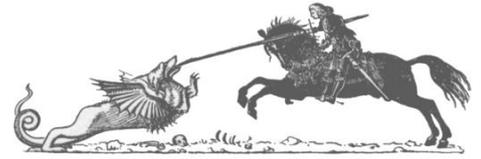


GUILD of St GEORGE



From the Administrator, Martin Green
35 Bromwich Road, Sheffield, S8 0GF.

Email: admin@guildofstgeorge.org.uk Tel: 07936 192 794

AGM PAPERS 2017

Contents

- The RUSKIN in SHEFFIELD 2017 report
- The RUSKIN in WYRE 2017 report
- The minutes of the AGM 5th November 2016
- List of Companions (at October 2017)

This year the Master's Report to date is included in full with the enclosed Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Guild.

The Annual Report from the Curator of the Collection is not included among this year's papers. This report will follow by email/post but will also be available for collection at the AGM.

The AGM schedule, agenda and booking form is attached with this document. Please return completed forms to me at the above address. You **MUST** book for the AGM and Companions' Dinner no later than **THURSDAY 26TH OCTOBER**.

The Guild is seeking new Directors to increase the range of skills and expertise on the Board as well as our capacity to deliver the growing programme of activity. This matter will be discussed directly after the AGM.

This year the AGM will be held in the Arundel Suite of the Millennium Gallery in the centre of Sheffield. The Companions' Dinner will be held at the nearby Channing Hall at **7pm**. The cost of the dinner is **£25** per head which includes a two course hot buffet and wine/juice.

For those of you who wish to stay overnight in Sheffield on 4th November a list of centrally located hotels is included with the AGM booking form.

Please consider making a financial **DONATION** to the Guild. Everything we raise through donations and by managing the Guild's resources efficiently goes into supporting and extending our charitable activities. Please see the attached booking form for advice on how to go about this.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

RUSKIN in SHEFFIELD 2017 REPORT

Ruskin in Sheffield 2017 sought to strengthen and celebrate the links between the Guild of St George, Museums Sheffield, the Big Draw and Sheffield. It offered a great opportunity for Ruskin in Sheffield to be ambitious in the scale of events, inviting hundreds of people to get outside, walk, draw and create in their neighbourhoods, together.

We launched the programme in the Picturing Sheffield Gallery at Weston Park Museum on 21st May, alongside the opening of the Rivelin Valley Artists display of paintings from the collection of Companion Chris Baines, and the launch of a new Guild publication, *Thirteen Acres: John Ruskin and the Totley Communists* by Companion Sally Goldsmith. It was attended by around 70 people, including the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Anne Murphy.

Big Draw in Walkley, on the Manor and in Meersbrook

At the heart of Ruskin in Sheffield 2017 were three community Big Draw Festival events.

Big Draw in Walkley took place on 1st July across 11 indoor and outdoor locations, possibly the biggest number of locations ever in a single Walkley event! Around 700 attenders drew, sculpted in clay and did 3D drawing in locations including Walkley Community Centre, Walkley Library, Rivelin Valley river, a butcher's and Ruskin Park.

Big Draw on the Manor was on 15th July, across Manor Fields Park and Manor Lodge, delivered in partnership with Friends of Manor Fields Park and Green Estate. Around 400 attenders made kites, drew, painted, helped make a bridge, carved, watched an outdoor mural being painted and took part on guided walks joining up these two sites for the first time on an event.

Big Draw in Meersbrook, on 10th September, delivered in partnership with Friends of Meersbrook Hall and Heeley Development Trust, attracted around 600 people. There was an industrious air as people looked through original items from the Ruskin Museum at Meersbrook (1890-1953), with Louise Pullen, and wandered round rooms of the former Museum to see heritage displays and artworks from local art groups. Adults and children tried pewter embossing, painting, drawing, well-dressing, and band-stand building, and some walked to the nearby Commons Fair, held as a partner event on the same day.

