



# FESTIVAL OF SILVER 2012

Promoting The Best In Contemporary British Silversmithing

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# FESTIVAL OF SILVER

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*Cover photograph: 'Axis' by Alex Brogden*



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Lead Patron

# Welcome to Festival of Silver 2012

Welcome to the 2012 Festival of Silver. This year the exhibitions are bigger than ever with a new partnership with Craft in Focus and a brand new exhibition at the Goldsmiths' Centre in Clerkenwell. I hope you really enjoy the marvellous work of our collection of contemporary silversmiths.

## Gordon Hamme, 2012 Festival of Silver MD



*'Embassy' tea service, David Mellor, Sheffield 1965*

We have asked John Andrew the curator of the Pearson Silver Collection to set the scene for our forthcoming selling exhibitions:

### **Why did British Silver blossom post 1945?**

We now talk about a Renaissance in British silver post World War II. There is no doubting that from the 1950s the UK has been a melting pot of creativity for silversmiths that today manifests itself in Britain being recognised as a world centre of excellence for designer-makers of silver objects.

Even in the early 1960s reference was made to the contemporary 'bursting of design and craftsmanship in [British] silver' that is comparable to the 'great age' – the 18th century\*. What brought about this gigantic change? Some say it is well documented. True, it possible by scouring through what sundry published works cover silver immediately after the hostilities to discover what happened.

Even before the War ended, the Government recognised that the nation had to improve its design capabilities to achieve exports. Immediately after the War the newly established Council of Industrial Design announced a major exhibition would be held the following year called 'Britain Can Make It'. Attracting over 1.4 million visitors, it was a visual feast, but also performed an educational role explaining the need for industrial design.



*Water jug, Gerald Benny, London 1949*



*Pair of fruit bowls, Eric Clements, London 1959*

The Royal College of Art was seen as a suitable vehicle for helping to raise design standards. Robert Goodden was appointed Professor of the School of Silversmithing and Jewellery. From 1948-78 he saw a galaxy of talented silversmithing students pass through his hands, among the early ones being Eric Clements, David Mellor, Robert Welch and Gerald Benney who in addition to silversmithing, became industrial designers.

Meanwhile at the Goldsmiths' Company, Graham Hughes was busy promoting modern silver by securing the new talent commissions and staging exhibitions at home and abroad. However, during the 1950s all those young silversmiths were influenced to a greater or lesser degree by Scandinavian design. Something else must have happened to have triggered the Renaissance?

At 2pm on the afternoon of 12 July talks on modern and contemporary silver will be held at the Goldsmiths' Centre. The first will answer this question. We hope you will join us.

### **John Andrew, The Pearson Silver Collection**

\* *The Director, October 1962 – A Handful of Silversmiths by Mary Noble*

# Thalen & Thalen

Special Guests at the Goldsmiths' Centre, 10th – 14th July



*'Eggshape' vessel*



*'Penguin' oil and vinegar set*

Father and son team Rob and Jaap Thalen have built an international reputation for exceptional silver vessels and sculptural silver objects. Rob, trained as a sculpture, has pushed the limits of silversmithing with pieces not normally seen at silver exhibitions. "Firstly we weld together two of the largest sections of silver the bullion suppliers can make, at a metre square each, and then Jaap and I can take up to three months to raise and finish a single vessel."

Thalen & Thalen have exhibited most recently at the premier decorative arts exhibition SOFA in New York, selling work at up to \$150,000. Thalen & Thalen pieces are in private and public collections in the US, Europe and Africa.

**thalen.thalen@gmail.com**  
**www.robthalen.nl**



*'Touchable' vessel*



*'Water jug'*



*'June' bowl*



*Tripod condiment pot by Esther Lord*

# The Events

'Festival of Silver'  
2012





# FESTIVAL OF SILVER



*Planished bowls by William & Son*

## William & Son

11th to 22nd June 2012

### Opening Times

Monday to Friday 10am to 6pm

### William & Son

10 Mount Street, Mayfair, London W1K 2TY

T: 020 7493 8385 F: 020 7493 8386

E: [info@williamandson.com](mailto:info@williamandson.com)

[www.williamandson.com](http://www.williamandson.com)



# FESTIVAL OF SILVER



*Transformation vase by Miriam Hanid*

## Styles Silver (Hungerford)

11th to 30th June 2012

Styles Silver will be showing a large selection of contemporary silverware by over 30 designer silversmiths, including work exclusively commissioned for this event. They hold a large selection of contemporary silver in stock all year round.

### **Styles Silver (Hungerford)**

12 Bridge Street, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0EH  
T: 01488 683922

[www.styles-silver.co.uk](http://www.styles-silver.co.uk)



# FESTIVAL OF SILVER



*Contemporary flower vessels by Shaun Grace*

## Cookson Precious Metals

19th to 22nd June 2012 (Birmingham)

Cookson will be holding an exhibition of 'Rising Stars'. Twenty-six silversmiths will be taking part, twenty-one sponsored by Cookson Precious Metals and five new Birmingham-based silversmiths sponsored by the Birmingham Assay Office.

