

GRDM FRIENDS NEWSLETTER 12

Contents

Report on recent talk

Dates for your 2019 Diary

Forthcoming Talks and Trips: **two new talks for 2019**

George Washington

Recent Talk

Friends of Court Barn Museum in Chipping Campden joined around 60 GRDM Friends on Friday 5th April 2019 to hear Mary Greensted talk about the noted furniture designer Ernest Gimson. Mary is co-author of *Ernest Gimson. Arts & Crafts Designer and Architecture* which will be published by Yale University Press in October this year.

It was a delight to hear her deploy her expertise on the subject with such ease and charm and we all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

In the course of my own researches in advance of Mary's talk I discovered that, after Gimson's death in 1919 one of his metal workers, Mr Gardiner, came to work for Gordon Russell in Broadway and is responsible for the metal work on the 1925 Paris Cabinet. His name can be found on the label under one of the drawers.

Incidentally, after each talk I invite the Speaker to join me for supper at the Lygon Bar and Grill and it has become my custom to invite a number of Friends to join us, to make up a table of eight. I try (in a haphazard way) to invite different Friends on each occasion. Do email me if you would like to join the diners (at your own expense) after a future talk.

Dates for your 2019 diary

Friday 21st June in the Edinburgh Room in the Lygon Arms at 1730 for 1800
Talk by Jeremy Broun and Andrew Lawton (full details and booking form below)

Friday 19th July, Friends Summer Party at Little Buckland Gallery, near Broadway (full details below)

Wednesday 18th September. Friends visit to Bedales School and Barnsley Workshops at Petersfield (full details and booking form below) Places are still available for what will prove to be a fascinating day.

Wednesday 25th September in the Edinburgh Room in the Lygon Arms at 1730 for 1800. PLEASE NOTE that this talk will take place on Wednesday not the usual Friday

Talk by Naomi Games (

Friday 1st November in the Edinburgh Room in the Lygon Arms at 1730 for 1800. Talk by Joseph Bray

Friday 21st June: Talk by Jeremy Broun and Andrew Lawton, "Product or Service."

Jeremy and Andrew are furniture makers in Bath and the Peak District respectively.

Jeremy, a well known innovator, established a workshop in 1973 and his focus is on product, an example being a rocking chair design that sold all over the world. He is the author of *The Encyclopaedia of Woodworking Techniques* which was updated in 2018. He has produced a short film on the life and work of Sir Gordon Russell entitled, *"A gem of British Furniture history."* He is the organizer of the Alan Peters Furniture Award 2020 (Andrew is one of the judges) encouraging new talent.

Andrew set up his own workshop in 1980, and his work is more client based, drawing his inspiration from the Arts and Crafts tradition. His innovation is less radical. His clients are both private and corporate and include Rolls Royce. He has been a judge for the Furniture Makers Company Guildmark scheme and is currently a judge for the Alan Peters Furniture Award.



Jeremy Broun

Andrew Lawton

The talk will demonstrate the overlap between these two approaches to small scale furniture design and making today.

[Click here for booking form](#)

Friday 19th July: Friends Summer Garden Party: 1800 at Little Buckland House, WR12 7BT

Thanks to the kindness of Arabella Kiszely, the GRDM summer party will be held in the grounds of Little Buckland House, just outside Broadway. GRDM Friends will have the opportunity to visit her gallery to see her semi-abstract landscapes, together with many other notable artists during the course of the party. (The Little Buckland Gallery <http://littlebucklandgallery.co.uk/portfolio/arabella-kiszely/>)

Friends are asked to make a donation of £10 towards the cost of refreshments upon their arrival. Volunteers are free by way of a thank you for their efforts throughout the year. Refreshments will be served in the gardens.

There is on site parking.

Directions: Leave Broadway on the Cheltenham Road; after approximately 1 mile turn right towards Aston Somerville. After 200 yards there is a gateway on the left. "Little Buckland House" in on the gatepost. Turn in here.

[Click here for booking form](#)

RSVP by the 5th July

Email: manager@gordonrusselldesignmuseum.org OR tel 01386 854695

Wednesday 18th September: Friends visit to Barnsley Workshops and Bedales School at Petersfield.

Bedales was founded in 1893 to be a humane alternative to the authoritarian regimes typical of the late Victorian public schools. In 1898 the school became fully co-educational and in 1916 the children were given a formal voice when the school council was formed.