Artworks and short films of these events will be shown at the Big Draw Festival event on 14th October at the Millennium Gallery, to round off our partnership with the national Big Draw team this year.

Ruskin Collection

The August redisplay of the Collection contains a large number of Big Draw in Walkley and Big Draw in Meersbrook artworks created by event participants, curated by Louise Pullen. The ongoing inclusion of Ruskin in Sheffield exhibits continues to help imbue a strong sense of civic ownership of the Collection.

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Companions and Ruskin in Sheffield

An event was held for Sheffield (and nearby) Companions on 2nd March, comprising a talk by Louise Pullen in the Ruskin Gallery, before we moved to Fusion Café to discuss future plans. It was attended by 20 people. Louise's talk was extremely well received, and there were discussions about plans for the year and possible 2019 Ruskin Bicentenary projects.

Sheffield Companions made a huge contribution to the success of this year's programme. Seventeen Companions took part as event co-organisers, voluntary event workers, artists, some working across all the events. I am equally grateful for all Companions' participation.

The programme offered some Companions the opportunity to undertake significant new professional steps, which Ruskin in Sheffield benefited hugely from:

- Jodie Southwood undertook her first professional graphic design commission since graduating this summer, by designing beautiful hand-drawn maps for each community Big Draw event.
- Mary Musselwhite created her first professionally commissioned film since graduating this summer, through the short film she made of the Big Draw in Walkley.
- Henk Littlewood was able to trial in public a new participatory artwork inspired by a Leonardo da Vinci's self-supporting bridge.
- Fay Musselwhite and Jason Thomson co-devised a highly original poetry/drawing walk.
- Coralie Turpin pioneered a method of participatory well-dressing to capture city landscapes at the Big Draw events, including a new interpretation of Turner's *View from Derbyshire Lane*.
- Madame Zucchini branched out into dough sculpture, making an ambitious departure from vegetables.
- Sarah Coleman oversaw the creation of 100 painted tiles at Big Draw in Meersbrook, encouraging participants to use images from the Ruskin Collection as inspiration.
- Rhian Thomas played an important part in co-managing the Big Draw in Meersbrook event, and Sara Hill took the ambitious step of running an inspiring Commons Fair in nearby Gleadless on the same day.
- Thanks to Companions Carrie Leyland, Eliza Gilbert, Helen Parker and Paul Hine for highly skilled, constant event support, as well as Hugh Waterhouse and Neil Trinder.
- A special thanks to Lynne Roberts for travelling from London to assist at the Meersbrook event.
- Special thanks also to Annie Creswick-Dawson for her much appreciated support of the Ruskin in Sheffield project, through the kind loan of Benjamin Creswick's 'Village Blacksmiths' for Big Draw in Walkley, her spirit, and generous financial support of the Sheffield project this year.

Media Coverage

Local media coverage of Ruskin in Sheffield continues to be strong. There was a preview piece in the Sheffield Telegraph on Big Draw in the Manor, followed by a double-page feature on the event. Big Draw in Meersbrook was also previewed in the Sheffield Telegraph. The Ruskin in Sheffield 2017 programme was featured throughout the year on Our Favourite Places website. On 7th September, a letter from Clive Wilmer about Sheffield street trees, was featured on the Sheffield Telegraph, and was widely positively received. Thanks are due to Companion Sally Goldsmith for her informed guidance on the street trees issues. On 16th September, an article about *Thirteen Acres: John Ruskin and the Topley Communists* by Sally Goldsmith appeared in the Yorkshire Post.

Other Ruskin in Sheffield Fruits

Ruskin in Sheffield, now in its fourth year of existence, sees an increasing number of legacies and ‘spin-off’ events from previous years.

