

EXCEL

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP

CRAFT AT THE BACKBONE OF BRITISH INDUSTRY

John Hayes MP took the opportunity as guest speaker at the Royal Warrant Holders Association's annual luncheon on 7 June to emphasise the Government's proposed apprenticeship programme.

"You need to be assured," expanded John Hayes, the Minister of Business, Innovation and Skills, "that I understand craft is at the very backbone of British industry. I have made it my mission as a Minister to elevate practical learning."

"It is the Government's intention to create more apprenticeships, as part of a mission to elevate practical learning to feed economic interest and to allow all of those with practical tastes and talents to be the best they can be," he said. "This is a Government inspired by John Ruskin and William Morris. This is a Government that

will once again carry that torch of practical learning and in particular of craft."



L to R: Richard Watling, Chairman of QEST, John Hayes, MP and Robert Hall, President of the Royal Warrant Holders Association

STOP PRESS...

President Robert Hall announced at the luncheon the generous donation by Royal Warrant Holders John Walker & Sons, which has pledged all profits from the sale of a rare edition whisky, with a guarantee of at least £1 million, to the QEST 2012 Diamond Jubilee Appeal.

The Scotch Whisky Distillers are producing a limited edition of 60 crystal decanters of 'Diamond Jubilee Blended Scotch Whisky by John Walker & Sons', a unique blend of whiskies all distilled in 1952, the year of The Queen's accession to the throne, and finished

in a cask made of oak from the Sandringham Estate. The skills of some of the finest craftsmen and women, including fellow Royal Warrant Holders and QEST scholars, have been harnessed to create bespoke pieces to present the whisky.

"We are enormously grateful to Johnnie Walker for this incredibly generous and innovative pledge of support," said Richard Watling, Chairman of QEST. "This substantial early donation assures our Appeal and will enable us to support British craftsmanship in a very proactive way."



Queen Elizabeth
Scholarship Trust



The profits from John Walker & Sons crystal decanter will all go to QEST

NEWS FROM SSC

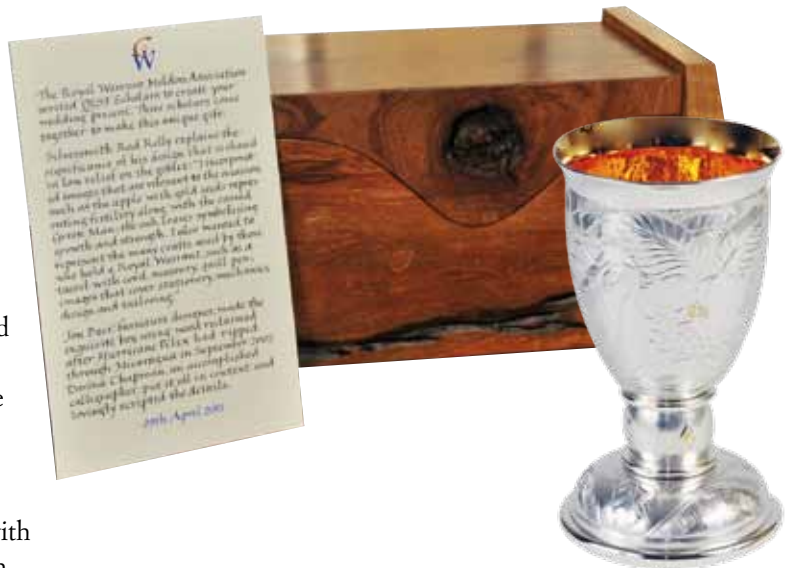
GIFT FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING

The Royal Warrant Holders Association invited Queen Elizabeth Scholars to create a wedding present for His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton and selected a collaboration by three prominent scholars who came together to create a unique and personalised gift. The renowned silversmith Rod Kelly received his QEST scholarship in June 2000 to learn the art of gold inlay within silver. He was commissioned to design and hand craft a silver goblet embellished with engraving. Jon Beer, a furniture designer based in Nicaragua, used wood reclaimed after Hurricane Felix to make an exquisite box. Davina Chapman, an accomplished calligrapher, scripted the details to put the gift in context for the young couple.