### Opening Times

Tuesday 19th June to Thursday 21st June – 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Friday 22nd June – 8.30am to 3.00pm

**Cookson** 

### Cookson Precious Metals

59-83 Vittoria Street,  
Birmingham B1 3NZ



[www.cooksongold.com](http://www.cooksongold.com) [www.theassayoffice.co.uk](http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk)



# FESTIVAL OF SILVER



*Maebyung vase by William Lee*

## John Higgins Contemporary Silver

15th June to 1st July 2012

A selling exhibition of the finest contemporary silver, gold and enamels featuring 140 new exhibits from 30 of the finest British goldsmiths and silversmiths. Includes significant Jubilee Year commissions unique to this exhibition.

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*Floating Fabric Beaker by Phil Barnes*



*The*  
**GOLDSMITHS**  
*Centre*

## The Goldsmiths' Centre

**Selling exhibition 10th – 14th July**

The very first silver exhibition at the new Goldsmiths' Centre features contemporary silver dealers, silversmiths and special guests Thalen & Thalen from Belgium. The exhibition of silversmithing will feature:

- Brett Payne • John Higgins Contemporary Silver • Phil Barnes
- The Pearson Silver Collection • Styles Silver • William & Son



*Water jug by Rod Kelly, 1993*

Silversmiths represented will include:

Abigail Brown, Adrian Hope, Alex Brogden, Angela Cork, Angus McFadyen, Anthony Elson, Bryony Knox, Carol Mather, Clive Burr, Don Porritt, Elizabeth Peers, Esther Lord, Fred Rich, Graham Stewart, Hannah Dennis, Ian Calvert, James Dougall, Jane Short, Jenny Edge, Keith Tyssen, Kevin Grey, Lee Simmons, Leo Shirley Smith, Lucian Taylor, Malcolm Appleby, Martin Keane, Martyn Pugh, Michael Lloyd, Miriam Hanid, Nan Nan Liu, Ndidi Ekubia, Olivia Lowe, Pamela Rawnsley, Peter Musson, Phillip Kydd, Rauni Higson, Ray Walton, Rebecca Joselyn, Rod Kelly, Shaun Grace, Shona Marsh, Shimara Carlow, Sian Matthews, Steve Wager, Stella Champion, Stuart Jenkins, Theresa Nguyen, Wallis Lavery, Wally Gilbert, Wayne Meeten, Will Odell, William Lee.



*Devlin Decanter by Stuart Devlin, London 1976*





*The*  
**GOLDSMITHS'**  
*Centre*



*A centrepiece candelabrum  
by Christopher Lawrence, London 1990*

## 'The Renaissance of British Silversmithing'

Post-war silversmiths on display represented by The Pearson Collection  
and Styles Silver include:

- Chailey Lambert • Christopher Lawrence • Gerald Benney • Graham Watling  
• Keith Redfern • Robert Welch • Stuart Devlin.

Seminars by John Andrew, curator of the Pearson Silver Collection  
and George Styles of Styles Silver on

Thursday 12th July 2.00pm – 3.00pm (John Andrew).  
3.15pm – 4.15pm (George Styles).

### **The Goldsmiths' Centre**

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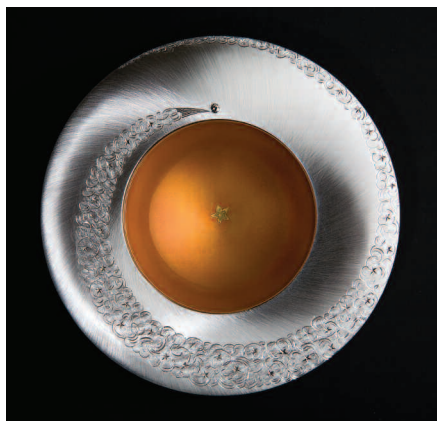




