

CELEBRATING CRAFTSMANSHIP: Exhibition 1st June to 23rd June 2013

New and established members of the Gloucestershire Guild will be staging a selling exhibition at the Gordon Russell Design Museum to mark the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the Guild in 1933.

A selection of contemporary vessels, porcelain, pottery, glass, boxes, textiles, jewellery, hats and bags by Guild craftsmen is being exhibited in the context of the museum's own collections, with rush-seated chairs and furniture complementing classic Gordon Russell designs. This exhibition offers local craftsmen and craftswomen: Simon Austen, Sarah Beadsmoore, Sarah Cant, Alison Dupernex, Colin Gerard, Caroline Groves, Fionna Hesketh, Annie Hewett, Brian Jordan, MacGregor and Michael, Mary Noble, Annie Rie, William Robson, Paul Spriggs, Rachel Stowe, Emily-Kriste Wilcox, the opportunity to display their work in a museum dedicated to Russell's belief that well-made craftwork added to the quality of life.



GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM ON THE BBC

Earlier this year the BBC repeated the 2008 'Flog It' when Paul Martin spent nearly 15 minutes in the museum talking about Gordon Russell. Their sister programme, 'Trade Secrets', saw Charlie Ross talking to 2012 Gordon Russell award winner, Mike Sewell about his prize winning design table.



Don't forget to watch the BBC Antiques Roadshow on 14 April 2013 when furniture expert John Bly talking about Gordon Russell's prize winning 'Paris' cabinet



BLUE PLAQUE FOR SIR AMBROSE HEAL

On a bright but chilly afternoon in February a group, including the Chairman of the GRDM, gathered at The Five Courts in Pinner for the unveiling of a blue plaque to Gordon Russell's friend, Sir Ambrose Heal. Cecil Brewer, FRIBA, who was also responsible for Heal's showroom in Tottenham Court Road, designed this house for his cousin Ambrose. After an introduction by Sir Christopher Frayling on behalf of English Heritage, Ambrose's grandson Oliver Heal unveiled the plaque.

After the ceremony the current owners, Martin and Joanne Verden, provided an opportunity to see the interior of this Arts & Crafts home. The new CEO of Heal's, Will Hobhouse, gave a brief outline of plans for the company's future before cutting a cake made in the shape of Heal's logo – a four poster bed. The Verdens then laid on a splendid tea. Joanne Verden, with the help of local historian Jim Gollancz, has written an illustrated history of The Fives Court. Copies can be obtained from West House, Pinner.



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Oliver Heal unveils the blue plaque
©English Heritage



HELPING IN THE MUSEUM

Welcome to our new volunteer Jane Moore who answered our call for help through her local church magazine.

Please contact Jennifer Pieperei, the Museum's Curator if you know of anyone who has 3 or 4 spare hours a month and might like to spend them helping man the reception or stewarding, or light administrative duties to help keep our Museum open for the growing number of visitors that are passing through our doors.



Volunteers celebrating another successful year for the Museum