

# **British Printing Society**



## **Annual Report 2015**

# Executive Officers

## **President** — *Jean Watson (3712)*

It has been a privilege for me to serve the Society as President this year.

During my first year in office I have made several visits. Amberley Chalk Pits Museum is always a very good day out. On the print weekends all the machines are in action and so is Peter Scarratt!!! He is there with others teaching and demonstrating letterpress printing hands on, which is always very popular with adults and children alike.

My next visit was to Red Hot Press open weekend in Southampton. Here Katherine Anteney runs courses in all sorts of printing and print making. The walls of her studio are festooned with prints produce on the premises. While I was there I signed up for a lino cutting one day course which proved to be informative and great fun.

During October Ron and I visited the first of a new exhibition. 'The Print Show' took place at the NEC Birmingham. There were several digital machines on display and the 3D printers were fascinating to watch as they constructed their creations. Letterpress was on display on the St. Bride Foundation stand, they also had a wood engraver demonstrating his craft.

The Dorset Branch keeps me busy. We hold twelve meetings a year. At each meeting we concentrate on a particular subject. They are all light hearted sociable gatherings.

Also this year I have managed to print a couple of items for the bundle.

## **Vice President** — *Bob Edwards (9527)*

I have been pleased to serve another year as Vice President. I have continued to support the President in her duties and take an active part on the Executive Council. For me, the year has been dominated by preparations for the Bristol Convention 2016 for which I am Convenor and that is being hosted by BPS Maidenhead Branch. Alongside this, I have continued to support the magazine, *Small Printer* and encouraged new members to renew their subscriptions with the Society. We have record numbers booked for Bristol and we hope that this will draw in some new recruits who are excited by our interest in printing.

## **Secretary** — *Peter Salisbury (5510)*

I have attended each Executive Council meeting and taken the Minutes. I also attended the excellent Convention at Montrose last April. I have dealt with correspondence as necessary and have supported members of the Executive Council as required.

In addition I have attended many of the Surrey & Sussex Branch meetings and their Print and Craft day.

### **Treasurer — Robin Munday (10392)**

To be reported in *Small Printer* after the Convention.

### **Councillor — Paul Hatcher (10648)**

During 2015 much of my time has been taken up with being Secretary of the Maidenhead Branch, and being part of the team of branch members preparing for the 2016 Convention at Bristol. However, I also attended all the EC meetings in 2015, the Convention in Montrose, and visited one other branch, Essex, at their meeting at Chris Brinson's near Clacton. I have visited some other members and I also attended the St Brides' Wayzgoose in May and the Oxford Fine Press Book Fair in October. During the year I submitted a couple of articles for *Small Printer*, and managed also to do some printing!

### **Councillor — Ron Rookes (4682)**

As Councillor I attended all the meetings of the EC held during the year except the one held on the evening prior to the Convention. Along with the Membership Secretary I joined the Essex Branch for their Road Shows at the Colchester Waiting Room and Barleylands Essex Country Fair with a table promoting the Society and its activities. We also visited the St. Bride Foundation Wayzgoose, no official table but we were able to chat to visitors and exhibitors and once again promote the Society.

### **Councillor — Ron Watson (6955)**

I have attended all of the E.C. meetings during the past year and have put my name forward for the next twelve months.

## **Non-executive Officers**

### **Advertising Manager — Ron Watson (6955)**

I have continued to attempt in recruiting new advertisers for *Small Printer*, but this has been a difficult job, even though our rates are competitive. If there is any member who would like to "have a go", they should contact me and discuss this topic.

### **Editor — Tim Honnor (5578)**

My editorship started with the January 2013 issue of *Small Printer* which was the first time that the magazine was produced by an editorial team. The Executive Committee (EC) had agreed that I would be supported and helped by Giles Edwards, responsible under my editorship for design and production of the magazine and by Kim Lowe as Assistant Editor. Whilst I had known Kim many years, I had not met Giles. I thus took a trip down to York and had an afternoon's meeting with him face to face, during which we

discussed our respective ideas on how to produce the magazine and work together. This meeting proved to be of enormous help, as from then on we forged an excellent working relationship - and indeed friendship.

