



A TOUCH OF GLASS

Newsletter of the Creative Glass Guild of Queensland December 2020 Edition

Christmas Greetings!

Before we bid adieu to the most challenging year most of us have encountered, it is timely for me to take a minute or two to reflect on the year that was.

It's easy to focus on all the negatives that 2020 has brought us – but one thing you can say about our *annus horribilis*: it wasn't pretty, but it was very memorable.

The Creative Glass Guild of Queensland faced many challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We were essentially closed for three months, resulting in no individual project days, no courses or workshops from March, which meant no remuneration for our tutors, no sale of glass or sundry items, and cancellation of our annual exhibition – all of which added up to no income for the Guild during this period of total shutdown.

Sound finances

Fortunately, we are in a sound financial position and we did receive support from the Brisbane City Council with a grant of \$10,000, as well as support from Origin Energy regarding our electricity bill to meet our obligations.

To support our members, the annual subscription has been extended for three months reflecting the time the Guild was closed.

I am not aware of any of our members who had the dreaded virus, which was a very encouraging result.

During the lockdown phase, I certainly missed interactions with my children and grandchildren and the fraternity and camaraderie of Guild members.

I know many of our members were able to carry on projects from home, but I know we all breathed a sigh of relief when we as Australians flattened the curve and we could participate in the “new normal” as the Guild reopened under Covid-19 protocols.

The management committee had several meetings via Zoom, as well as general meetings. Unfortunately, a couple of the general meetings failed to achieve a quorum resulting in no concrete decisions being approved to progress the development of the Guild for the future.

To move or not to move

The main topic dominating discussion during these meetings has been the development of the Guild's facilities. Do we refurb the Guild or do we continue to look at Brisbane City Council facilities to possibly relocate?

Earlier this year we engaged an architect to draw some preliminary plans to expand and enhance the Guild.

We have just received Evoke Architects' invoice at a 50% reduction of the original quote. A big thank you to Alvin from Evoke, who also asked some pertinent questions regarding our future.

Can we afford a refurbishment?

Do we envision that the Guild will still be at Red Hill in 50 years? If so, perhaps we finalise the architect plans, seek approval from the BCC, take the plunge and look at financing the development through government grants and a loan facility?

A big thank you to our volunteers who have opened the Guild to members for projects and to purchase goods. I would especially like to acknowledge the contribution by Denise who has opened the Guild every Friday and Saturday since our reopening in July.

Also, Denise and Chris have spent many hours cataloguing our glass that was either purchased or donated over the past 12 months, for our mega glass sale held in October, which generated a very welcome \$6,000 plus.

Stop Press

With our new solar panels, we have recorded a 77% reduction in electricity usage since last year, which amounts to a healthy reduction of 1.8 tonnes in our greenhouse gas emissions, according to the latest Origin report.

Merry Christmas to all. Have a peaceful, joyful period of interactions with family and friends, and I look forward to exploring with you the opportunities and possibilities for the Guild in 2021.

Best wishes, Kevin

Going gardening with glass

With so many events cancelled this year, we were happy to see National Gardening Week was still held from 11-17 October this year.

Ever since its creation in 2017, National Gardening Week has offered up a great opportunity to celebrate the simple and peaceful joys of gardening and to highlight the many environmental, social and health benefits that are associated with gardening as an enjoyable practice.

A few Guild members took up the challenge to try out their green thumbs, taking 'thyme' to create some garden-inspired glasswork.



Pictured (clockwise from above): Barbara's beetle family find their feet.

Diane's owl is a hoot –not quite 'garden', but if you are lucky, they live there!

Lyndall says she is not a gardener but loves garden art. Her garden mosaics are standing the test of time.

Chris's garden sparkles with the addition of these cute suncatchers.



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Website:
www.creativeglassguild.com.au

Workshop/Sales:
Saturdays, 9.00am-12.00pm

General meetings: Bi-monthly on first Monday of the month at 7.00 pm
(Notice will be emailed to members).

Management Meetings: Alternate months or earlier if required



It's a Covid kind of Christmas, so numbers were down a little at this year's Guild Christmas Party held at Red Hill on Saturday 12 December.

However, that didn't stop around 20 members celebrating the Festive Season in style.