Rod Kelly's design is chased in low relief: "I incorporated images that are relevant to the occasion, such as the apple with gold seeds representing fertility along with the carved Green Man; the oak leaves symbolising growth and strength. I wanted to represent the many crafts used by Royal Warrant Holders, such as a tassel with cord, masonry, quill pen; images that cover design and tailoring. I was very fortunate that the Middleton coat of arms focused on the oak."

In March 2002, **Jon Beer** received a QEST scholarship to study furniture making and design. Today he runs a successful furniture workshop in Nicaragua. The oblique form of the legs on the box were inspired by the Spanish fort El Castillo on the Rio San Juan in Nicaragua. Nelson added the image of El Castillo to a portrait which hangs in the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, acknowledging one of his earliest accomplishments, taking the fort for the British in 1780. "The wood for the box was extracted from an area devastated by Hurricane Felix in September 2007," explained Jon. "The character of the wood reflects its journey and explores the relationship between the user and the natural unconformity of this previously live material."

Calligrapher **Davina Chapman** selected a handmade paper for the task. With the measurements of the interior of the box and the shape of the goblet to consider, she cut the paper to precisely sit within the indentation of the base. She painted a cipher of both Prince William and Catherine Middleton's initials in the colours of the Royal Warrant Holders Association.



ROYAL EMBROIDERY



Last spring, Anja von Kalinowski received a QEST scholarship to continue her studies at the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. Along with tutors, staff and other students, she was one of the RSN embroiderers who helped the designer and Miss Middleton achieve their vision for the wedding dress by embroidering the lace across the bodice, skirt, train and veil.

"I felt honoured to have worked on the royal wedding dress as part of such a skilled and dedicated team," said Anja. "To be able to use the techniques that I have been taught, to contribute to this historic moment and to see the dress in its final version was certainly a thrilling once-in-a-lifetime experience and one of the highlights of my time at the RSN."



El Castillo de la Inmaculada Concepción de Maria, El Castillo, Nicaragua

HOLARS

DIAMOND JUBILEE CHINA

Last summer, the Royal Collection commissioned calligrapher and heraldic artist Sally Mangum to paint the Royal Arms as the central image for their range of china to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

The highly detailed painting was done with miniature painting techniques, using gouache, watercolour and extremely fine sable brushes. The circular-shaped finished painting is just over seven inches in diameter. As there are also smaller items in the range, Sally was required to paint a second identical version but half the size, at just over three inches.

The border decoration with oak leaves was based on the famous Rockingham Service, first used at Queen Victoria's Coronation banquet in 1838, and commissioned by William IV in 1830. At the time it was possibly the most ambitious service ever made, taking seven years to complete.

Working closely with the designers, Sally drew out all the elements of the design needed for the border of the plates: oak leaves, acorns, national flowers and crown. Detailed overlays for the self-burnished gold, raised enamels and 22-carat gold had to be hand drawn for several different versions of the china. Calligraphy was also required for some of the pieces and the back stamp.

"I worked almost exclusively on this wonderfully involved commission over several months," explained Sally, "and thoroughly enjoyed combining three things I love: heraldic painting, pen and ink drawing and calligraphy."

The china will be on sale from autumn 2011 from all Royal Collection shops and their new website: www.royalcollection.org.uk/shop



QEST IN HIGH DEFINITION



Richard Watling, Chairman of QEST, during the making of the film

A short film showing the determined passion of those who have received QEST funding whilst illustrating the economic benefits of the craft industry to Britain, was shown at the RWHA luncheon. Produced by Serge Films, it can now be viewed at www.qest.org.uk.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales succinctly gives his view on preserving heritage whilst creating work that will be appreciated for future generations. The film highlights three areas where crafts are proven to be essential to Britain, namely value on investment, heritage (and therefore tourism) and education through apprenticeships. With three scholar case studies, it demonstrates how vital the skills sets are to this country and why businesses might like to support QEST in the future.