It would be only fair to admit that the task of producing the magazine proved more difficult than suspected and involved a steep learning curve for us all. Whilst Les Turner, the previous editor wished one luck, I feel that initially, there could have been more support and help from the EC. What contact there was got my team off to a bad start as some comments were felt by us to be a little aggressive, especially when we were trying hard to find our feet. The editorial team were full of enthusiasm for their new task but this initial skirmish did dampen our ardour and was a background of 'them and us' that sadly simmered throughout three years, and unfortunately was never fully put right.

In retrospect, I believe it would have been worthwhile for myself to have met with the EC in person at the start of my editorship. I quite appreciate that being up in Scotland, away from the mainstream activity of the BPS, did not help. Whilst I suspect that we may well have been over sensitive to criticism, the way it was proffered could have been more diplomatic. As in most aspects of life, good communication is of the essence; and I certainly admit my responsibility for not trying harder to sort this out.

A further difficulty with the EC (it seemed) was in trying to go to full colour, rather than continue with the two page spreads of colour that inhibited the layout of the magazine. Giles, with his excellent design flair, (and particular knowledge of pricing in the full colour printing market) was particularly keen to print the whole magazine in full colour, as were both myself and Kim. To this end some print estimates were procured for the purpose of price comparison with the current printers which suggested that the magazine would cost no more to produce in full colour. When these were sent to the EC, it was felt by some that we were treading on their territory. This was not so; but merely showed our keenness of producing a better looking magazine. Again, all this could have been sorted by better communication.

However, when the magazine did go to full colour production (with new printers who proved extremely helpful and efficient) there is no doubt that the magazine was a leap forward in presentation. It allowed us more editorial flexibility and design that hugely improved the general look and readability of the magazine.

The content of the magazine was always a worry. Maybe it should not have been surprising that so few members submitted copy to us. Initially we waited for articles to come in - and in their absence had a last minute rush to garner enough to fill the pages. Latterly we got wise to this and were laying out the magazine as soon as the preceding month's issue was at the printers. I found it difficult to create a balance between asking for copy from members - and complaining that we never had enough. In the event, I

feel that most issues were filled with something that was of interest to the membership of the BPS.

I also realise that I had put the dates for acceptance of final copy further 'left' in the month, to allow us more time for final layout and proof-reading. With a team of three, all running other activities or full time jobs, this was paramount. I am aware that proof-reading was sometimes below standard and that some typos did creep in from time to time. Offers of help by members with proofreading were appreciated but tended to further extend the production time-scale. The editor of *Small Printer* has arguably the most important responsibility within the ranks of the BPS. The magazine is the glue that binds the society together and unites our 'Society of Friends', particularly those that do not attend annual conventions. For many it is the main reason for their annual subscription. It was also my feeling that the magazine was a vehicle for exchange of technical information and ideas. Whilst this is no substitute for the cross-reference banter of a Branch Meeting, the magazine could, and should, do more to widen printing knowledge within the society that holds an enormous amount of experience and expertise amongst its members. It was therefore a disappointment that my initiatives for both a 'Hints and Tips' and 'Forum of the Month' did not really mature.

The editorship of *Small Printer*, over three years, was a most rewarding challenge and one that produced much satisfaction, particularly in working with the committed team of Giles and Kim.

Our 'end product' was a natural improvement progression, helped by a professional designer and team effort, (rather than one-man-band editor - how did he manage it?!) - and specifically by the advent to full colour printing.

Closer and more regular contact with the EC would have been useful, and and in this I take personal responsibility for not being more involved with the EC throughout my tenure of editorship. Perhaps it is a good thing that the editorship has returned south where geography allows more contact with the EC, BPS members and local branches.

I would like to thank the EC for allowing me and my team to have the privilege of producing the magazine. After a three year stint it is perhaps timely for an editor to hand over the reigns: But I know that a life gap has been felt by all in the editorial team. I would also like to thank those many members who sent in copy to us to include in our magazine. And of course, my special thanks are to Giles and Kim for all their support and hard work.

