

GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

VOLUNTEERS NEWSLETTER 2011

A brief update on the museum's activities from the Chairman

'The museum is a great place made interesting by a volunteer who showed us round and let us open all the drawers and doors in the furniture. Also saw a piece my parents bought after the war'

The Gordon Russell Design Museum has welcomed groups from a number of local schools. Michelle Harbott, Head of Design and Technology at St George's School, Edgbaston said that her group had a *'fantastic experience'* and that they *'will definitely be visiting again!'* A number of the 7000 schools and colleges who receive the DATA (Design and Technology Association) newsletter have requested a visit following the publication of an article on the museum in the Spring 2011 issue.

On Saturday 21st May the GRDM Trustees welcomed a group from the Edward Barnsley Workshop, including the manager (and former Barnsley apprentice) James Ryan as well as John Makepeace who has been described as holding 'a special place in the history of design and fine furniture making'.



l.to r. Ian Heseltine, Rupert Senior, John Makepeace, Miranda Salmon, Toby Winteringham, David Mawdsley, Trevor Chinn, Ray Leigh, James Ryan, Richard Paice, Stephen Rock, Martin Blakeman

Gordon Russell. A Champion of Design

Ray Leigh and Ken Baynes talk about Gordon Russell and his design philosophy, while Trevor Chinn looks at his techniques, using the furniture on display in the museum, in a recently produced DVD. It also includes a section on the house and garden that Gordon Russell built at Kingcombe.

Volunteers

Welcome to Marion Bearcroft (Evesham), Christine Bromley (Broadway), Roger Gould (Cheltenham), Nicholas Joliffe (Handsworth Wood), Graham Love (Broadway), Angus Murray-Russell (Broadway), Stanley Saunders (Broadway) and David Walton (Cheltenham) who have joined the museum's team of volunteers.

AN INTERESTING FIND

An Early Russell piece – The British Optical Association President's Cup, 1925



This Arts & Crafts design copper bowl designed and made in the Russells' workshop in Broadway has a pierced fluted style stem which reads 'My brazen heart never faints'. It was presented to the British Optical Association in 1925 by Mrs Margaret Sutcliffe and bears the signatures and dates of the Presidents of the BOA from 1895 to 1939.

It is now in the collections of the College of Optometrists in Craven Street and can be seen by making an appointment with the Curator of the British Optical Museum, Neil Handley, phone 020 7766 4353 or email museum@college-optometrists.org.

*May the sun shine on the evening of 27th August
and thanks again to trustee Jamie Ritblat for allowing us to enjoy his garden*

The Gordon Russell Museum was established to spread an awareness of the importance of design in our daily life. By welcoming visitors from all levels of education to see this outstanding contribution made by Sir Gordon Russell and his Company to 20th century furniture design the Trust hopes that young people will be encouraged to consider design/making as their career choice. In March 2011 the museum changed its name to 'The Gordon Russell Design Museum' as the museum is not just about the man but considers his whole design philosophy.