



# Chinese Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire)

Issue 21

## February/March 2008

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### Events diary

Please make a note in your diary of the following dates

Saturday/Sunday  
29/30 March 2008

Painting Workshop  
Maggie Cross

Saturday 12 April  
2008  
Calligraphy  
Workshop  
Jiang Xin

Workshops for May  
and July are being  
planned – more  
details in the next  
newsletter

21 - 22 June 2008

Landscape  
Workshop

Xiao Bai Li

Sat/Sun 23/24  
August 2008

Painting Workshop  
Kaili Fu

Saturday/Sunday  
18/19 October 2008

National AGM  
followed by  
workshops

### Book Reviews

If you have a favourite book on Chinese Brush Painting – let me have a review to share with other members

Our second AGM was successfully held on Sunday 24 February with 15 members attending. See overleaf for a summary of the meeting. After the business part of the meeting, we enjoyed a shared buffet lunch. We then had an auction of the paintings which Brian had donated (again, see overleaf for details). The afternoon session was a double act of Brian and Feng Li. We split into 2 groups – calligraphy or paper folding – and spent a really enjoyable 1½ hours on each subject. Some members enjoyed the activity so much that they chose to repeat the activity instead of moving on!



Feng Li, accompanied by her adorable daughters, gave us an excellent workshop in paper folding. This is the same as Japanese origami. We had great fun making a shirt, a pair of trousers, a camera and a butterfly out of brightly coloured papers. Feng Li was very organised and had all the papers ready for us along with samples of what we had to achieve. This was great fun!

Feng Li also showed us lovely examples of her paper cutting – something that we could do in the future, maybe?



You can see the concentration and enjoyment on our faces!



Brian gave us an excellent workshop on calligraphy and paid special attention to showing us how to write calligraphy that would be suitable for our paintings. He gave much needed individual attention ensuring that we could write the strokes in an accurate way. He also showed us an easy way of ensuring that we write the calligraphy in the appropriate size and evenly by cutting a window in paper and leaving space to practice the characters nearby.



Calligraphy as bamboo

Brian brought a page of 1000 characters written by the Emperor Tai Zong in about 630 AD to inspire (frighten?) us! This is a stone rubbing. He also showed us an example of calligraphy being written in the form of bamboo as a secret message. He spent time discussing with us how to combine characters that would be suitable according to the subject of our paintings. The handouts that he gave us of a selection of characters will be treasured by us all.



### Forthcoming meetings

#### Sat and Sun 29/30 March 2008 – Painting Workshops – Maggie Cross

This workshop is full on the Saturday with only a few spaces left for Sunday.

#### Saturday 12 April 2008 – Calligraphy Workshop – Jiang Xin

A booking form is included with this newsletter. This is a good opportunity to learn calligraphy to apply to your paintings. Jiang Xin will also write your name for you in calligraphy for you to copy.

#### Sat and Sun 21/22 June 2008 – Painting Workshops – Xiao Bai

Xiao Bai is making a welcome return to paint landscapes in a modern style as we requested. Further details nearer the time.

#### Sat and Sun 23/24 August 2008 – Painting Workshops – Kaili Fu

Please reserve the dates in your diary. Further details nearer the time.

**Saturday 18 October 2008 - National AGM of the CBPS followed by a workshop. Sunday 19 October 2008 – workshop – details to be finalised**

See the front page of the newsletter for the dates of the forthcoming workshops. More details of these, including booking forms, will be given in future newsletters.

### Sales between members

I thought that this might be a useful service but no one has contacted me – either offering books or materials for sale or offering to purchase the book offered by Beryl.

Please let me know if you think this is a useful service. If I do not hear, I guess that I will have to discontinue this item. Anne

### Famous Artists of China - Wang Ming Fang

Wang Ming Fang is one of China's finest freestyle bird and flower painters, and is well known throughout the country.

A native of Xian, he was born in 1960. From childhood he deeply loved drawing, and even the Cultural Revolution did not deter him. In 1980 he was lucky to have the famous flower and bird painter Zhang Hao as his teacher.

Wang Ming Fang was always very industrious, and he took his studies seriously. Even today he regularly goes back to Nature, and does many sketches. It is this diligence that has given his work a rare reality.

He has spent many years also as a teacher of art, in schools of all grades, and he admitted to me that he gained much from the observations of children. He is a teacher in the prestigious Xian Institute of Art, and he holds many private exhibitions. He has won many national prizes, including one in an international painting and calligraphy competition.

Wang Ming Fang is constantly developing his art, and his birds, though appearing like caricatures, are very realistic in their poses. It was he who introduced me to his friend, the Minister for Culture for Shaanxi, at his home in Banpo. It was the Minister who personally asked me to help their local artists. This I have tried to do.