- It was rewarding to see Freeman College present their public open day in July, initiated as part of Ruskin in Sheffield 2015, and successfully continued by Companions Carole Baugh and Sophie Hunter.
- The Rivelin Valley Artists display at Weston Park Museum from the collection of Companion Chris Baines was an outcome of the initial exhibition of paintings at the Pop-Up Ruskin Museum in 2015, and continues to attract new discoveries.
- *Thirteen Acres: John Ruskin and the Topley Communists* by Companion Sally Goldsmith was commissioned by the Guild, following her successful community performance about St George’s Farm during 2015.
- The entire Year 6 group of 75 pupils from Carfield School will undertake an exploration of the history of Meersbrook Hall this month, including a visit to the Ruskin Collection. They will create a ‘Carfield Collection’ of artworks, minerals and nature for display at Meersbrook Hall. This project was initiated last year in partnership with Ruskin in Sheffield, and is being continued by Companion Rhian Thomas.

Master Clive Wilmer, and directors of the Guild, especially Janet Barnes and Peter Miller, have been an important presence and source of guidance throughout this year’s events. I would like to add a heartfelt thanks to Stuart Eagles who has been such a thoughtful and valuable supporter of Ruskin in Sheffield in every way, and this year, especially with regard to Big Draw in Meersbrook, supplying new historical material.

I am grateful to the Guild and Companion Annie Creswick-Dawson for financial support of Ruskin in Sheffield 2017, and to the Big Draw and Museums Sheffield for their collaboration. We look forward to continuing our partnerships and developing new projects with Walkley, Meersbrook and Manor as we move towards the Bicentenary of Ruskin’s birth in 2019.

Ruth Nutter

Producer, Ruskin in Sheffield www.ruskininsheffield.com

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RUSKIN in WYRE REPORT 2017

The Guild of St George (Guild) and Wyre Community Land Trust (WCLT) are delighted successfully to have secured Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) support for ‘Ruskin in Wyre’, an innovative programme of public events designed to reveal, interpret and promote the heritage associated with John Ruskin in the Wyre Forest. Launched in July 2017, it is a sister project to the very successful Ruskin in Sheffield initiative; here, in a rural location rather than an urban environment. It engages people from different communities through popular research and practical arts and craft activities, exploring the story of Ruskin Land and demonstrating contemporary relevance as we approach 2019, the Bicentenary of Ruskin’s birth.

The programme promotes Ruskin’s vision for the Wyre: establishing Ruskin Land in the heart of the Wyre Forest on the outskirts of Bewdley, Worcestershire, to combine a vibrant rural economy with arts and crafts and so create and protect a “beautiful, peaceful and fruitful” part of England. Ruskin wanted to bring art, learning and writing into the heart of the Wyre Forest, and had plans to build a school, a library and an art gallery on the Guild’s land there, which had been donated by Guild Companion and politician, George Baker.

The £85,300 project (£58,300 from HLF with a required proportional commitment of £20,000 from the Guild, £7,000 generated by the project) focuses on the 20 acres of land connected with St. George’s Farm, a smallholding carved out of the forest by Ruskinians, which is at the heart of approximately 200 acres of farmland and woodland owned by the Guild. Today, the land is managed by the Wyre Community Land Trust (WCLT), a social enterprise conceived by Guild Director John Iles some ten years ago.

Supported by HLF funds, the Guild, in partnership with the WCLT, now have the opportunity to tell the story of Ruskin’s legacy here and explore the potential for bringing his ideas to life in the 21st century. There are certainly lessons to learn from the past, which has not been without its troubles and tensions, but there is great optimism among the people who now work and volunteer with the WCLT. It will be a big challenge to safeguard the distinctive character of this place while sharing it more widely. Protecting its tranquility will be particularly important. There is a strong sense of responsibility both to the people who have lived and laboured here over the years, as well as to Ruskin’s ideas about society, art and the natural world.

