

The Stained Glass Museum  
Friends Newsletter



*Standing Stone - Day, 2007*  
*From 'Transitions' by Ginger Ferrell*

Spring 2007

Dear Friends,

### **Spring in our Step**

The Stained Glass Museum is enjoying a busy programme, as ever, and I am delighted to report, an encouraging increase in visitors.

### **A new Research Post**

The Trustees of the Museum, in an important new step, have created an additional professional post of Researcher and Assistant to the Curator. The Museum is most grateful to The Radcliffe Trust, The Manifold Trust, The Glaziers Trust and The Pilgrim Trust, for providing the finance for this post.

We are delighted to welcome Rosie Mills whom we appointed to fill this position from January. Rosie has an MA in the History of Art from The Courtauld Institute of Art where she studied early Gothic Cathedrals in France, writing her dissertation on the marble pavement of the Trinity Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. She also has an MA in Museology from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, where she is completing a PhD on English Romanesque and Gothic illuminated Psalters.

She has adapted to the new medium of stained glass with great enthusiasm and settled in remarkable quickly! She has already undertaken some useful research, given a number of introductory talks in the Museum and taken over much of the responsibility for the Museum's Library and Catalogue. She is also helping to respond to the flow of email enquiries which fly in from all over the world.

### **Other Busy Activities**

You may well ask now what the Curator is doing! Sitting back with her feet up? Almost, but not quite. The Museum has been running its school activities, welcoming work experience students, planning a programme of Museum events and trying to keep abreast of administration and all the required time-consuming Museum documentation which enables us to keep the Stained Glass Museum in first-rate order.

### **Farewell - Howard Cole**

In February, we said goodbye to Howard Cole who started working in the Museum at the age of 15. He has looked after all our IT and been Secretary of our Friends Association in recent years. He now moves to full-time employment in IT with a Cambridge College. We thank him for his contribution to the success of the Museum and send him our best wishes

for the future. We are pleased to be retaining him as our Web-Master and emergency call-out IT specialist.

### **Welcome – Malcolm Mitchell**

Following Mike Axford's retirement as Treasurer, we were pleased to welcome Malcolm Mitchell to this post and he will be helping with IT and publications and acting as Friends Secretary.

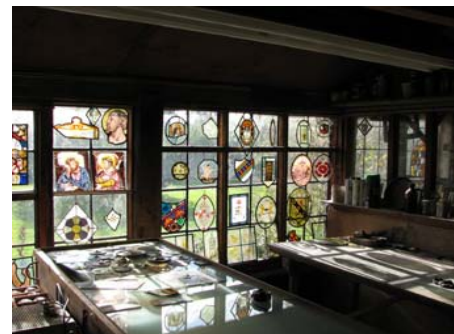
We are also pleased to welcome Heather Moore to the Museum as an Invigilator. You may wonder what this role involves: it covers all manner of activities including welcoming visitors, keeping an eye on the Main Gallery, answering questions and encouraging feed-back, running the shop, giving out information, promoting the Museum's activities etc. If the term is quaint and a little old-fashioned we like it! We are very dependent on our excellent staff for the smooth-running of all front-of-house activities.

### **Staff Outing to George Wigley's - 26 October.**

Our staff outing was to Stanford on Avon to see its wonderful stained glass – the most extensive and rewarding assembly of medieval stained glass in Northamptonshire-and from there to the studio of George Wigley where we were given warm hospitality and a tour of George's extensive stained glass collection and beautiful house.



*The Staff Team Outing*



*George Wigley's Studio*

## Education

Over the last year we have been working with the children of St Mary's primary school in Ely to make a stained glass panel for the school entrance. Althea Braithwaite has been teaching the children all about designing and fusing glass and 90 of them visited the Museum over the course of a term to learn to cut glass and to help make the panel.



*Voila! A satisfied pupil*



*The panels ready for leading*

We have also been working closely with students from King's School, Ely. In March stained glass artist Caroline Swash led a special art activity day with the juniors inspired by her exhibition of Icelandic stained glass in the Museum. Last autumn we worked with A-level art students introducing them to a new medium as part of their investigation in to materials. Sally Austin



*House of Delight Jessy Carmen, King's School*

our Education Officer has also been closely involved in developing a literacy project for schools in Cambridgeshire. This was inspired by the Museum's panel of Salome dancing before Herod but developed into a filmed costumed re-enactment and feast in the Lady Chapel!

### **Museum's Finances**

The Annual Report & Accounts for the Year to 31 October 2006, approved by the Trustees in April, showed Admission charges, Shop Income, Fund-raising Events and Workshops amounted to £63,100 and funded only 73% of the Museum's operating costs of £86,157. However thanks to some generous individual pledges and donations the Museum made a surplus last year. It continues to need your financial support to be viable so please keep making the Museum better known, coming to our events and encouraging donations, pledges and legacies. Copies of Annual Report & Accounts are available on request.