Wang Ming Fang

### EVENTS

**The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8NP 01833 690606 [www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk](http://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk)**

#### Chinoiserie Wed 16 Jan 08 - Sun 06 Apr 08

A celebration of Chinese influence in design including the famous 'willow pattern'. Timed to coincide with the Beijing Olympics.

#### China in Yorkshire

Many events are taking place throughout 2008 within Yorkshire. Some of them are listed below. You can find further details of these at [www.chinainyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.chinainyorkshire.org.uk)

- 7 February – 31 December – Chinese Reflections – York Castle Museum
- 15 March – 2 November – China at Harewood – Harewood House, Leeds
- 19 March – 31 October – China 08 at the National Railway Museum, York
- 12 April – 4 October – Return of the Grice Ivories – Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield
- 25 April – 20 July – China and Wakefield – Wakefield Museum
- 1 May – 1 September – The Silk Empire at the North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe
- 1 June – 1 September – Chinese Printmaking Today at Cartwright Hall, Bradford
- 1 June – 31 December – Chinese Ceramics at Fairfax House, York
- 6 August – 26 August – China Local and Global – Leeds Central Library

Events about China are taking place all over the country, so if you hear anything happening in your local area, please let me have details so that I can let the other members know. I am reprinting this as the dates are still current. Anne



### Brian's Calligraphy Corner

#### Chinese Calligraphy 5

##### The New Year

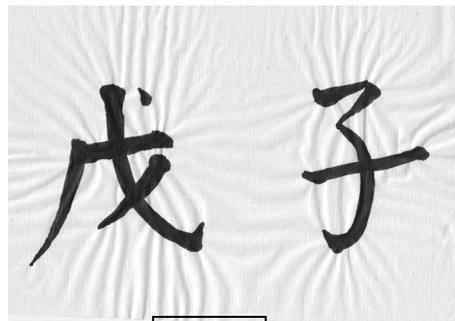
The Chinese year 2008 is signified by the following combination, spoken as **Wu Zi**. This is the present year in the traditional 60 year cycle, beginning at the New Year in the lunar calendar.

##### The Golden Knife Stroke

This is a very common but difficult stroke in Chinese characters.

It is painted from top to bottom. Start with the tip of the brush, and turn the upper end of the stroke. Then go downwards with quickly increasing pressure, as shown by the fat part of the red line. Towards the bottom reduce pressure fairly quickly, and trace the edge of the foot of the character with the tip of the brush, finally finishing with slight increase of pressure on the upward return.

It can be painted by other methods, but I find this one more reliable.



2008



Golden Knife Stroke

Thank you, Brian, for yet another interesting instalment of our calligraphy classes. Has anyone any questions or comments to send back to Brian? Anne

After a very successful exhibition in Shanghai, LeiLei's New York exhibition opens on Saturday 15 March 2008. We wish him every success. Anne

*June sent me the following review in response to seeing LeiLei's landscapes incorporating scattering of ink and paint. Anne*

Incidentally, Rebecca Yue covers splattering techniques in her book 'Chinese Landscapes Made Easy'; a must for anyone interested in the landscape aspect of Chinese Brush painting. 176 pages of easy to follow step by step instructions capturing the changing moods and seasons of a variety of beautiful landscapes. Even if you never put brush to paper this book is worth buying for the 'stunning' pictures alone. ISBN 987-0-7134-9047-3, RRP £14.99 but I bought it at £10.66 from [www.bookdepository.co.uk](http://www.bookdepository.co.uk).

Keep up the good work with the brilliant newsletters Anne, especially useful for those of us who don't get to workshops on a regular basis. Regards, June from Bury

#### Auction of Paintings

At the AGM, we had a highly successful auction of the paintings that Brian donated and we raised £120 towards Group funds. Thank you to Brian for your most generous gifts and for giving us information on each painting prior to the bidding.

Thank you also to Shirley who acted as the auctioneer and dragged every extra pound out of the bidders! This was a fun event and maybe we could have something similar next year? So if you have anything that you can donate, that you think will be of interest to your fellow members, you have a year in which to clear out your attics!

Maggie's workshop will be held at the end of March with Jiang Xin's calligraphy workshop only 2 weeks later. So I will combine the reports into one newsletter in April. So this newsletter is for February/March. Anne

#### Recruitment

In every newsletter I have asked members if they could help to publicise the Group and, in so doing, recruit more members, but I have had no response! Please, please help. How can you help to make our Group even more successful? Please can you offer to do something to ease the burden on the few? Please get involved – if only handing out leaflets to interested artists. Anne

#### Notes from the AGM

Full Minutes of the meeting will be prepared by Sandra for handing out at the AGM in 2009 so meanwhile here are the main points that arose:

- The Group is in a healthy financial position with a balance of about £2000 (less some outgoings still to be accounted for).
- It was agreed to increase the number of Committee members to 4.
- The current members of the committee and the officers were re-elected.
- Bob Perkin and Dorothy Pickering agreed to accept nominations to the Committee. (Dorothy had to decline but will be willing to assist as needed. There is now a vacancy.)
- It was voted by majority decision to increase the subscription to the Group by £2.50 for 2009. This means that postal membership will be £10 pa and email membership will be £7.50.
- The Group numbered 74 members during 2007 of whom 42 accepted communication by email.
- During the ensuing discussion, several members offered their assistance at the national AGM. These offers were gratefully accepted. Only members of the national Society will be able to attend the actual AGM but all members of our Group will be welcome as helpers and will be welcome at the workshop following the meeting and at the workshop on the Sunday.