The Ruskin in Wyre project got underway in February 2017 with the establishment of an oversight committee of Rachel Dickinson (Chair; Guild Director), Tim Selman (Managing Director of WCLT) and Jenny Robbins (Guild and WCLT Director). The interviews for key posts were completed in the spring: the Project Coordinator is Peter Miller, an experienced project manager with a wealth of local knowledge, whose previous experience includes the Bewdley Development Trust; the Project Administrator is Debbie Blades who is based in the WCLT offices. In addition, individuals and groups successfully have interviewed for commissions and partnerships: B Arts, Sue Duffield, Alice Midmore, Neil Sinden, and Studio in the Woods (details below).

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To trail the launch of the Ruskin in Wyre Heritage Lottery programme, an interactive ‘ABC of Ruskin Land’ was displayed in Bewdley Museum from the 1st July until the end of August. This is the busiest period for the museum, which attracts over 200,000 visitors a year - so Ruskin and his ideas for the Wyre received much exposure. Thanks are due to Companion Lynne Roberts for developing this to coincide with the launch of the Project.

The official launch was held at Bewdley Museum in the centre of the town on the 24th July. It was attended by over 85 invited guests, including a number of Companions. They were welcomed by the Master, and other key contributors to the project set out its aims and scope. B Arts, our community artists, were on hand to encourage people to share their recipes for a perfect visit to the forest. The project website, developed under contract by Faith Tilleray, can be found at www.ruskinland.org.uk.

Project events began with a guided walk “Discovering Ruskin Land”. Held on 6th August and attended by 24 adults and children, it was led by John Iles and Peter Miller and ended with tea and homemade cakes in the Ruskin Studio at Uncllys Farm.

The commission for the Community Arts Programme was won by B Arts, a participatory arts company based in Stoke on Trent. It has a wide-ranging portfolio of successful projects, including those in the big outdoors, working with a variety of partners and associate artists from a variety of creative fields. Since beginning their contract in July, they have worked closely with the WCLT, sharing stands with them at the Far Forest Show in August and the recent Heritage Day in Bewdley Museum, where they had conversations triggered by a display of handmade wood products and started collecting stories for the project. The Far Forest event was attended by 8000+ people over two days. Thus, in this initial scoping stage they have focused on building communication networks and collecting stories and memories of the forest.

The first major event was the Big Draw on Sunday 29th October with the theme ‘ “Long Lines” - drawing on the forest floor’. This builds on the Guild’s and WCLT’s ever-strengthening relationship with the Big Draw. Looking ahead, there will be a midwinter event in early 2018: a traditional night-time walk with handmade lanterns, live music and storytelling to chase away the dark and ensure a healthy crop. In the spring as nature bursts into life, there will be singing workshops, a singing walk and a flag trail through the landscape. All the material will be collated and contribute to an exhibition in 2019 in Bewdley Museum, which will include loans from the Guild’s Collection.

The second key commission is the Craftsperson in Residence. Alice Midmore who is currently working in Sheffield at Ecclesall Woods, successfully interviewed for the commission. She has worked across a range of hands-on projects relevant to Ruskin Land and its resources, from timber framing to spoon making, including a period studying woodcraft in Sweden. The Project’s Craft Programme will be revealed soon. Alice will be using the facilities at St Georges Farm, which are the

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result of the exciting growth and development of the WCLT. These include an electric sawmill which can process Guild oak into timber for a vast range of projects, from timber frame buildings to gates, bird boxes and benches. The events will include the current WCLT team of volunteers. Many of them have existing craft skills, but this initiative will encourage them to try new things and develop new skills and, with the participation of a wider audience of adults and children from the local community will further develop a network of Ruskinian influence. One such group is Birchen Coppice school in Kidderminster, where one of the craftsmanship projects will be based and where the goal will be improvement their Forest School area.

A partnership with Studio in the Woods (<http://www.invisiblestudio.org/studio-in-the-woods-2017/>) has been evolving around a Festival of Making in the summer of 2018. This will concentrate on linking architecture and craftsmanship using our landscape and raw materials. It is envisaged that the events, which this year brought together 70 architects and craftspeople, will design and prototype buildings for our site.