### **Study Week-end – York 11-13 May**

We have a full complement of participants for what should be a fascinating week-end of discovery in York led by leading experts in medieval stained glass. In addition to Sarah Brown, Trustee of the Stained Glass Museum, we are delighted that Dr David O'Connor (lecturer in The History of Art Department at the University of Manchester), and Dr Christopher Norton, (Reader in Art and Architecture at the University of York), will also be making substantial contributions to the weekend. All our guides for this event have researched and written extensively on the stained glass of York. An additional highlight of the week-end will be a visit to the stained glass conservation studio of Keith Barley known to many as one of the leading conservators in Europe.

### **Annual Lecture 2007 *Parish, Community and Faith in Medieval York: All Saints, North Street and its Windows.* Dr David O'Connor**

Our recent Annual Lecture was given by Dr. David O'Connor on 26 March at St Ethelburga's Church, Bishopsgate. For those of us attending our York Weekend, it gave us a privileged and preliminary insight into the medieval community and faith of All Saints, North Street, York. Dr O'Connor's lecture looked at the development of stained glass in the church over three centuries from the 13th to the 16<sup>th</sup> relating it to the liturgical, theological, social and artistic setting of the time. To be given such a 'rounded' context for the subject was wonderful and demonstrated Dr O'Connor's ability to impart so much knowledge in a most engaging way.

### **Crisis at the William Morris Gallery**

There has been an active public campaign in the last few months against the London Borough of Waltham Forest's decision to reduce opening hours and staffing levels at the WMG. The Stained Glass Museum has written to the Borough of Waltham Forest expressing extreme disquiet at this proposal and I urge Friends to keep up the pressure in support of the WMG through the on-line petition at: [www.petitiononline.com/savewmg/](http://www.petitiononline.com/savewmg/) and also [www.keepourmuseumsopen.org.uk/](http://www.keepourmuseumsopen.org.uk/).

## New Acquisition

Rosie Mills, Research Assistant, writes:

In early 2007, the SGM accessioned its first piece of stained glass from a redundant synagogue. It was originally made for the Bayswater Synagogue, London, which was closed in 1963 to make way for the Harrow Road flyover. The window arrived at Ely as a generous donation from the London Stained Glass Repository.

Stained glass became fashionable in English synagogues during the Gothic Revival, at the same time as it did in English churches. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Christian architects and designers constructed and beautified the buildings of both faiths, due to the history of Jewish exclusion from the professional trades and guilds. This 20<sup>th</sup>-century panel is therefore important as the work of an Anglo-Jewish artist.

David Hillman (1894-1974), himself a man of great religious learning, was the son of a rabbinic judge. He overcame paternal disapproval of the artistic profession, becoming a portrait artist before turning his hand to stained glass. While some of his other designs test the limits of the Old Testament prohibition against idolatry and 'graven images', this window is more traditional in avoiding the representation of the human form altogether. It celebrates the festival of Purim, whose festivities resemble those of Christian pre-Lenten carnival (Pancake Day in England). The Hebrew inscriptions quote the origins of the feast in the Old Testament Book of Esther.



*Festival of Purim*  
*David Hillman 1954*

## Forthcoming Events

### **Eel Day and The Walking Window**

#### **Procession Starts 12 noon 28 April outside Ely Cathedral**

Eels will be the flavour of the day on Saturday 28 April for Ely's Annual Eel Day. Starting at 12.00 noon from Cross Green (adjacent to the Cathedral), Ely's new 'Ellie the Eel' will be heading the carnival procession along part of the City's Eel Trail Heritage to the Waterside and into Jubilee Gardens where a whole host of eel related activities will be held.



*The Walking Window*

Twelve visiting Town Criers in all their finery will be in the procession as part of Ely's first Town Crier's Competition. It was the idea of Ely's own Town Crier, Avril Hayter to host this competition to bring much vibrancy, interest and of course noise to the town! For the occasion, we are borrowing from the Worshipful Company of Glaziers their Walking Stained Glass Window, featuring a 'fun version' of the Augsburg Prophets, which had its first outing in the recent Lord Mayor's Show in London.

### **Transitions - An exhibition of glass and photographs by Ginger Ferrell 2 July – 12 August, The Stained Glass Museum, Ely**

Following the recent successful Exhibition by Caroline Swash held at The Stained Glass Museum, we shall be showing work by the stained glass artist Ginger Ferrell this summer. Inspired by photographic images of flora and landscape (see front cover) in Caithness, Scotland, this Exhibition will be transferring from the Cochrane Theatre in London. It will comprise small framed panels exploring imagery and textures using frits, stringers and powders fused into glass. If this intrigues you, do come, as they are quite beautiful, as are the accompanying photographs taken in this most magnificent of landscapes.