THE GORING'S GARDENS SHOWCASE

QEST SCULPTORS



As the Middletons checked out of the prestigious Goring hotel behind Buckingham Palace, six QEST scholars lined up at the garden gate to install their sculptures for the month of May. The carefully selected pieces reflect the eclectic range of work produced by the Queen Elizabeth Scholars.

An award-winning stone carver and sculptor, **Tom Brown** has recently been elected to the Worshipful Company of Masons. "The piece that I selected to show, *Reclining lion after Canova's Baroque original*," explained Tom, "is carved traditionally with only hand tools in hard French Limestone with rich warm veining running throughout."

www.helixstonecarving.com

Antonia Hockton specialises in contemporary carved sculpture and the repair of ancient stone sculpture. She selected her *Jack-in-a-box*, a piece carved out of two blocks of Lincoln limestone. "Having observed the work of the medieval mason at close quarters," explained Antonia, "my own work has taken on a narrative quality. The type of stone is a vital element of each piece and is carefully chosen for its character and suitability."

www.hocktonsculpture.co.uk

As the resident basket maker for the Ulster Folk Museum, **Bob Johnston** has been creating traditional and contemporary willow baskets, sculptures and structures since 2000. Bob's *Willow Pig – boiled and stripped willow* was selected for its humour as well as its faultless technique. "I blend traditional weaving techniques and natural colours with random, swirling weaves to create form and definition whilst giving a sense of movement and a hint of expression," expanded Bob.

www.bobjohnstonbaskets.co.uk

Will Davies currently works on private and public commissions from his studio in Camberwell. His 30 cm *Globe* was selected for the show. "Kilkenny was the perfect stone," explained Will, "with a densely packed matrix of fossilised marine shell life; it is physically hard to work, but produces a huge array of different patterns, colours and textures to intrigue the senses."



www.willdaviescarving.com

Mel Howse is an established British glass artist, enameller, designer and maker of vitreous art. She exhibited a *Pair of Watching Bowls* and explained: "Things are not always what they seem. This is the focus of these extraordinary vessels. The designs are developed from the theme of a huge concave iris looking out from the bottom of the bowl. The rich abstracted interior is a smooth web of fired colour. The work is a surreal marriage of industrial materials and contemporary art. It is a striking and unusual combination of forms with materials rarely seen in sculpture."

www.melhowse.co.uk

Jenny Pickford breaks the rules of tradition by challenging the heritage of steel and glass. Her art combines the age-old crafts of blacksmithing and glass blowing with newer technologies.

This fusion enables her to create sculptural forms that verge on fantasy and push the boundaries of imagination and scale, aptly illustrated by her piece, *The Dandelion*. "The gentle movement of the dandelion leaves, triggered by a light breeze, challenges our perception of the materials," Jenny enthused.

www.jennypickford.co.uk

"We are very grateful to The Goring for giving our scholars the chance to showcase their work at such a prestigious location," said Richard Watling, chairman of QEST. "We fund scholars up to £15,000 to accelerate their skill level but for some the most difficult is to market and show their work. To be at The Goring during Chelsea Flower Show and COLLECT really was an unique opportunity."

CELEBRATION OF CRAFTS – INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Toby Gough received the ‘Best Craft Binding’ Award at the National Library of Scotland’s ceremony for the *Elizabeth Soutar Bookbinding Awards* earlier this year. Toby received his QEST scholarship in January 2010 which enabled him to finance a one-year apprenticeship with the renowned Swedish master bookbinder, Per-Anders Hübner.

Skärgård is a Swedish classic about the Stockholm archipelago, written by Sven Barthel and beautifully illustrated by Roland Svensson; it was first published in 1952.