To set the scene for the project Neil Sinden wrote an extended essay for the website: 'Ruskin Land - the Evolving Story', which includes a useful timeline. This is a very accessible narrative of the history of Ruskin Land.

Sue Duffield is working with the project on the development of the William Graham Trail, telling the story of the early days of Ruskin Land. Starting in 1878, Working alone, and travelling each day to the estate Graham built a road to the site of the present St George's Farm (RuskinLand). He cleared the land and planted an orchard of 178 fruit trees on the site. The trail will link the graves of the Graham family at Ribbesford Church to RuskinLand.

The Ruskin Land website will develop further as the project unfolds. Companions will be kept up to date with all the events and activities and we look forward to welcoming you to RuskinLand soon.

Rachel Dickinson
Jenny Robbins
Tim Selman
<http://ruskinland.org.uk/>

Guild of St George
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Companions
Held at - The Lyttelton Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute
Saturday 5th November 2016

PRESENT:

Janet Barnes, Carole Baugh, David Borrington, George Breeze, Peter Burman, Janine Christley, Sarah Coleman, Annie Creswick Dawson, Rachel Dickinson, Stuart Eagles, Philip Fisher, Nicholas Friend, Sally Goldsmith, Judy Hague, Chris Harris, Stephen Gill, Beate Howitt, Natalie Hunt, John Iles, David Ingram, Mir Jansen, Brian Lewis, Henk Littlewood, Jeanette Lock, Julie McCarthy, Peter Miller, Adam Mindykowski, Francesca Orestano, Helen Parker, Cedric Quayle, Thelma Quayle, Bernard Richards, Jenny Robbins, Lynne Roberts, Richard Rundell, Tim Selman, Andrew Shepherd, Neil Sinden, Jodie Southwood, Rhiannon Thomas, Neil Trinder, Elizabeth Washington, Stephen Wildman, Clive Wilmer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ruth Nutter, Producer: Ruskin in Sheffield
 Hannah Brignell: Acting Curator of the Ruskin Collection, Museums Sheffield
 Martin Green: Administrator (Minutes)

Also: Catherine Finnieston, Andy Foster, Kelly Freeman, Thomas Hughes, Tom Jones, Jim Ineson, Kate Mason, Kate Souper, Fiona Waterhouse

411 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

David Barrie, Sally Beamish, Caroline Blyth, Jan Casey, Mark Cleaver, Gill Cockram, Paul Dawson, Jim Dearden, Cynthia Gamble, Stella Gardner, Lawrie Groom, Anthony Harris, Colin Harrison, Ray Haslam, Laurence Johnson, Terry Johnson, David Lustgarten, Jenine McGaughran, Donald Measham, Gordon Monsen, Rob Newell, Frances O'Connor, Christine Parker, Graham Parry, David Peacock, Mike Pye, Paul Quarrie, Jeffrey Richards, Shoji Sato, Olga Sinitsyna, Peter Smith, John Steers, Robert Taylor, Marcus Waithe, Brian G Walker, Robert Walmsley, Kay Walter, Harri Washington, Caroline Washington, Michael Wheeler

412 SIGNING OF THE ROLL

The Master welcomed the following new Companions and invited them to sign the Roll:

David Borrington, Sarah Coleman, Philip Fisher, Sally Goldsmith, Beate Howitt, David Ingram, Mir Jansen, Henk Littlewood, Julie McCarthy, Francesca Orestano, Andrew Shepherd, Rhiannon Thomas, Neil Trinder

It was noted that Carole Baugh and Kay Walter had signed the Roll in 2015. The Master apologised for the failure to include them in the minutes of the last AGM.

413 MINUTES OF THE AGM OF 7TH NOVEMBER 2015

There were no requests for corrections to the minutes of the last AGM and the Master signed them.

414 MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

415 MASTER'S REPORT

The Master's report had been circulated with the papers giving notice of the AGM. The Master invited any questions on his report. There were none.