### **Editor — Chris Green (7614)**

While I was on holiday in Cornwall last autumn the President telephoned to ask if I would consider taking on the role of Editor. Although I had edited many issues of *Small Printer* in the past, it had been (and continues to be) an

uphill struggle trying to obtain material. After some consideration I agreed to accept the offer, but for a limited period of two years.

I was promised that Ron Rookes, the Society Mailer, would look after the complicated side of putting the magazine together, and by the time you read this you will have been seen four issues of our combined effort.

The magazine is for you, and – hopefully, at least to a limited extent – by you. Please help us to improve by sending your comments, aspirations, and – most important – your articles for publication.

### **Enquiries Officer — *John Easson (2959)***

Enquiries have been minimal, most messages being spam business offers or enquiries, but the odd real enquiry has been resolved. The post and process may be hardly used, but is no great effort to maintain at the moment.

### **Librarian — *Libby Green (7614)***

The Society's Library saw almost no activity during 2015. Despite the catalogue being revamped and made available at the Convention and on the Society's website, just one book was loaned out. Two or three requests for machine manuals were received but only one of these was available.

In light of this, at its autumn meeting, the EC discussed the Library – its size, weight, storage requirements and contents and it was decided to review its future early in 2016.

### **Mailer — *Ron Rookes (4682)***

Once again it has been an uneventful year for the Mailer. Thanks to our printers, Moulton Printing, *Small Printer* arrived on time each month and the magazines were usually in the hands of Royal Mail by the end of the month. Even though we only use 2<sup>nd</sup> Class mail many members have reported receiving their magazines the next day. Most of the bundle items were promoting Branch and Society events, but some were from members displaying examples of their print, my thanks go to them for all their time and effort used to provide members with samples of their printing. Why not help to make the magazine more interesting by printing a Bundle item yourself, there is no charge for none commercial items?

### **Membership Secretary — *Margaret Rookes (10701)***

Over the past year little has changed in my post as Membership Secretary. Problems encountered were much the same as in previous years, but there were more of these this year. Most were dealt with by email and I have had a lot of contact with members on a variety of issues.

On December 31st 2015 the active membership of the Society numbered 284, this is 13 less than at the end of 2014. During 2015 the Society gained 35 new members, all but 3 of these joined directly via the Society's website,

paying online via PayPal. During the same period the Society lost a total of 48 members, 7 of these had died. Donations were received from 39 members.

The number of electronic payments by either PayPal or BACS continues to increase year on year, however many of our older, longstanding members still prefer to use cheques.

I continued to supply details of new members and updates to the Editorial Team for publication in *Small Printer*. I provided the President and Vice-President with monthly updates on both new and lapsed members. I also provided detailed monthly financial reports for the Treasurer so that he could correctly allocate the membership funds received. I have collaborated with the Mailer in the preparation and distribution of the Membership List for 2015 - 2016. I have interacted with members of the Executive Council, UK and Overseas Branches and individual members to provide updated membership details whenever requested.

During 2015 I attended events with my local Essex Branch, held at Barleylands Essex Country Show and The Waiting Room at Colchester. These were open to the public and afforded useful opportunities to promote the Society. I also visited the St. Bride Foundation Wayzgoose, although we had no official presence there it provided another opportunity to talk to both visitors and exhibitors about the BPS. Many of our new members have been introduced to the Society by the BPS presence on social networking sites and our own website

### **Sales Secretary** — *Sandra Munday (10624)*

No report submitted.

### **Web Master** — *Ron Rookes (4682)*

Work has continued on the 'Members Only' area with a Diary of Events, links to other Members' web presence and the Library Catalogues. *Small Printer* is now available each month as an e-book and pdf download along with some back copies which will be added to in future months. The annual publication of the Publishing Group, *PG Annual* (formerly *Small Printing*) is also gradually being added as an e-book. You can also check out the entries for last year's (2014) Rosen Award.

Log in has now changed, Members will need to register with their own user name and password. This is not instant as each registration has to be verified by the webmaster who is unable to monitor requests 24/7.

Feedback regarding the website is welcome, what would you like to have included in the Members Section?

Our social networking pages remain popular and currently we have 349 Likes (followers) on Facebook and 734 followers on Twitter. As a direct result of the Society being on Twitter we have gained some new members.