Siân Evans has received a *Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship* for her project, entitled: “Coppersmithing – Researching Ancient Origins, Traditional Techniques and Modern Contexts”. She will look at metal artifacts of classical Greece, traditional techniques in Normandy and the most ancient casting methods still in use in Tamil Nadu. “I hope to study existing fairtrade partnerships and discover how modern communication has saved many ancient crafts,” explained Siân. “With guidance from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust I hope to conduct my research in two phases of travel (Europe in May 2011 and India in November 2011), concluding with a published report in Spring 2012.”

Siân has been invited to become a Fellow of the RSA and also received a coveted Silver Award 2011 from **Craft & Design Magazine’s Selected Awards** in the Wood and Metal section.

Gary Drostle was declared the winner in the 2011 *Tile Letter Awards*. The award for the best Commercial Mosaic/Glass category was won for his ‘River of Life’ mosaic and was presented during the National Tile Contractors Association awards ceremony at ‘Coverings’ in Las Vegas this spring.

“The mosaic measures 48 feet by 15 feet and was created for the main entrance floor of the University’s new sports and wellbeing centre in Iowa City,” explained Gary. “I designed the mosaic to incorporate the themes of wellbeing with elements of the local Iowa River; textile patterns



taken from the local Amish, the Iowa Native Americans; local basket making and American Folk Quilt patterns. It represents the River of Life: life as a path from birth to death that runs through the structures of society in, or out, of balance.”

“The mosaic was constructed completely by hand using the finest French porcelain in my Greenwich studio in south east London, every piece hand cut and laid out,” detailed Gary. “Once completed it was divided into sections and shipped to Iowa. I flew out to the site with a team of installers (one from my London studio and two from Texas) and installed the mosaic on site. The work took six months to complete.”



Sophie D’Souza, a stained glass artist, is nearing the end of her postgraduate certificate course at Central Saint Martins and has been awarded second prize in the prestigious nationwide architectural glass award, the *Stevens Competition*, organised by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers & Painters of Glass for her piece “The Fabric of Life”.

NEW SCHOLARS

These scholars received their awards at the
Royal Warrant Holders Luncheon in London in June

Christabel Anderson (37) *Icon painter and manuscript illuminator*

Christabel is an iconographer, manuscript illuminator and part-time PhD student at The Prince's School of Traditional Arts. In 2010 she graduated from the school's MA degree programme with distinction. Her scholarship will be used to study Heraldic Art, Calligraphy and Illumination at Reigate College of Art and Design. Christabel plans to publish her thesis, due for submission in 2015, in the form of an iconographer's manual. This will help to meet the demand for icons of the early British and Irish saints for the Orthodox Church and the need for liturgical art that is in keeping with regional artistic and architectural forms.

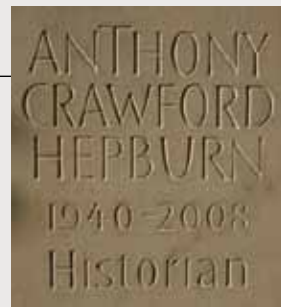


Teresa Dybisz (31) *Stonecarver*

Teresa discovered her métier on Weymouth College's Foundation Degree course and achieved a distinction in Applied Architectural Stonework & Conservation. The QEST scholarship will fund her third and final year in Historical Stone Carving at City & Guilds of London Art School. This will enable her to achieve the diploma and embark upon a career as a stone carver for both restoration and artistic purposes.

Wayne Hart (24) *Lettercutter*

Wayne Hart, an apprentice lettercutter, has been awarded a scholarship to complete his apprenticeship with his master Pip Hall in Dentdale, Cumbria.



Joseph Lotito (37) *Violin maker*

Winning a QEST Scholarship will ensure that Joseph can complete his two-year West Dean College Diploma course in the Making of Stringed Musical Instruments and take up the offer of an internship with Shem Mackey, another QEST scholar, who is now one of the leading makers of baroque and renaissance instruments in the UK.