416 RESIGNATION OF DIRECTORS

Jacqueline Yallop and Robert Wilson had resigned during the year. The Master expressed the gratitude of the Board of Directors and the Companionship for their exemplary service. Specifically, Jacqueline Yallop's contribution had been particularly strong in Sheffield where, prior to becoming a Director, she had worked with the Ruskin Collection. Robert Wilson had been responsible over the past ten years for looking after the Guild's tenants and properties at Westmill, Hertfordshire.

417 RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Director retiring by rotation was Clive Wilmer. His re-election was proposed by Janet Barnes and seconded by Chris Harris and all agreed.

418 ADOPTION OF THE REVISED MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Master explained the rationale for revision of the Guild's Memorandum and Articles of Association, which was essentially to bring the provisions of the document up to date. The Master invited questions from the floor on the changes.

Stephen Wildman queried the exclusive use of the masculine personal pronoun under **Part B** of the document dealing with **Company Membership**. Rachel Dickinson pointed out that this was explained in the introductory notes. John Iles read out the relevant note at 1.2.1 "references to the singular include the plural and vice-versa and to the masculine include the feminine and neuter and vice-versa;".

Richard Rundell asked whether the adoption of the new Memorandum and Articles implied that Companions should re-apply for membership. The Master confirmed that existing Companions would not need to re-apply.

The Meeting resolved unanimously to rescind the Articles of Association of the Guild (1970) in their entirety and to replace them with the version (2016) attached to the Notice calling the Annual General Meeting.

419 REPORT OF THE ACTING CURATOR OF THE COLLECTION

The report of the Acting Curator of the Ruskin Collection, Hannah Brignell, had been circulated before the Meeting and was taken as read.

The Master commended the report, thanking Hannah for her excellent work which she had always carried out efficiently and without fuss. The Master invited questions but there were none.

420 RUSKIN IN SHEFFIELD PRODUCER'S REPORT

The report of the Producer of Ruskin in Sheffield, Ruth Nutter, had been circulated before the Meeting and was taken as read.

The Master commended the report, thanking Ruth for her work and its tremendously successful impact over the year. The Master invited questions but there were none.

421 RECEIVING THE ACCOUNTS

The accounts of the Guild for the financial year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 had been circulated with the AGM papers. The Master invited questions.

Cedric Quayle commented on the increased budget deficit showing in the accounts, and asked what the plan was to manage this in coming years.

The Treasurer explained that the Guild was developing a three-year strategy to plan a responsible use of resources in response to an increase in charitable activity. He explained that the Board of Directors had a common goal: to leave the Guild in a more robust and sustainable condition than they had found it.

The report of the Master had reflected this increased level of activity which was creating a legacy of success on which to build. It was acknowledged that the Guild had been spending more than it was currently receiving in income, but it was stressed that there was no intention of exhausting the Guild's investment resources.

The Treasurer said that the Guild would re-invest in properties at Westmill and Bewdley, making them better to live in and producing a better financial return to balance the investment. This approach was in line with the guidelines of the Charity Commission, as was the need to put the returns from investment to good charitable use.

Lastly, the Treasurer explained that the Guild would continue to do things in a Ruskinian manner in line with the principles of 'wise consumption' as set out by John Ruskin in *Unto This Last*. A more concrete plan would evolve over the next three years in respect both of expenditure and fundraising.

The Master asked the meeting to approve the accounts of the Guild for the financial year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. Janet Barnes proposed acceptance of the accounts. This was seconded by Peter Miller. Approval of the accounts was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer invited further questions from the floor. There were none.

422 REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The re-appointment of the accountants Finnieston Berry Partnership Ltd as the Guild's auditors at a fee to be agreed by the Board of Directors was proposed by Janet Barnes and seconded by David Ingram and all agreed.