Our partygoers enjoyed drinks, food and fine company before the Guild takes its traditional summer break from Tuesday 22 December to Sunday 17 January inclusive.

Merry Christmas one and all!



Coral creations captivate Brad

“I found the inspiration for these vases online, and the original was a clear base with transparent cobalt blue coral structures.

For the base I chose an opaque Wedgewood blue glass, that was overlain with clear. Both pieces were squares that had the edges rounded off, and a few irregular scallops out of the sides, to create a more organic form.

These two glasses were then fully fused together.

The white coral is an iridised opaque white, cut into approximately 7mm strips, and fully fused into the final shapes.

The white coral was tack-fused to the top surface of the Wedgewood/clear base layer.

The pieces were finally draped over the stainless steel moulds and both came out beautifully.

NB. The folds occurred where there were no coral pieces, and as there were four coral items per piece, they really formed quite a uniform drape.

In future, I would want these to be more randomised, so either place the coral items at irregular intervals, or have more coral items per piece.

I will be doing more of these style vases, with a more translucent effect, and hopefully much more organic feel.”

Merry Christmas everyone! Brad Mayger



Pictured (above): Brad displays his fused & slumped vases at Red Hill. Below: The vases feature iridised opaque white strips shaped as pieces of coral, which were tack-fused to the surface of the Wedgewood blue base glass. The pieces were shaped over stainless steel moulds. Right: Brad used scrap glass to produce this set of fused coasters.



Maureen's wall gets mosaic makeover

I started a mosaic project a few years ago with the initial support and help of Chris Bell.

Along the way, I started to attend the intermediate mosaic course run by Catherine Conaty.

I can honestly say I had no idea how long the project would take me and up until this year, I thought I may not finish it in this lifetime.

Then along came Covid, and suddenly I had a lot more time at home!

I wanted to dress up a plain back garden wall, giving it a fresh floral touch.

Guild member, Maureen Boyce, used her Covid lockdown time to come up with a clever mosaic makeover. Here's her story...

After drawing my flowers on paper, I carved out the petals using polystyrene sheets.

Then I then covered and pinned netting in place over the polystyrene, and used three layers of Laticrete 335 premium flexible adhesive to cover the flowers.

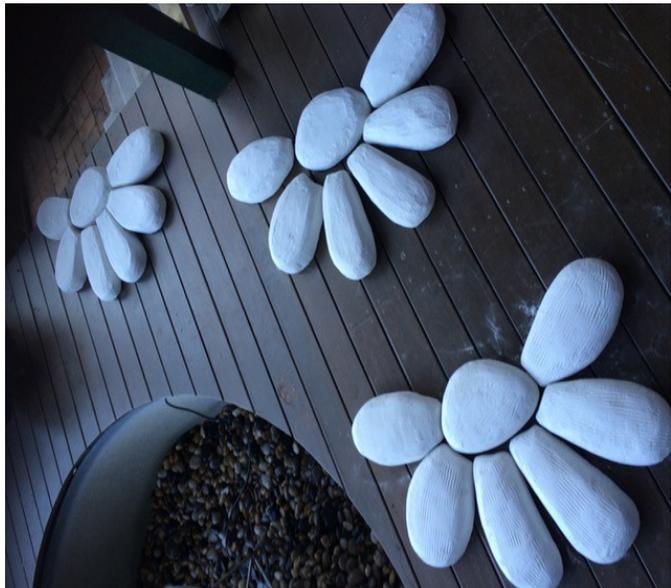
For the stems, I used glass mosaic tiles I found at Bunnings, butting them up against each other to create the line/stem.

So with Catherine Conaty's help, I have been able to finish my mosaics and install my flowers on my back garden wall.

So at least something good has come out of Covid time!

Best wishes, Maureen

Pictured (clockwise from left): The petals are carved from polystyrene sheets; the petals were mosaiced; Catherine and Maureen adhere the flowers to the substrate; and the finished mosaic makeover!



Santa's helpers get down to business

Workshops have been as rare as Covid parties this year, but we did manage to sneak in a couple of our traditional workshops in November.