We will tour the whole school but the focus of our visit will be upon firstly, the Memorial Library designed by Ernest Gimson (and thus we will see and hear an echo of the earlier talk to be given by Mary Greensted) to commemorate the Great War and secondly, the Lupton Hall (originally the Assembly Hall) built in 1911 as a venue for plays, concerts and singing.

The Barnsleys, like Gimson, were leading makers of Arts and Crafts furniture. Edward Barnsley was himself a pupil at Bedales prior to the Great War and in 1920 trained with Geoffrey Lupton after whom the Hall is named and worked on the construction of the Library and in 1923 took over the workshops from Lupton. The workshops have continued to make bespoke furniture to the present day. Alan Peters (see above) was an apprentice at the Workshops. James Ryan is the present Designer/Manager. We will have an opportunity to see how hand made furniture is designed and produced today.

The visit to the Barnsley Workshops will be in the morning followed by a pub lunch at The Pub with no Name (!) and then Bedales in the afternoon. All three locations are within about 3 miles of each other.

This will be a longish day but most of the route is dual carriageway and having made the trip myself to reconnoitre what is involved it is perfectly manageable. Only 20 places are available. **PLACES STILL AVAILABLE. PLEASE BOOK.**

[Click here for booking form.](#)



Wednesday 25th September 2019: Talk by Naomi Games: *Abram Games: 60 years of Design*

Abram Games was one of the 20th century's most important graphic designers. His career spanned 60 years and during the Second World War, when he designed 100 posters, he was uniquely appointed "Official War Poster Artist". Postwar, he created posters for London Transport, Guinness, the Financial Times and the British Overseas Airways Corporation. He designed the first animated ident for BBC television, the covers of Penguin Books and the emblems for the 1951 Festival of Britain and the Queen's Award to Industry. Games also created postage stamps issued in Britain, Jersey and Israel. The length of Game's career makes his work a striking record of the social history of 20th century Britain. Naomi will talk about her father's personal philosophy of 'maximum meaning, minimum means'. She will relate personal stories, show his designs and progressive sketches and explain his working process.

[Click here for booking form](#)



Abram Games with his 'Blonde Bombshell' poster



Our speaker Naomi Games

Friday 1st November 2019: Talk by Joseph Bray: "The Future of Furniture Craft Education – A Churchill Fellowship"

Following an earlier talk by Luke Hughes who touched on the future of craft education, Joseph Bray will talk to us about what the future holds. He writes:

"Over the past 20 years I have observed both the demise of graduate level craft programmes in the UK and the significant reduction in children learning craft in schools. At the same time the furniture industry reports a skills gap and an ageing population with craft skills in very high demand. Set against this backdrop my fellowship took me to northern Europe and the east coast of America to learn first hand from programmes and institutions that deliver excellence in furniture education. I met many teachers, students and graduates, learning that these challenges are not unique to the UK."



Joseph has been directly involved with the furniture industry for over 20 years, initially as a bespoke furniture designer and then as an educator at Fyccotewood where he was the course leader of the BA (Hons) Furniture Design and Make programme. In 2018 he joined the Sylva Foundation to develop a new role as Head of Wood School with the intention of making craft education available to as broad a range of people as possible.

George Washington

My eclectic tailpiece for this Newsletter concerns the link between a famous United States President [and I write while his successor enjoys a State visit to our country] and a small Church a couple of miles from Broadway. As ever, apologies if this story is well known to you.

The Church is that of St John the Baptist at Wickhamford. It's tucked away off the main Evesham to Broadway Road between Wickhamford and Badsey. It is an atmospheric, charmingly situated Church with a 13th century chancel and additions up to the 17th century. There are many interesting things to see which would occupy you for an hour or so.

The link to George Washington is to be found in a floor slab monument to the left of and partly concealed by the altar.



The monument commemorates Penelope Washington. She was the daughter of Col Henry Washington and his wife Elizabeth nee Pakingham. When Henry died, his widow married Samuel Sandys (1615-1685). There is a substantial Sandys family memorial in the Church. Penelope accompanied her mother to Wickhamford and died there on the 24th February 1697. George Washington's grandfather Lawrence was a first cousin of Col Henry Washington. The Arms of the Washington family consisted of three stars and two stripes and are widely considered to be the prototype of the 'Stars and Stripes' American Flag. These Arms can be seen on Penelope's monument.



Christopher Hotten
Friends Organiser
June 2019