**Brian sent me the following snippet of information:**

At the Opening of China in Yorkshire, I was asked to do the calligraphy slot. Of course the Chinese people were curious, so some of them tried to play a game/trick on me. They wrote a character, upside down to me, and asked how many strokes before I identified it. Here, I had just identified his name in 4, then Chun, Spring, in 2. So he gave up trying. **Well done, Brian! Anne**



This is a fantastic display of lanterns (like those that we made with Brian). On 1 March, Brian was organising a display of lanterns assembled by the local Chinese children in a floating display on water in Clifton Park, Rotherham. I hope that we will have a photograph of the display for the next newsletter. I hope that all of you who started a lantern last year have completed it so that we can hang them all at the national AGM. If not (like me!), you have 6 months in which to complete it!!! **Anne**



**Thank you, Brian**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian for giving us his support in so many ways but particularly for all his contributions to our newsletters. Without his contributions, we would have a much thinner newsletter each month and my job would be much more difficult. Thank you, Brian. **Anne**

**Events at Harewood House**

This is a synopsis of some of the events that are taking place in 2008.

15 March – 2 November – Harewood House is celebrating a long standing connection with the arts of China.

The famous Chinese wallpaper dating from 1769 which was found in a storeroom at Harewood House in 1988, has been hung in the East Bedroom. On Monday 31 March, Melissa Gallimore (Curator and Project Manager of the East Bedroom refurbishment and a member of our Group) will lead a tour of the East Bedroom. Fee - £14.50

15 March – 2 November – Chinoiserie at Harewood – see the beautiful Chinese, Indian and European, in the Chinoiserie style, objects collected by the Lascelles family during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and now displayed in the exhibition rooms next door to the refurbished East bedroom.

Sat 17 May and Sun 18 May 10.15 am – 1 pm. Flying High - construct a Chinese 3 stick kite – Malcolm Goodman Fee - £4.

17 May – 3 August – Exhibition of work by Hong Kong based artists Fiona Wong and Wilson Shieh.

Saturday 7 June – The Harewood Dragon Boat festival. As well as the Dragon Boat race there will be lantern-making, paper crafts, tai chi demonstrations, traditional Unicorn dances and much more.

Monday 9 June 2008 – Chinese Calligraphy – Mary Tang 10 am – 2 pm. Fee - £24.50.

6 July – Chinese Culture Day – celebrate the sights, sounds and smells of Chinese food, culture and craft. Cookery demonstrations, musicians and performances.

These are just some of the exhibitions and workshops that are planned for 2008. All the events have limited numbers, so you advised to book early.

For further details and to book tickets go to [www.harewood.org](http://www.harewood.org) or ring 0113 218 1000.

**National CBPS AGM**

Our Group has the honour of hosting the next AGM of the national society and this will be held at The Crescent Hotel, Ilkley on Saturday 18 October 2008. This will be followed by an exciting topic in the afternoon – more details when finalised. We will also be holding a workshop on the following day. We will keep you up to date on all developments.

If you are not a member of the CBPS yet, perhaps you would like to consider joining in order to attend the AGM and to keep up to date with all that is happening in Chinese Brush Painting nationally. Contact Pam Mellish, 18 Severn Drive, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 3BQ, 01932 221313. You can see details of the Society on the website: [www.cbps.co.uk](http://www.cbps.co.uk) where you can also see some inspirational paintings. Membership currently costs £17 pa.

When you join, can you please let me know your membership number so that I can add it to our database. **Anne**

OAS (Oriental Art Supply) is a company in California offering a mail order business in Chinese Brush materials and instructional DVDs from Ning Yeh. Many of these DVDs are available on loan from our national society in video format. OAS also produces interesting newsletters. See [www.orientalartsupply.com](http://www.orientalartsupply.com). There are some interesting facts about calligraphy in the latest issue and the type of brushes that you should use according to what style of calligraphy you are writing. Additionally there is an excellent explanation of why it is important to study calligraphy if you are a Chinese Brush painter. So don't forget to practise Brian's lessons and come along to the calligraphy workshop and build on what you have already learnt.