The Guild's recent fused glass Christmas decorations workshops were a hit and participants went home with a bagful of decorations ready-made for their Christmas tree, complete with the "bibs and bobs" to decorate them.



Pictured: Under Chris Bell's careful guidance, workshop participants get busy creating a variety of fused Xmas decorations which they take home as decorations or handy presents.



Chris takes mosaic journey

The saying, *"Jack of all trades, master of none, though oftentimes better than master of one...and is much, much, more fun"* (I added the last bit).

This sums up my mosaic journey at the moment. However, I have tried my hand at a couple of things over the last couple of months, namely making jewellery and a few sun catchers.

Pictured below are some of the jewellery pieces I have attempted so far.

I am a novice, but Covid has given me the opportunity to try a few new things. I have also nearly completed an outdoor table that I have repurposed.

Wishing everyone a very safe and happy Xmas and New Year.

Warm Regards, Chris Scherer



Las Vegas glitz in rainbow leadlights

If you've been bingeing on Netflix's latest series, *'The Queen's Gambit'*, you may have been amazed by the spectacular leadlight windows displayed in one of the recent episodes.

In the series, the windows are supposedly in the (fictional) Aztec Palace Hotel in Mexico City. They are in fact located in the Friedrichstadt-Palast, one of Germany's largest live performance centres, and one of the most spectacular in Europe.

The building replaced the crumbling Großes Schauspielhaus, a landmark of Berlin's cabaret heyday with a fantastical 1920's interior by Expressionist architect, Hans Poelzig.

East German architects couldn't match Poelzig's exuberance, but they tried.

The building is the apotheosis of a short-lived architectural style known as Plattenbau postmodernism. Its façade of pre-cast



Pictured above: Punctuated with LED rainbow lights, this is the glitzy façade of the Friedrichstadt-Palast building with myriad leadlight windows. Right: The windows are installed in panels of pre-cast concrete. Garish!

concrete panels is decorated in swoopy arches and a vast display of stained glass windows, now punctuated with LED rainbow lights.

Loved or hated, Friedrichstadt-Palast wears its dubious mission of bringing Las Vegas glitz to Berlin as a badge of honour.



If you saw one of these creatures coming toward you in the surf, you would probably swim the other way.

But for Italian glass artist, Daniela Forti, who is based in picturesque Tuscany, they are a thing of beauty.

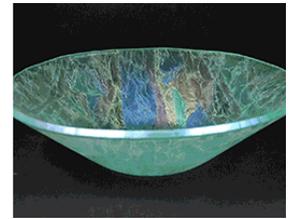
Daniela employs a unique glass-fusion technique to delicately craft these luminous works of art, each piece capturing the graceful fluidity and floating nature of the aquatic animals.

Her jellyfish sculptures employ a network of tangled tentacles as structural support. Seemingly dripping from the surface of the table, these tentacles elegantly combine everyday function with experimental art.

To create each unique work of art, Daniela meticulously employs glass fusion, a unique method of glassworking that blends glass with crystal.

The results are illuminating.

'Glass at the Garden Show' is a goer for our Utah sister Guild



Covid 19 hasn't completely ruined everything in the USA.

Our namesake in the USA, the Glass Guild of Utah, decided to press ahead with their annual *Glass At the Garden Show and Sale*, which runs from November 7 to December 20, 2020.

Wow – that's over six weeks! Admission to their show is free.

Glass arts community

The Glass Art Guild of Utah is a community of artists working cooperatively to support, promote and develop glass art forms by serving the education, networking and information needs of its members.

