

## Conference 2017

I do hope you are all looking forward to another conference, in 2017 it is going to be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> at Newton Rigg Agricultural College in the lovely Lake District

For the benefit of those who have not been to conference before let me outline what to expect:

The conference starts on Friday evening with arrival between 4pm and 5pm. The first 'ice breaker' is Art Attack a design related activity from 5- 6 (*my abject apologies this activity will not be accessible to those who cannot manage stairs*); this is followed by supper before a brief AGM and our first wonderful evening speaker.

On Saturday after breakfast the workshops start promptly at 9.30 and continue until 4.30. Each delegate can apply for their choice of one of the 6 workshops, but be warned they fill up quickly and some will be oversubscribed and subject to a ballot for places. Please apply promptly, offer a second choice and be prepared to accept another if this proves necessary. There are breaks for refreshments and lunch, which also gives you a chance to check out the suppliers stands and look at the exhibitions. On Saturday evening the dinner is a little more formal with table service and is when the bursary award is presented. Afterwards we have yet another excellent evening speaker.

On Sunday morning we gather at the exhibition to hear the results of selection and for the presentation of the various awards (more details of this elsewhere in the Journal) then after coffee we have a Masterclass demonstration. This is recorded and will be available for sale at a later date on DVD. We finish off with lunch before everyone departs for home.

Please do not be deterred by the 'Northern' destination it is really easy to get to. The college is less than 2 miles drive from J40 on the M6 (and I drive it in just over 4hrs from the M25/M40 junction). By train Penrith is 3 hours direct line from Euston and a taxi from the station to the college should cost about £5. Have some sympathy for our more northern members who still have a 5 hour drive to get to this our most northerly venue!

Facilities at the college will not be as luxurious as some venues we have used as, although now owned and run by Askham Bryan College, it was formerly part of Cumbria University at a time when this institution was struggling and hence has lacked investment. However all rooms are en-suite, there are some adapted facilities for those with mobility issues and they can offer direct water supply and sinks in 5 of the 6 workshop rooms. They also have a reputation for using excellent local produce from this 'foodie' county! Most important of all, they seem prepared to have a very 'can do' response to all our requests. For anyone wanting to see a bit more of the area they can also offer extra nights B&B on both Thursday and Sunday for £40 per person per night.

An application form should accompany this journal but anyone wanting to notify their intention to apply and their workshop choice by e-mail is welcome to do so to [janeshep139@gmail.com](mailto:janeshep139@gmail.com). Any e-mail place reserved must be followed up by a formal application form (hard copy or electronic) and payment within 10 days. Payment can be made by direct transfer to the Guild account (sort code 40 20 02 account 01044052) or by cheque payable to the Guild of Enamellers. Workshop allocation will commence on 30<sup>th</sup> December and is 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. If you know of anyone who may not be able to receive their journal in time, please let them know this article and all details are also on the Guild website [www.guildofenamellers.org](http://www.guildofenamellers.org).

Any questions please phone me on 01900 823095 (leave answerphone message and number if I am out and I will return your call) or e-mail [janeshep139@gmail.com](mailto:janeshep139@gmail.com). Applications will be acknowledged by 16th Jan by e-mail (or phone if you do not have internet access) so please ensure I have up to date and accurate contact details. Conference packs with more detailed information will be despatched late Feb/ early March, also by e-mail wherever possible.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in April.

Jane Sheppard, Conference Secretary