**Friends Garden Party**  
**Saturday 11 August 6.00 pm, The Black Hostelry, Ely**



Once again we are grateful to generous friends who have offered the use of their garden for our Annual Friends Garden Party. This year our hosts are Canon Dr Peter and Dr Helen Sills whose home The Black Hostelry (*pictured left*) forms part of the medieval buildings of Ely Cathedral. Their walled garden will be at its most beautiful and a perfect setting for a light supper and

a recital by scholars of The King's School, Ely. Please put this date in your diary and why not come early and see our Summer Exhibition.

**Mark Angus Exhibition 'Faces Reappearing'**  
**21 August – 30 November , The Stained Glass Museum**

6.30 pm Private View followed by Lecture 7.00 pm Tuesday - 21 August, The Prior's Door, Ely Cathedral, Ely

Following Ginger Ferrell's Exhibition, a second exhibition of work by Mark Angus will run from 21 August to the end of September. This is to be a specially-created Exhibition of pieces inspired by absence of original faces and the empty niches so apparent in the cathedral . An early student panel by the artist is already on display in the Museum and further work can be seen in Oundle School Chapel and Durham Cathedral. See web-site [www.markangus.com](http://www.markangus.com).

**Autumn Lectures at The Cathedral Centre, Ely**  
**Tuesdays 16/30 October, 13/27 November at 6.30 pm**

Our Autumn Lecture series, followed by supper, sees the welcome return of Chloe Cockerell to speak about ***Heraldry in English Churches and Cathedrals***. Rosie Mills, has come with a fresh eye to The Stained Glass Museum and will be examining ***The Rustic man in Art and in Glass***. Our first lecture will be a historical treat when William Palin (son of Michael) will speak about the Life and Works of Sir Nicholas Hawksmoor. We are also very much looking forward to Anne Anderson, Chairman of The Cambridge Antique Society who will introduce us to ***The History & Collecting of Glass Paperweights***. Please see web-site for details.

*Susan Mathew*



Event	No of	Total
<b>Friends Garden Party</b> - Saturday 11 August 6.00 pm The Black Hostelry, Ely Cathedral, Ely (£15.00 inc.		
<b>Exhibition</b> Ginger Ferrell Transitions 2 July - 12 August, The Stained Glass Museum, Ely		Free to Friends
<b>Exhibition</b> Mark Angus - 21 August - 5 October 6.30 pm 21 August , Private View followed by Introductory Talk by Artist , The Stained Glass Musuem, Ely		Free to Friends
<b>Autumn Lectures</b> 6.30 pm The Cathedral Centre, Ely followed by supper (£15.00 inc. Supper) Lecture only £5 <b>16 October</b> 'Solid Judgement and Inexhaustible Fancy': The Life and Works of Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736) William Palin		
<b>30 October</b> The history and collecting of glass paperweights Anne Anderson		
<b>13 November</b> Heraldry in English Churches and Cathedral, Chloe Cockerill		
<b>27 November</b> The Rustic Man in Art and in Glass, Rosie Mills, Museum, Ely		



Name:.....

Address.....

.....

I enclose a cheque for £.....Please complete relevant boxes above

Please return this form to us at:

The Stained Glass Museum, Ely Cathedral, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4DL

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Juliet Short

Sue Freestone

Dr Tim Ayers FSA

Prof. Brian Clarke

Martin Harrison FSA

Prof. Jean Michel Massing FSA

Dr Paul Williamson FSA

*Curator:* Susan Mathews

*Treasurer:* Malcolm Mitchell

*Conservation Adviser:* Dr Sebastian Strobl FMGP

Thanks to The Radcliffe Trust, The Manifold Trust, The Headley Trust, The Glaziers Trust, The Local Network Fund, Cambridgeshire County Council and ADeC for supporting our activities during the year.

We are most grateful to the following Benefactors who have supported the Museum during 2006-07 with gifts of £1,000 or more



Supported by the National Lottery through the  
**Heritage Lottery Fund**



# The Stained Glass Museum

## Opening Times

<b>Easter - October</b>		<b>November - Easter</b>	
Monday-Friday	10:30-5:00	Monday-Friday	10:30-5:00
Saturday	10:30-5:30	Saturday	10:30-5:00
Sunday	12 noon-6:00	Sunday	12 noon-4:30

Last admissions half an hour before closing

### Admission Charges to Museum only

Adults	£3.50
Concessions	£2.50
Family Group	£7.00
<i>(Up to 4 must inc 1 child under 16 )</i>	

## Joint Ticket

Entry to both the Cathedral and The Stained Glass Museum

(only available from the Cathedral's admissions desk at ground floor level)

Adults	£8.00
Concessions	£6.50

The Stained Glass Museum  
The South Triforium  
Ely Cathedral  
Ely  
Cambridgeshire  
CB7 4DL  
Tel: 01353 660347  
Fax: 01353 665025

Email: [info@stainedglassmuseum.com](mailto:info@stainedglassmuseum.com)

Website: [www.stainedglassmuseum.com](http://www.stainedglassmuseum.com)

*Front cover: from Transitions by Ginger Ferrell*

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