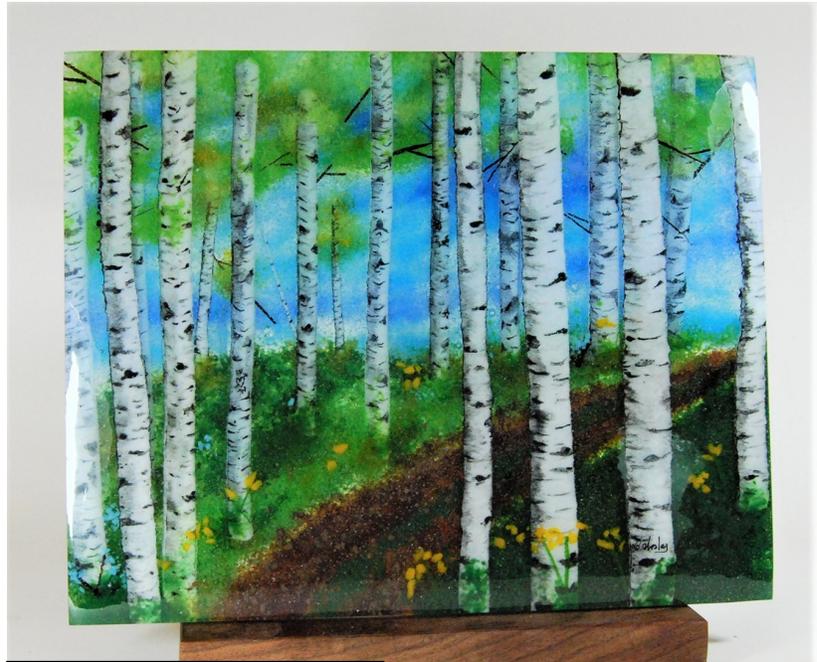
The Utah Guild has similar aims and values as our own - it's a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing a forum to increase exposure and appreciation of art glass in the community, and a networking opportunity for artists.

Hobbyists rule!

Perhaps the one significant difference between them and us is that we have more hobbyists as members – which we think is a good thing!

During Covid, the Utah Guild's artists have been busy creating unique jewellery, decorative and functional bowls and platters, whimsical garden art, glass paintings, and sculpture – all of which will be on display and sale at their Garden Show and Sale.

Our own Guild Exhibition will be held on Sat 17 and Sun 18 July next year.



Pictured above: 'Aspen Spring', a fused creation by Barbara Wesley which won 'Best of Show' at the *Utah Glass at the Garden Show and Sale*.

Right: 'Murine Set', a selection of fused glass jewellery by Mary Young

Below: Jewellery, garden art, decorative platters and sculptures made up entries in the judged section of the Utah Show.



The glass brilliance of Cologne Cathedral

We cannot travel to distant places at the moment, so we thought we would bring you some of the world's most admired glass art displays.

Germany's Cologne Cathedral has been one of the most popular pilgrimage sites for Catholics and tourists since it began construction in 1248.

However, it is also renowned as a temple of modern art, particularly since 2007, when one of Germany's foremost visual artists, Gerhard Richter, designed the Cathedral's spectacular 'Gates of Heaven' window.

72 bright colours

The south transept window consists of 11,500 small glass squares in 72 bright colours, and when the sun shines through them, small rays of colourful light dance through the Cathedral.

Some of the brightly coloured square panes were arranged randomly, while others were selected in response to the architectural context.

This interaction of chance and calculation created an abstract 'colour-tone carpet' whose particles glow in the light of day and are not held together with lead comes.

Rather, they are fixed on a support disc with silicone gel, so that the coloured facets interact without the usual lines found in traditional glass painting and leadlights.