# Branches

## Dorset Branch — *Win Armand Smith (10716)*

**Members: 15    Meetings: 9    Average Attendance: 10**

At each meeting we have a topic. These have ranged from recent printing, interesting blocks found in boot sales or on line, lino printing, working out how to print a two-colour border, putting together our printers pie. We have also looked at different type high gauges, printing memorabilia and samples of unusual printing. We made a visit to a print workshop run by one of our members, we tried a couple of Rejafix machines, we regularly have an Adana 8x5 brought along by Ron and Jean Watson for us to print on, we had a Sunday lunch in a restaurant, a Christmas lunch and at every meeting we have an afternoon tea.

We have been very fortunate to meet at the stables at Whitcombe on a regular basis.

## Essex Branch — *Gwen Harper (5992)*

**Members: 19    Meetings: 8    Average Attendance: 10**

We met at the Grange Hotel, on the edge of Chelmsford In February to plan the year, and 14 members were present.

We had 4 visits to members workshops, 3 visits to businesses and 3 Roadshow events made their way onto the agenda for the year.

3 new members joined the society during the year and a further 3 long standing branch members managed to come to an odd meeting here and there. Five members from other branches visited a meeting during the year.

The new year promises to be even busier.

## Lincolnshire and District Branch — *Michael Edwards (10374)*

**Members: 7    Meetings: 8    Average Attendance:**

As usual, the year started with our Christmas get-together held in February (better weather and better prices are the reasons for choosing post-Christmas Christmas dinner). The dinner is usually the time we hold our AGM and plan the year ahead. The most important thing to agree on is what we will produce for the annual Rosen Award competition.

The highlight of the year for the branch this year was the trip to the tramway museum at Crich in Derbyshire. I think the branch turnout for the visit was probably the highest we ever had, and a great time was had by all. You will, of course, have read all about it in the *Small Printer*.

The end of summer barbecue is another highlight of the branch's hectic social diary. Otherwise, we have carried on with business pretty much as usual, and as usual ended the year by submitting another entry for the

Rosen Award. This year has also seen us contributing to the Small Printer in the shape of regular branch reports.

Branch meetings are generally well attended, which is all the more remarkable given the distances that some members have to travel.

### **London Branch** — *Matt McKenzie (10577)*

**Members:**            **Meetings:**            **Average Attendance:**

No report submitted.

### **Maidenhead Branch** — *Paul Hatcher (10648)*

**Members: 9**        **Meetings: 9**        **Average Attendance: 7**

The Maidenhead Branch had a meeting most months in 2015; we usually meet at members' houses on a weekday evening but we also have social events at other places and times. We do try to send details of our branch meetings to *Small Printer* and I hope that members can see from these that we are a friendly branch. New faces, whether local members thinking of joining the branch or visitors passing through the area, are assured of a warm welcome, and there is always plenty of chat!

This year, our major activity has been planning for the 2016 BPS Convention at Filton Holiday Inn, Bristol, which has taken up more and more of the Branch's time during the year. Because of the need to concentrate on this we did not hold an open day in 2015, and did not enter for the Rosen Award.

Our first meeting in 2015 was our annual 'Christmas' lunch, held in January, this year at a new venue, the Reading East Holiday Inn, organised by Barry Gilbert. We were so impressed by their service that we will be returning there again next year. In February we met at Bob Edwards', at which we launched our 2016 Convention plans. In March we met at Anke Ueberberg's. Anke had organised a guest speaker for us, Martin Andrews, who gave a very interesting talk on Rena Gardiner and her lithographed books. We did not have a meeting in April because of the Convention, but in May we re-convened at Richard Owen's to catch up with what went on at the Convention, and in June we met at Paul Hatcher's for a mini bring-and-buy sale in his garage. Over the summer we meet less often, but we did meet up for Barry Gilbert's much-appreciated barbecue in July. Our branch year begins in October with the AGM, held as usual at Dorothy Sydenham's, followed by a meeting at Barry Gilbert's in November, with more convention discussion. In December we rounded off the calendar year with a meeting at Chris Daniells'. The branch ended the year on a sad note as Barry Gilbert, one of our longest-serving branch members (over 30 years) suffered a massive stroke in November, and all our thoughts and wishes go out to Barry and Ann, his wife.

