



Chair's Report 7 July 2018

One of the topics of discussion at our last AGM was the move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation as a part of looking forward to the next ten years of the Association. After a great deal of work by Tim Roberts, to whom we owe many thanks, our application was successful and we are now a CIO. As such, a large part of our remit continues to be the teaching of engraving and the public demonstrating and exposure of what we do, in the hope of increasing awareness and interest in our craft.

To that end we have continued to take part in public events throughout the year;



With support from the Goldsmiths' Company, Sally Dodson took a stand at Make Your Mark, aimed at introducing a younger audience to the idea of a life of making by giving them an opportunity to meet and talk to makers in different disciplines. Thank you to Matt Hart, Dudley Withers, Isobel Hare, Jack Elliot, Sarah Hobbs and James Handyside for demonstrating (and thanks to Rebus Signet Rings, Sam James Ltd and JJ Bergin Ltd for sparing apprentices from the workshop).

Once again, with the generous support of Holland and Holland, we showed at the British Shooting Show at the NEC in Birmingham. Although gun engraving is a very niche area, the amount of interest at the show is always surprising. Very many thanks to Geoff Moore for giving up his time again to demonstrate and represent us.

In June we were invited by the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers to join them demonstrating at the Festival of Heritage Skills at Lincoln Cathedral. Never before had so many of the London Livery Companies shown together outside London. It was a great success, creating a good deal of interest and thank you to the Clockmakers for inviting us to join them.

In the summer, Malcolm Appleby hosted another engraving symposium at his workshop in Grandtully. This time it was a much more international event than before with visitors from Japan, Norway, Sweden and Belgium. With many thanks to the swift support of the Goldsmiths' Company and the Incorporation of Goldsmiths, we were able to film this unique event. It would be great if, one day, we could expand on the international theme. Any suggestions? Thank you again to Phillippa and Malcolm for having us and being so generous with their home.

We are continuing with our courses, both the evening classes and the three day courses, currently holding them at Cockpit Arts. These are obviously a crucial part of what we do and we are always looking for ways to grow them elsewhere in the country. Again, any suggestions would be most welcome.

The courses are taught by the ever generous Wayne Parrott (thank you Wayne for your long standing commitment) and myself but we are acutely aware of the lack of available tutors in our trade. To that end, with support from the Goldsmiths' Company we held a 'Training the Trainers' event to identify and support the next generation of tutors. We have plans to introduce a series of taster workshops next year, not only to encourage the public to see and experience hand engraving but also as a vehicle to introduce professional engravers to teaching. We desperately need engravers at any stage of their career who would be willing to teach, please contact me or Sally Dodson if you can help.

Enabling apprenticeships has been at the core of the Hand Engravers Association since we founded and we are indebted to the Goldsmiths' Company and the Sir John Cass's Foundation for supporting Matt Hart's apprenticeship with Emmet Smith at RH Wilkins and to the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust, the Past Overseers Society and the National Association of Jewellers Education Trust for supporting Sarah Hobbs with David Bedford at JJ Bergin Ltd. Please get in contact with Chris Rowley or Sally for an informal discussion if you are considering taking on an apprentice, we need to keep the momentum going of training the next generation.

One of the biggest jobs of the year has been the designing of our new website. This has involved a huge amount of work by a small team who have put in days of reading and re-reading, editing and redesigning our public image, so very special thanks to Alan Craxford, Griselda Bear, Lucy McLeod(Moseley), Sally Dodson and Emma Guest. The results of their work will be in the public domain very shortly.

This AGM is all about where and how we see ourselves in the future. We would like to hear the views and ideas of as many members as possible, so please come and let us know what you think.

Angus McFadyen
Chair