*Trillium candlesticks by Jean Wilkinson*

# The Silversmiths

'Festival of Silver'  
2012



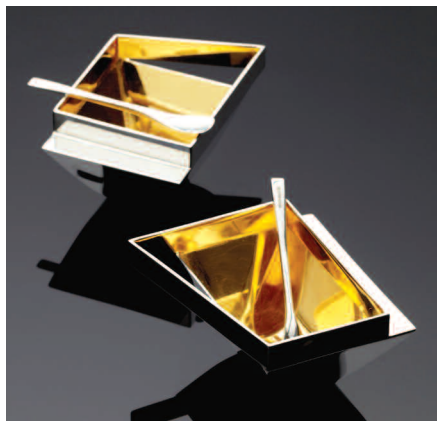
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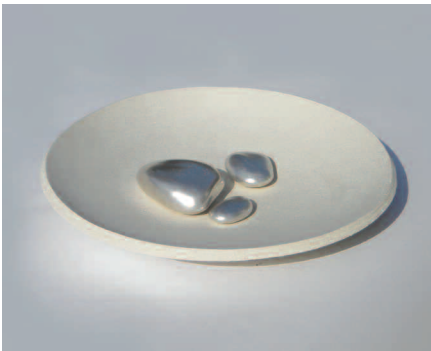
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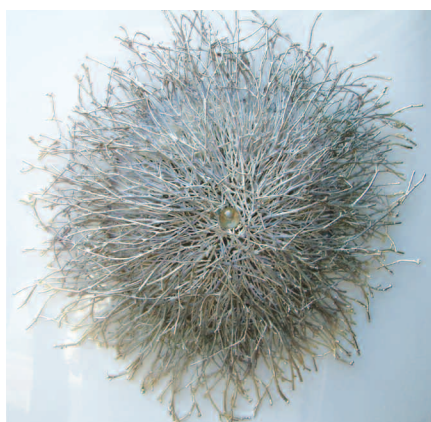
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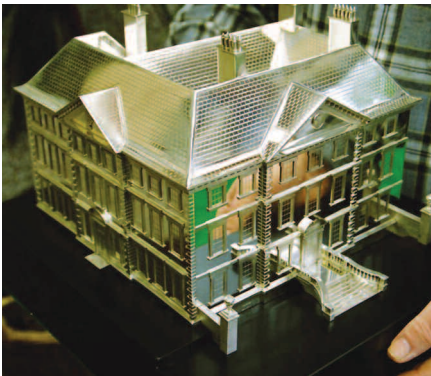
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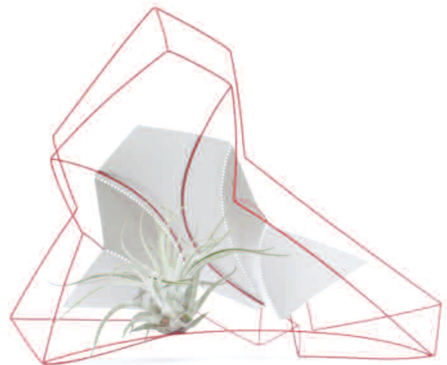
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'Festival of Silver'  
2012





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# Educational Sponsors

'Festival of Silver'  
2012

# THE PEARSON SILVER COLLECTION

The Pearson Silver Collection is devoted to Post War British Silver – ie vintage silver from 1945, together with contemporary pieces. Therefore it represents the story of British silversmithing from the end of World War II to the present day.

The Collection has its origins in the mid-1980s. Although it was started in the early 1970s, the interest then was domestic items and collectables such as snuff boxes, caddy spoons and the like and the preference was for the antique. However, in 1985 an interest in 20th century British silver developed. When the scope of the field was fully appreciated, it was decided to concentrate in Post War silver from 1945 to the present day. Other collections were disposed of to help finance the acquisition of pieces for what is now the Pearson Silver Collection. Today, it is widely regarded as the largest of its kind in private hands. Currently it is kept in four geographic locations.

In 2009 it was decided to make the Collection accessible to a wider audience by launching a website entirely devoted to it. In 2010 the site attracted over 190,000 hits. In addition to Showreel Highlights of each decade from the 1940s, and Showreel Highlights of the work of Gerald Benney, Stuart Devlin and Christopher Lawrence, the work of each silversmith represented in the Collection also features in the Gallery. The objective of the website is to bring Post War British designer silver, including contemporary pieces, to a wider audience.

The Pearson Silver Foundation aims to give the Collection greater exposure by arranging loans of pieces to museums in the UK and possibly overseas.

For your private view, visit

**[www.pearsonsilvercollection.com](http://www.pearsonsilvercollection.com)**

The Pearson Silver Collection will be displaying  
post-war silver pieces at the Goldsmiths' Centre  
10th – 14th July



*AE Jones, Birmingham 1959*



*Brian Asquith, Sheffield 1968*



*Alex Styles, London 1967*



*Leslie Durbin, London 1956*

'The Renaissance of British Silver' talk  
at the Goldsmiths' Centre, 2pm 12th July

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# Thank You

My many thanks to everyone who made Festival of Silver 2012 possible this year. To the great silversmiths and enthusiastic eventholders to whom I wish every success. Our patrons and sponsors who have encouraged us at every stage with particular thanks to the Goldsmiths' Company without whose continuing financial help and moral support we could not have got going five years ago.

To my great team and fellow directors, Sheena Brewer and Brett Payne for all their hard work and Past Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company Lord Cunliffe for his marvelous support and advice.

**Gordon Hamme**





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