## Overseas Branch — *Kevin Thorp (10244)*

### Members: 19

It's hard to believe that the Overseas Branch has been a cohesive group for six years. Unlike many other branches we rarely, if ever for geographical reasons, meet each other personally. However that has not lessened the bonds of friendship formed between our members over the years. When I attended the 2015 Convention in Montrose, Scotland I met some members of the BPS living in England who told me that they did not belong to any branch and apart from attending Conventions rarely got to meet fellow members to discuss printing or other matters.

The chief, if not the only link that they have with the wider printing world of the BPS is their monthly copy of *The Small Printer*.

We have been very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic group in our branch who like to write in our Overseas Newsletter about their printing experiences and about the ups and downs of daily life in whichever part of the world they inhabit.

It was Len Friend of the Essex branch of the BPS who first recognised this enthusiasm and encouraged us to form a branch. Len's help, advice and generosity of spirit has been a great boost to our branch in its many ups and few downs. I receive constant up-dates from members and have learnt that the phenomenon called "El Nino" is rocking the world once more with a mixture of torrential rains and drought, depending on where you pitch your tent. As I write there is up to a metre of snow blanketing Ontario with temperatures of minus 20 Celsius and over 80 bush fires raging across Tasmania with temperatures in the 40's Celsius. Our Belgian correspondent, Patrick Goossens tells me that The Plantin, Moretus Print Museum in Antwerp is closing down for some months whilst it is being tidied up inside and the accumulated impedimenta of five centuries is burrowed through and sorted – the kind of job I would love to do if I had the time.

Stephen Gill on the Isle of Arran has about a dozen family members visiting him this week so he's not had the time to write me his usual Newsletter update on how to survive on a wind-swept rock in the Atlantic from where he can see Scotland on one side and Ireland on the other.

Yesterday I received a parcel from Canada (not a food one) from Paul Jay who sent me a DVD of his visit to the Print Museum in Beijing and some copies of a magazine called "Amphora" which is a quarterly publication by the Alcuin Book Society to which Paul is a regular contributor. Both our New Zealand members, Ted on the North Island and John on the South Island send regular up-dates despite increasing seismic activities there.

Our Finnish member Arsi Saukkola is still regularly printing 400 copies of "Tuokio" his local newspaper on an ancient Gestetner Duplicator. We exchange copies of our local Newsletters with him sending me "Tuokio" and me sending him the Rush Community News. I will have to learn

Finnish in order to know what he is printing although he sometimes puts in some English wording specially for me. Other members who have written about their experiences this year include George Hamilton, our Viennese correspondent who I believe met up with another Overseas member, Patrick Goossens in the USA at a Conference and one of our newer members Mike Pomeroy from Stratford, Ontario. The most recent member to join has been Mrs. Yoko Meguro from Tokyo in Japan who specialises in printing exquisite greeting cards and similar items on a Japanese letterpress machine.

Our member from West Australia, Geoff Moor sent me a photograph of himself and Len Friend when they met up in London and had a light refreshment in "the Cheshire Cheese" hostelry in Fleet Street. This was Dr. Samuel Johnson's favourite hang out when he wasn't gadding about in Scotland with James Boswell.

Some of our members have expressed an interest in writing articles for the Small Printer in order to reach a somewhat larger readership than they have in the Overseas Newsletter and I am hoping that they will do so in future.

That's it for now.....

### **Scottish Branch** — *John Easson (2959)*

**Members:**            **Meetings:**            **Average Attendance:**

After the excitement of the Montrose Convention, which I think can be considered a success, with a good attendance, a great friendly atmosphere, and even a tiny profit (with the EC grant not in fact required) despite low prices, the branch has not had any further activity. Many thanks to the efforts of branch members for their efforts, and to the other BPS members who gave their support.

### **Shropshire Branch** — *Peter Criddle (6562)*

**Members:**            **Meetings:**            **Average Attendance:**

No report submitted.

### **South Wales Branch** — *Dominic Hartley (10627)*

**Members: 8      Meetings: 3      Average Attendance:**

**Brief summary of 2015 meetings.** We aim to meet on the last Thursday of every second month and as our area spreads from Chepstow on the East across to Pembroke on the West we aim to find venues along the M4 corridor.