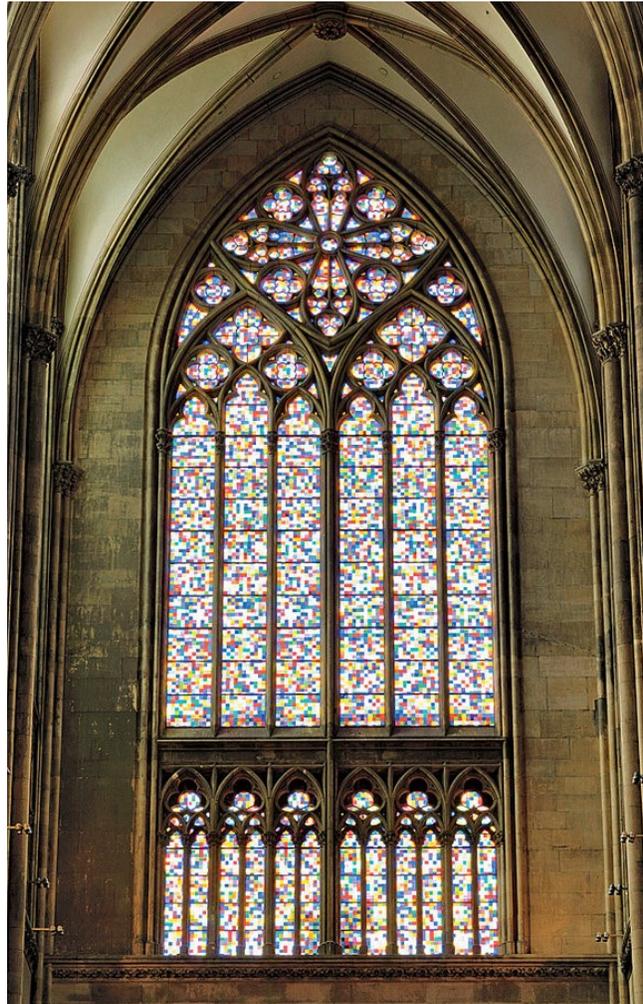
Original window destroyed

It was a former Cathedral master builder who asked the Cologne-based Gerhard Richter for a design to replace the original window, which had been destroyed during World War II.

Not everyone was enthusiastic about the decision. Archbishop Meissner, the former Cardinal of Cologne, protested against Richter's pixelated concept, which he felt was more suitable for a mosque than a cathedral.

Others criticised it for not being 'spiritual' enough. The artist himself realised from the start that there would be resistance to his decision to avoid the traditional figurative representation found in most church windows.

We glass-lovers think it looks rather nice.



Pictured above: The spectacular 'Gates of Heaven' window was completed in 2007, comprising 11,500 small glass squares in 72 colours. The window does not use lead came, but rather the glass pieces are fixed on a support disc, and held together with silicone gel.

Below: A closeup of the glass squares shows an abstract colour-tone carpet whose particles glow in the light of day, sending rays of colour throughout the Cathedral.





Guild members have been busy bees leading up to the Christmas break.

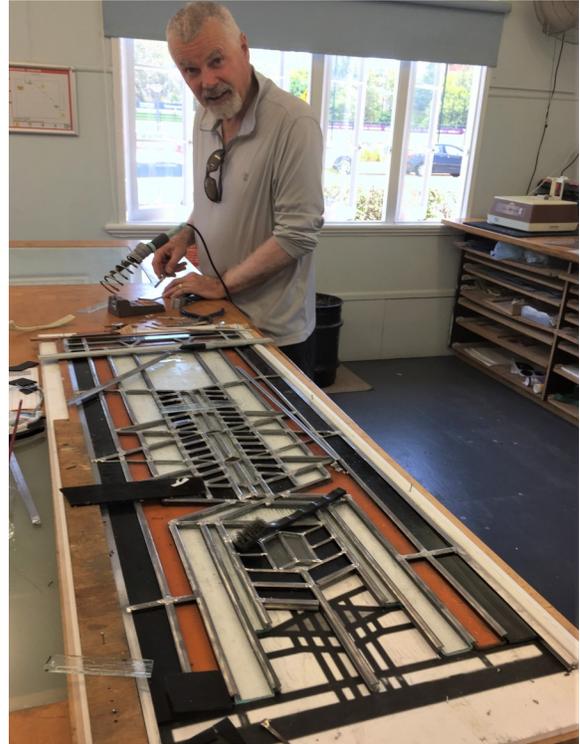
Pictured (clockwise from above): Grahame and his WIP rose lamp, his seventh with a floral theme.

Glass block with Christmas lights and fused decorations by Barbara; Fused and shaped leaf 34x15cm by Barbara

