gordon Russell. John's great grandfather was Gordon's uncle Captain Joseph Russell. Here the couple are looking at the entries in Gordon's diary relating to his trip to South America on his uncle's ship, *Veronese* in 1908.



Gordon Russell's grandson Jonathan Russell, accompanied by his half-brother and wife, made a pilgrimage to Broadway to learn more about his grandfather and his work. After his visit he said that he and his brother David, who had not been able to come to Broadway as he had tickets for the Olympics, would like to support the museum in its educational work.

*Ray Leigh, Stephen from Toronto, Jonathan from Singapore and Steven's wife Vanessa, visit the museum in August 2012*

## New Trustee: Helen R. Auty



Most of my working life has been at the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) where, for many years, I was the Design Director looking after the Society's design activities and the affairs of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry. I worked with a variety of organizations in the design and education worlds and served as a member on the Design Council as well as a Trustee of several Art & Design Schools (Falmouth, Berkshire (Maidenhead) and am a member of the Court of the Royal College of Art. I am also a Past-Master of the Pattenmakers' Livery Company. Involvement in a variety of schemes promoting design led to an Honorary Doctorate from De Montfort University and Honorary

Fellowships from the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal College of Art. Leisure time, apart from the Pattenmakers, is taken up with interests in the decorative and fine arts, architecture and gardens and travel. Helen is the author of *Sir Gordon Russell CBE, MC, RDI (1892-1980). A twentieth century design pioneer*, 2012. Copies are available from the museum shop.

## PUBLICITY

The museum featured in Waitrose's weekend magazine in May this year. In the summer the museum featured in the *Daily Telegraph* as part of a feature on 'Cotswold Touring', and Gordon Russell featured as a 'Furniture Figure' in *Britain Magazine*. Please let us know if you come across anything about the museum in your papers and magazines.

## INTERN

Emily Lack, formerly a pupil at Prince Henry's High School, Evesham and now undertaking a foundation course in graphics at Leamington, spent the summer months working as an Intern at the Museum. She enjoyed the experience and hopes that she can continue to support the Museum.

## MUSEUM WEBSITE – watch this space

Visitors to the museum's website will soon be able to enjoy the result of the current redesign work. We do hope you will encourage everyone to visit the new website to arrange their visits to the museum and to see the latest developments in the museum's activities.