

UK's Traditional Signwriting Revival!

Over 90 traditional signcraft artists from all over the world celebrated the crafts of signwriting, gilding, pinstriping and graining this September in Rochester, Kent. Attendees included top international sign artists such as David Adrian Smith, a world renowned traditional ornamental glass artist. East Coast Artie, a pinstriping Legend from California, USA. Mike Meyer The Traveling Signpainter from Minnesota, USA and David Kynaston one of the UK's top signwriters, based in Wales.

The 3 Days of celebration commenced on Friday 5th September and concluded on Sunday 7th September. Across the weekend the signwriters were joined by 15 international students who were able to learn from the wealth of experience and talent on hand and partake in a number of workshops looking into traditional signwriting, wood graining, pinstriping and glass gilding. Projects were sourced from across the south east and in exchange for lettering or pinstriping the lucky owners donated generously to the chosen charity for the meet, Arthritis Research UK.

The event concluded with a charity auction, where each signwriter brought with them, or created across the weekend a variety of panels, designs and articles.

In total the event raised a massive **£3646.56 for Arthritis Research UK.**

Event Organiser Kate Belmonte, 30 from Gillingham, Kent also curated an exhibition entitled 'Signs of Our Times'. Kate was over the moon to receive such a positive and excited response from those viewing the exhibition and boasts 'we had the greatest collection of Signwriting Art in the entire world in one place'.

Kate a freelance graphic designer and signage project manager became enthralled with traditional signwriting from a very early age, her father Mick Pollard is renowned across Kent and within the Letterheads Community for his traditional signwriting talent. Using her previous experience in the exhibition industry she organised the first International UK Letterheads Meet in just over 7 years and was astounded at how fast the event grew and how far afield artists were willing to travel to partake in the event. 'Letterhead Meets are generally on a smaller scale, with traditional signwriters often hosting the meets within their workshop space but when Mick approached me about hosting our own event, well, I don't do things in half measures!'

The meet was a huge success benefiting all who attended. 'There's already plenty of talk of when the next meet will be and who will take on the challenge of pinning so many master craftsman down at the same time. We are even looking into the possibility of hosting the first ever UK Walldogs event, where signwriters descend upon a town and community to paint a variety of large wall murals, which in turn boosts local tourism and bonds communities together.

For more details about the traditional signwriting revival or hosting an exhibition please email kate@lbsigns.co.uk check out post event news via www.ukletterheads2014.co.uk or subscribe to Pinstriping & Kustom Graphics Magazine for Kate's regular feature... Letterheads Corner.

Press Enquiries:

Kate Belmonte
E. kate@lbsigns.co.uk M. 07739 965596 T. 01634 814117