423 DATE OF NEXT AGM

This would be in **Sheffield on 4th November 2017**. The Ruskin Lecture would focus on J. W. Bunney, one of the principal artists represented in the Ruskin Collection.

424 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items raised for discussion from the floor.

The Master thanked Martin Green and Stuart Eagles for their help in organising the AGM at the Birmingham and Midland Institute. He also thanked new Companion, Philip Fisher, for making the venue available and facilitating many of the arrangements. He welcomed the thirty-eight new Companions elected to the Guild this year. He went on to congratulate Companions Canon Dr David Peacock and Dinah Birch on being awarded the CBE.

The Master looked forward to the return of Louise Pullen to her role as Curator of the Collection but thanked Hannah Brignell for her charm and efficient helpfulness in managing the Collection during the permanent Curator's maternity leave. He hoped that more of Hannah would be seen in the future.

The Master placed on record the Guild's thanks for the considerable contributions of both Robert Wilson and Jaqueline Yallop who had resigned as Directors in 2016. Recruitment of replacements would take place during the forthcoming year with Jenny Robbins already taking responsibility for the Guild's property portfolio.

With sadness, the Master reported the deaths since the last AGM of Companions Van Akin Burd, Asa Briggs, Derek Hyatt, Michael Hudson and Peter Emmet.

The Master welcomed Ruth Nutter, congratulating and thanking her for recent Ruskin in Sheffield successes with six major events taking place in 2016, the final one, celebrating Meersbrook Hall, attracting a thousand visitors in a single day. The programme, which had already exceeded the Board's best hopes, was expected to continue beyond 2019. Ten new Companions had joined from Sheffield this year and more than twenty the preceding year.

The Master reported that plans for the bicentenary of Ruskin's birth in 2019 were developing. An exhibition with the working title 'Ruskin and Science' would probably open at a London venue, and then move on to Sheffield. Other exhibitions, events and conferences would take place both nationally

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and internationally. A major coup was a Ruskin exhibition to be held at the Ducal Palace in Venice in 2018, with items from the Collection travelling to the show. The exhibition would build up to the Tintoretto quincentenary to be celebrated in Venice in 2019. The Master reminded the meeting of his links with the Scuola San Rocco and of a very stimulating visit to the UK this year made by representatives of that institution.

The Master reflected on the international element of the Guild, with Companions represented across the globe and Francesca Orestano from Milan attending today's AGM. There was considerable expansion of interest and activity in North America and Canada with the dynamism of Sara Attwood behind much of this. During the summer the Master had himself lectured at the Roycroft Campus in upstate New York; last year he had lectured to Companions in both Los Angeles and Berkeley.

Activity in the Wyre Forest was also growing with Neil Sinden and Lynne Roberts, now resident at St George's Farm, shaping an educational and cultural programme and promoting the environmental agenda in Ruskin Land.

A Ruskin Study Centre, based at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, was in the process of getting off the ground thanks in no small part to the efforts of Philip Fisher, Administrator of the BMI, and supported by Companions, Tim Selman and Neil Sinden, and Director, John Iles.

The Master welcomed Kate Mason from the Big Draw and expressed the Guild's hopes for a closer relationship with an organisation founded by the Guild and promoting the primacy of Drawing. The Guild would continue to fund the John Ruskin Prize which was due to run again in 2017 and 2019.

Symposia remained key to the Guild's promotional activity. Early symposia had been concerned with Economics, the Environment and Education. Last year's was on Economics again and this year's on Craftsmanship. Next Year the focus would be on Drawing with an event scheduled in London.

The Guild continued to have an involvement in Whitelands College and sponsored an annual lecture there which in 2017 would be delivered by David Peacock. The annual May festival, which had been founded by Ruskin, would take place on the 13th of that month in 2017.