Cheryl's WIP mosaic lorikeet platter

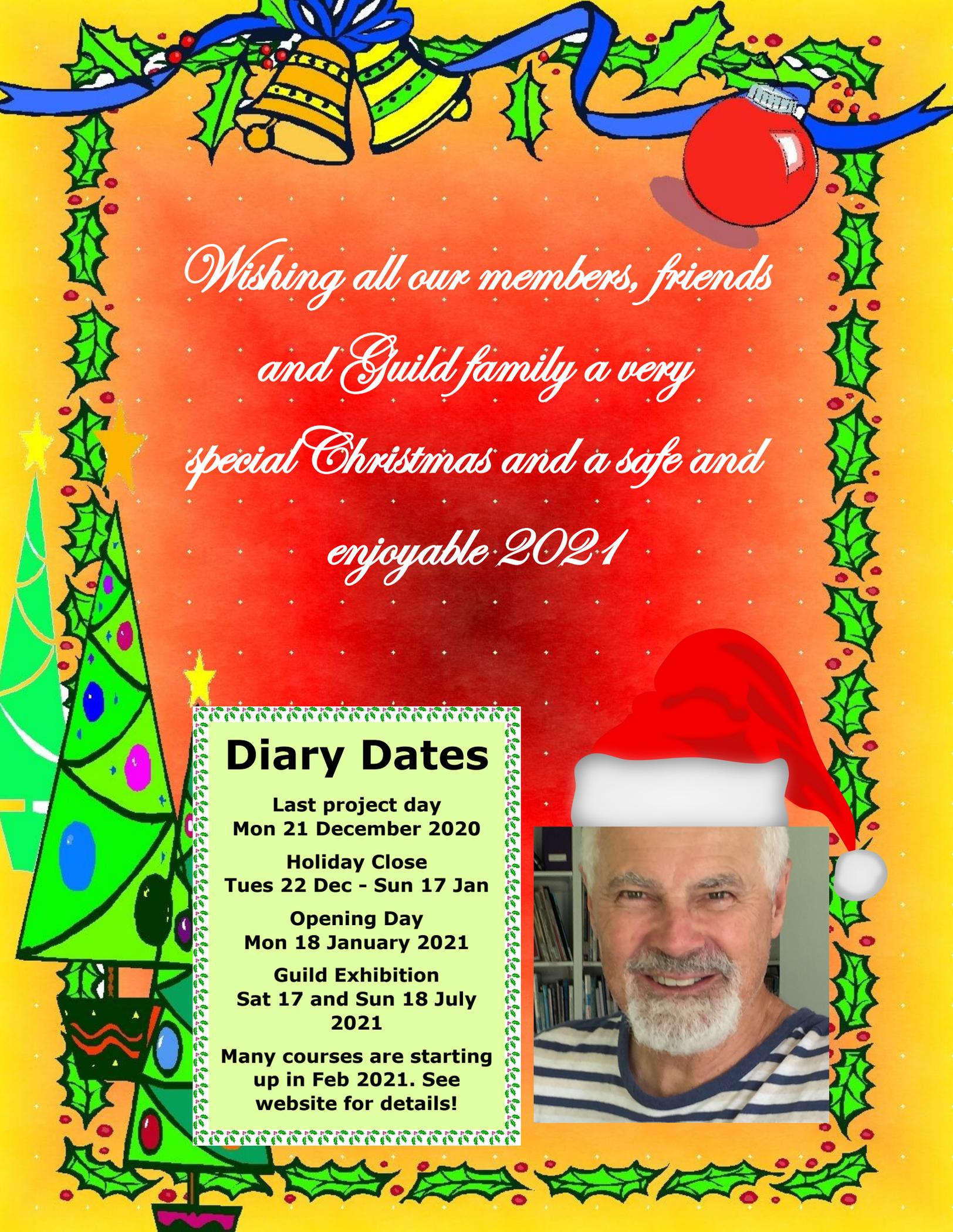
John turns out some attractive copperfoiled lamps





The Guild's front windows are going to look spectacular once our selection of different styles of leadlights are installed. Evert checks out his Edwardian piece (above left); Kevin puts the finishing touches to his Frank Lloyd Wright style (above right), and Ian creates an Art Deco floral style (below). Meanwhile, Ken has been hard at work producing more sensational figures (below left) inspired by the work of artist Chris LeBeau in the Marriage Chamber of Amsterdam's Sofitel Grand Hotel.





*Wishing all our members, friends
and Guild family a very
special Christmas and a safe and
enjoyable 2021*

Diary Dates

**Last project day
Mon 21 December 2020**

**Holiday Close
Tues 22 Dec - Sun 17 Jan**

**Opening Day
Mon 18 January 2021**

**Guild Exhibition
Sat 17 and Sun 18 July
2021**

**Many courses are starting
up in Feb 2021. See
website for details!**