NEW SCHOLARS

These scholars received their awards at the
Royal Warrant Holders Luncheon in London in June

Daniel Maier (43) *Fine cabinet maker and engraver*

The QEST funding will enable Daniel to learn specialist hand metal engraving from English gun engravers and also Europe's most celebrated hand engraver, Roland Baptiste in Belgium. Daniel uses traditional trades including marquetry, engraving, leatherwork and metalwork and plans to integrate these alongside modern techniques, creating exquisite bespoke furniture incorporating engraved metal inlays.



Nicola Mathews (41) *Upholsterer and embroiderer*

Currently Nicola's role encompasses all kinds of soft furnishing manufacture and repair as well as conservation work to support historic furnishings throughout the Royal Palaces. Now, with a QEST scholarship, Nicola will attend the Royal School of Needlework's Technical Hand Embroidery course and learn the technical skills that will allow her to excel in both new and historic embroidery work.

Richard Mossman (35) *Stonecarver*

Richard's award will enable him to complete the Postgraduate Diploma in Historic Stone Carving at the City & Guilds of London Art School and develop his studies of anatomy and the figurative form so that he can play his part in helping to restore Britain's unique built heritage.



Katherine Pogson (45) *Leather designer for fashion and interiors*

Katherine's scholarship will fund a series of week-long courses in computer-aided design for fashion and textiles at Central Saint Martin's, The University of the Arts in London. With greater fluency in technology, she will be able to utilise aspects such as laser cutting and digital printing as a primary creative tool to enrich and feed directly back into her handmade work and thus further extend her range of bespoke leather products.





The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust
No 1 Buckingham Place
London SW1E 6HR
Registered Charity No. 802557

General enquiries:
Tel: 020 7828 2268
Email: qest@rwha.co.uk

Press enquiries: Shelley-Anne Claircourt
Tel: 020 7854 1827
Email: info@pressoffice.co.uk

www.qest.org.uk

FUNDRAISING FOR QEST'S 2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE APPEAL

To enable the Royal Warrant Holders to have a full understanding of QEST and to meet some of the craftsmen and women that have been funded by their charity, a series of events have been arranged. The first was a breakfast held at Mosimann's, when Hannah Griffiths, a mosaic artist and Bethan Lloyd-Worthington, a ceramicist showed their work. During April, Pol Roger gave a tutored champagne tasting whilst highlighting the skills of their wine makers. On both occasions, a presentation was given to illustrate the range of scholars that have been supported by QEST and to detail the Trustees' ambitions for the future of the Association's charity.

More information can be found on the fundraising page of the QEST website at www.qest.org.uk/appeal.html



WHO'S WHO AT QEST

Chairman:
Richard Watling

Trustees:
Penny Bendall
Bendall Ceramic Conservation

Jenifer Emery
Edward Goodyear Ltd

Nick Farrow Farrows Ltd

Mark Henderson
Gieves and Hawkes Ltd

Sally Mangum Calligrapher

Fiona Rae
Jeweller and Enameller

Trustee & Honorary Treasurer:
Alec McQuin Rokill Ltd

Ex officio Trustee:
Robert Hall
James & Son (Grain Merchants) Ltd

Secretary:
Richard Peck

QEST CRAFT AWARDS

Do you know someone who could benefit from a QEST Award? Scholarships of up to £15,000 are awarded twice a year to craftsmen and women with exceptional talent to enable them to advance their education and skills in modern and traditional crafts in the UK.

- Since 1991 the Trust has granted scholarships worth more than £1.5 million to over 230 craftsmen and women
- 61 scholars were over 40 and 15 of those over 50
- The youngest scholar was 17
- Scholars have studied with masters in workshops around the world
- Over 100 different crafts and conservation skills have benefitted

It is open to all ages and even for those embarking upon a second career. The Trustees look for well thought-out projects that highlight applicants' passion and commitment to their craft and thus ensure that they will contribute to the pool of talent in the UK and reflect the excellence of British craftsmanship as symbolised by the Royal Warrant of Appointment.

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST), the charitable arm of the Royal Warrant Holders Association, was established in 1990 with money contributed by its members, to mark the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Association.

To find out more and download an application form visit the QEST website at www.qest.org.uk