The Master thanked Peter Miller for his hard work in raising the standard of Guild publications. New publications available included an expanded version of Stuart Eagles' *Ruskin and Tolstoy*, David Ingram's study of *Ruskin's Botanical Books* (first published as articles in *The Ruskin Review and Bulletin* and *The Companion*), and this year's Ruskin Lecture, *The Sombre Robe* by Bernard Richards. Sally Goldsmith's book on *Thirteen Acres: John Ruskin and the Topley Communists* would be published early next year.

2016 had seen Companions' Days held at Sheepscombe, Beaucastle and Bewdley. This coming year's Companions' Day would be held at Westmill on 17th June 2017.

The Master closed by raising the importance of donations to the Guild, which only existed because people in the past had given generously to enable and promote its work and activities. The Master encouraged all to donate funds and to consider standing orders (as many Companions already had).

Finally the Master recommended the tour of architecture inspired by Ruskin in Birmingham City Centre to be led the following day by Joe Holyoak and looked forward to seeing those Companions staying on for the Companions dinner that evening.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.00pm

THE COMPANIONS OF THE GUILD - OCTOBER 2017

Rick Allan	Gill Cockram	Alexander Hamilton
David Alston	Malcolm Cole	Camilla Hampshire
John Ames	Sarah Coleman	Malcolm Hardman
Dag Andersson	Malaika Cunningham	Anthony Harris
Jan Ansell	Annie Creswick Dawson	Chris Harris
Terry Ansell	Paul Dawson	Colin Harrison
Sara Atwood	James Dearden	Nick Hartley
Linda Austin	Pascal Debout	Josephine Harvey
Ron Austin	Rachel Dickinson	Richard Harvey
Michael Badu	Suzie Doncaster	Ray Haslam
Chris Baines	Abigail Droge	Emma Hemming
Hilary Baker	Kevin Duffly	Andrew Hill
Matthew Ball	Natalia Dushkina	Sara Hill
David Walker Barker	Stuart Eagles	John Anthony Hilton
Janet Barnes	Hon. Catherine Edwards	Paul Hine
Jennifer Barnes	Paul Elmhirst	Norman Hobbs
Philip Barnes	Shirley Elwell	Andrew Hodgson
David Barrie	Luke Emmet	Tim Holton
Emma Bartlet	Kateri Ewing	Ellie Hooper
Carole Baugh	Rt Hon. Frank Field	Catherine Howarth
Sally Beamish	Philip Fisher	Beate Howitt
Graham Beck	Olive Forbes-Madden	Howard Hull
R. Dyke Benjamin	Sue Grayson Ford	Natalie Hunt
Bill Bevan	Maria Laura Picchio Forlati	Sophie Hunter
Dinah Birch	Nicholas Friend	John Iles
Sir Quentin Blake	Mark Frost	Linda Iles
Caroline Blyth	Ann Gagné	Jim Ineson
David Borrington	Cynthia Gamble	David Ingram
Edward Bosley Jr.	Stella Gardner	Kevin Jackson
Gray Brechin	Mark Garner	Arjun Jain
George Breeze	Kate Genever	Mir Jansen
Robert Brownell	Olivier Geoffroy	Laurence Johnson
John Burgin	Bambos Georgiou	Nichola Johnson
Peter Burman	Eliza Gilbert	Terry Johnson
Carolyn Butterworth	Stephen Gill	Tony Jones
Elena Karina Byrne	Jonathan Glancey	David Judson
Colin Campbell	Lynne Glazzard	Gilly King
Tony Cann	Sally Goldsmith	Seiko Kinoshita
Peter Carpenter	Elizabeth Goodwin	Helen Kippax
Jan Casey	Aonghus Gordon	Stephen Kite
Anthony Chisholm	Kay Greenlees	Robert Knight
Janine Christley	Mary Greensted	Qusai Kraisha
Dorian Church	Lawrie Groom	George Landow
Jacki Clark	Martin Haber	Junchol Lee
Mark Cleaver	Lianne Hackett	Rita Lenney
Jeanne Clegg	Judy Hague	Diane Leonard

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