FYI A note I sent out last November. Some of the events that we arranged last year were pretty poorly attended and I completely understand how

difficult it is to get to these meetings as we all have busy lives. Certainly my own circumstances have changed dramatically since 2012. At that time my youngest 2 children were approaching their teens, my eldest 2 had already fled the nest and my business had collapsed leaving me working 9-5 for the first time in 30 years. My future plans for uncovering my Arab press and tinkering about in the garage/workshop looked a reality and the BPS seemed the perfect vehicle to help me on my way.

However 3 years later and I have been made a shareholding Sales Director. The company I work for has doubled in size and taken on a new office in Cardiff as well as Baglan and at home we have taken on 3 foster children under the ages of 8. Needless to say the press is still covered up and my only letterpress experience has been at our workshops! However, that being said I am still keen to promote the BPS and arrange the events/visits.

We also agreed that our original plan of holding bi-monthly meetings on the last Thursday hadn't been as successful as originally hoped so planned that future events would be planned on an ad-hoc basis. This may help with visits if we are more flexible with our dates but I would like the events to be bi-monthly if possible.

**January 2015** - Our first meeting of 2014 was a visit to Cardiff Met Print Workshop

Thomas has a raft of printing & etching presses at his disposal including an Albion & a Columbian Eagle, along with screen printing facilities and a tidy letterpress workshop housing the BPS's 8 x 5 Adana.

Afterwards with beer in hand we sat through 'Helvetica', a feature-length independent film about typography, graphic design and global visual culture. It looked at the proliferation of one 50 year old typeface as part of a larger conversation about the way type affects our lives.

**March 2015** – Cancelled due to lack of numbers

**May 2015** – Our May meeting at Stow Parish Centre was another blockbuster from Ron. Unfortunately I mixed up my dates and Ron ended up providing 2 workshops on consecutive evenings so many thanks Ron. Once again Ron arranged and ran a well organised and efficient evening of perfect binding, sewing, padding and general bookbinding practise. With 3 participants on evening 1 and 10 on day 2 including 5 students (3 were from Brazil) Ron had his hands full but coped admirably. I'm not sure that the students were expecting a sex education lesson as part of the workshop but by the time they had completed Ron's 'Courting in the Courtyard' hand sewn and glued slide out booklet their knowledge of matters regarding the birds and bees had been well and truly explained and illustrated. I returned home with a pad, booklet and book about Newport's Artistic Printing and a vow to find time to start producing my own beautifully bound publications. We also showed the students examples of litho printed books bound via various

methods including wire, section sewing, perfect binding and casebinding. Feedback from the students was very favourable.

**July 2015** – Cancelled due to holidays

**October 2015** – Planning meeting for 2016 held in Cardiff. The only BPS members attending were Dom & Ron with Peter as a guest as we had a couple of last minute apologies

## **Surrey and Sussex Branch — *Libby Green (7614)***

**Members: 7 Meetings: 7 plus Open Day Average Attendance: 5**  
Branch events in 2015 began with our annual lunch, held in January at the Red Lion, Ashington, in West Sussex. It was attended by ten members and spouses and was the usual enjoyable social gathering.

Branch meetings in the earlier part of the year were taken up with planning our Print and Craft event which took place in Merstham Village Hall in May. Attendance was disappointingly low but we had some interesting stalls including two local crafts people demonstrating book making, binding and restoration and selling some beautiful items. The high spot of the day was a talk by Caroline Walker, niece of Max Gill, (brother of Eric), about Max's enormous talent as artist, designer and creator of wonderful maps.

Four branch members attended the Annual Convention in Montrose.

In June Peter Scarratt led five of us on a fascinating London walk. We met for coffee in the Unilever Centre near Blackfriars, then set off to the St Bride Library where Bob Richardson gave us a very interesting tour and talk. After lunch we walked via Dr Johnson's House into Fleet Street, past the Royal Courts of Justice, and then turned south towards the Embankment passing the Roman Baths in Shirley Street and ending up by the Victorian Cabdrivers' stop. Peter's extensive knowledge and interest in the area meant that we had a great day out.

