



TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

2023 has been another busy year for the Association with visits to 3 different gunmakers, an engine turning workshop and the Birmingham Assay Office, exhibitions in Yorkshire and Edinburgh, and taster sessions and introduction courses in engraving, both in person and online.

Members Events and Activities



Photo above: Gun engraved by Ken Hunt

We were thrilled to hold our annual New Year members get-together at the prestigious offices of James Purdey & Sons in Mayfair where we were treated to an informative talk on the history of the company, and had the opportunity to look at some of their artefacts and archives that aren't on display to members of the public. In June we enjoyed a tour of the workshops at Westley Richards where we were made to feel very welcome by Trigger and his team. It was fascinating to learn about and see the work that goes into creating the handmade, bespoke guns. John Rigby & Co in South London was the venue for a September visit, where once again we were made to feel very welcome by Ed Workman and his team, were given a tour of the workshops and had the opportunity to talk

with the friendly and talented craftsmen and women. We are grateful to J-P Daeschler, our trustee, for making these visits possible.

In September, members were generously invited to visit David and Anita Wood-Heath's home to find out more and try out some of his engine turning machines. This proved to be a most interesting day and was very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Exhibitions

In the summer the Trustees of the Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain were delighted to be able to present nearly 40 examples of the work of British based hand engravers in an exhibition titled 'Embellish The Art of Hand Engraving'. The aim was to demonstrate the diversity and beauty of objects hand engraved today, alongside some more historical pieces. It helped to reveal that engraving can be applied to any object and with any theme.

The exhibition opened at Tennants Auctioneers and included works by renowned engravers such as Malcolm Appleby and George Lukes, alongside next generation award winners Ibrahim Batchelder, Anna Olafsson, Megan Rigby and Anastasia Young. The exhibition ran for nearly six weeks over the summer, and we were delighted to be able to reprise it in Edinburgh in October at the Elements Festival held at Lyon and Turnbull (*see photo below*)



The majority of artworks presented in the exhibition are not usually on public display with many having been loaned directly from the artists who created them while others came from private collections and other lenders. The Trustees are particularly grateful to The Pearson Silver Collection for generously loaning a number of pieces for the duration of the exhibition and also to the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers for allowing the Anna Olafsson dish, which they recently acquired, to be included in the exhibition.

We are grateful to our Trustee, Jeffrey Lassaline, for making this exhibition possible, and to everyone at Tennants Auctioneers for their help and support. The Elements Festival was presented by The Scottish Goldsmiths Trust and Lyon and Turnbull Auctioneers.

Competitions



2023 saw the Association run 2 competitions for hand engravers. These competitions aim to raise the profile of the craft and provide opportunities to highlight the skills and talent of our members.

At the start of the year, we announced Ibrahim Batchelder as the winner of the Clock and Watch Engraving Competition which we ran in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. John Cook and John Farman were highly commended for their entries.

In the summer we held the 3rd annual Greetings Card Competition in partnership with Baddeley Brothers Ltd, specialist printers and envelope makers. This competition was also won by Ibrahim Batchelder.

We are grateful to the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and Baddeley Brothers Ltd for their support of the Association.

Photos above and right: Ibrahim Batchelder's winning designs



Courses

We continue to run courses, both in person and online to promote the craft. Our online courses attract an international audience and since 2020 we have welcomed students from countries including the US, Canada, Brazil, Australia and Singapore.



We also held taster sessions in Birmingham, alongside a masterclass on Traditional Scroll Carving led by the award winning engraver, Karen Wallace.

There are very few places now that offer courses in hand engraving, so it is important that we continue to provide opportunities for people to learn about the craft. We were delighted to hear that in June Dr Malcolm Appleby MBE had invited a number of master and trainee engravers to his workshop to spend a few days sharing skills and ideas. This proved to be a very inspiring and productive event, much enjoyed by all who attended.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Angus McFadyen



We were delighted to present our former chair, trustee and long-standing Association member, Angus McFadyen, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his generosity of time, patience and sage advice to hand engravers. As well as being an award-winning professional engraver Angus is a highly regarded teacher of the craft and has played a key role in developing and leading the online courses that the Association has offered since 2020.

The trophy was created by Rodney Rigby and reflects Angus's interest in fly-fishing.

Photo: Angus McFadyen being presented with his award by Association Director, Sally Dodson.

Changes to the Board of Trustees

During 2023 we said goodbye and thank you to two of our long standing trustees when Alan Craxford and Wayne Parrott stepped down from the Board. Both have made a huge and significant contribution to the craft over many years, and we are delighted that they have agreed to be advisors to the Association. We also thanked Nigel Israel for his three year term as a trustee which came to an end in June 2023.

We were delighted to welcome to the Board three new trustees:

Anastasia Young MA (RCA) trained as a jeweller at St Martins School of Jewellery where she taught for over twenty years before moving to the Birmingham School of Jewellery. She is the author of four key technical jewellery books. Anastasia also sits on the board of The Association for Contemporary Jewellery. She specialises in surface engraving, utilising her skills to both decorate her jewellery and to engrave plates for intaglio printing.

Megan Rigby has just completed her five year apprenticeship (supported by the Association) at Rebus Signet Rings and is one of the country's leading young engravers. She has won five (of which three were gold) awards from the Goldsmiths Craft and Design Council and was named Heritage Crafts Young Metal Worker of the Year in 2023. A qualified teacher of engraving Megan plans to raise awareness of the craft through education and social media.

Lord Young of Norwood Green joined the Board and took on the role of Chair of the Association in October 2023 bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Association. A current member of the House of Lords Tony has had an impressive career in communications and held roles including General Secretary of National Communications Union and Joint General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union. Previous Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills, later at Department for Business, Innovation & Skills. Tony has been Governor of the BBC and former Chair of the non profit organisation One World Broadcasting Trust (One World Media).



Photos, from left – Tony Young, Anastasia Young, Megan Rigby

Thank you!

The Hand Engravers Association would not be able to continue without the generosity of our wonderful Patrons:

Chris and Anna Rowley
Sir George and Lady White
John Dickson and Son
The A.C.H. Crisford Charitable Trust

We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

Photo right: Patron pins engraved by Anna Olafsson



Reference and Administration details

Registered Name: The Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain CIO

Registered Charity Number: 1175879

Registered Office: Brook House, Homestead Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6JD

Bankers: Metro Bank

Independent Examiners: Oscar Wilmott

Trustees:

Lord Tony Young of Norwood Green (Chair) (appointed October 2023)

Jeffrey Lassaline (Vice Chair) (appointed February 2023)

Duncan Baird-Murray (Secretary) (appointed August 2017)

Griselda Bear (Acting Hon Treasurer) (appointed June 2018)

J-P Daeschler (appointed May 2022)

Joanne Price (appointed February 2023)

Megan Rigby (appointed July 2023)

Rodney J Rigby (appointed August 2017)

Chris Rowley (appointed August 2017)


Anastasia Young (appointed July 2023)

Freelance Administration Staff:

Sally Dodson – Association Director

Lucinda Rowe – Administration Manager

Signed



Lord Anthony Young

Chair of Trustees