For various reasons we didn't meet again until our AGM in November when Peter Scarratt took over from Peter Salisbury as chairman of the branch. Peter Salisbury had served in this role for fifteen years and we are very grateful to him for all the time and effort he had quietly put in to keeping the branch going during that time.

On a sad note we accepted Roger Hargrave's resignation from the Society and the Branch after many years of membership due to increasing infirmity. Roger had been struggling for several years with hearing loss, finding meetings and social gatherings increasingly hard to participate in. He was not a letterpress man and his considerable skills in design and printing all involved using his computer which health issues no longer allow him to do and he decided that as he could no longer print he would not remain a member of the BPS. We miss him and Una.

On the plus side we have been delighted to welcome Rachel Blake into the branch, although distance has prevented her from attending evening

meetings. Our 2016 programme has been circulated to a number of BPS members living in our catchment area and we always live in hope that others may come to join our small but welcoming Branch.

## **Honorary Members**

### ***Colin Angior (4219)***

How quickly 2015 has sped by! No sooner has one Convention finished than the next one is almost upon us. The Montrose event was carefully constructed by John, Tim and many other Scottish members, and was a very enjoyable event. Plenty of activity and interesting talks and demonstrations, and for me the great pleasure of seeing our first Lady President, Jean Watson being installed. I met Jean at the first Sussex Branch meeting I attended soon after joining BPS in 1975, and we have been friends ever since.

I produced my usual Convention report for the magazine (with help from Ros for events I couldn't fit in). Also, I had my annual obligation to judge the entries for the Rosen award, with which I was greatly assisted by Ron Prosser. Together we judged and wrote a critique of each entry, and the worthy winner was the entry from the Maidenhead branch. The entries get better each year, with fewer avoidable mistakes as time passes. I always look forward to the next year's crop.

Ros and I will be attending the 2016 Convention in Bristol, being organised by Maidenhead. Already it looks professional, and we hope to see many old friends again. Don't miss it!

### ***John Easson (2959)***

No special activity to report, although I continue to be involved with various printing heritage interests, and people taking up an interest in letterpress. Currently, one novice contact who uses a table-top press looks likely to be acquiring a Heidelberg windmill that I knew was sitting idle for some years, and which they are obviously rather excited about. I have now run two classes at the local arts centre, with more in prospect. The prospects for a rise in the numbers of individuals printing, and potential members, looks promising.

### ***Mike Elliston (1613)***

Nothing to report.

### **Roderic Findlay (10458)**

I am still doing a small amount of digital printing. I very much enjoy reading *Small Printer* and going to the Dorset Branch meetings, which have been exceptionally interesting this last year.

### **Len Friend (8988)**

Over the past year the Essex Branch have been very busy and along with other members I managed to get the BPS a mention in the trade magazine *Print Week*. I have written a couple of short articles for *Small Printer*, sent in answers to the spot the press competition and am still very pleased to be involved with the Overseas Branch.

I have dealt with a couple of enquiries concerning technical problems with presses and was happy to point a student from the London College of Communications in the right direction with a question about photo-setting, and finally, helped two members with restoration projects on small hand presses.

### **Chris Green (7614)**

I was honoured to be elected as an Honorary Member at the 2015 AGM.

Since then I have attended all meetings of the Surrey & Sussex Branch. I have also taken on the role of Bookings Secretary for the 2016 Convention, and I look forward to meeting friends old and new at Bristol.

During the summer I was asked by the President if I would take over as Editor of *Small Printer* from the beginning of January. This I agreed to do, with the assistance of Ron Rookes, for an initial period of two years.

### **Dorothy Sydenham (6838)**

Although I only do a small amount of printing these days - usually on the Adana 8 x 5 but occasionally on my very old Gocco Screen Printer - I still look forward to reading *The Small Printer* when it arrives. Congratulations on the "New Look", very pleasing to the eye. The Maidenhead Branch is busy preparing for the Convention in April and I am looking forward to meeting everybody again.

All Officers (Executive and Nonexecutive), Branch Secretaries and Honorary Members were asked to provide a report

All those received are included here

