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Newsletter October 2018

From the
Maker-In-
Chief



Hello Makers,

I hope you've all had a great time making stuff over the summer, and hopefully selling some stuff too. It was really good to see so many of you at the [EMF camp](#). I don't think we managed to get more than ten of us together for a photo, but am pretty sure over fifty members were there! Many of the talks from the weekend are now up on [emfcamp youtube](#). It's worth checking them out!

In Guild news: [Tanya Weaver](#) has taken on the role of pulling together and editing the Guild newsletter, which from now on will be going out monthly. For each edition, she'll be interviewing a Member for 'Ten Questions with a Maker' so if you'd like to be profiled, please do let her know by emailing hi@tanyaweaver.com.

We have commissioned Pink Eye Graphics to make the database / webpage. I know that the “networking” aspect of the Guild is why so many of you joined so my apologies that it has taken a while to get this underway.



We have a new logo and shield (above). The files are available to download [here](#). You are free to use them however you wish for badges, laser cut, embroider etc. etc.

A date to note: We are hoping to have another event, which will be similar to the launch event, in Birmingham, UK, on 15 or 22 March 2019.

Lastly, if you'd like your event listed in this newsletter, please do let us know.

Happy Making

Lucy
[@DrLucyRogers](#)

Ten questions with a maker

Name: Paul Parry
Location: Staffordshire, UK
Website: bad-dog-designs.co.uk
Twitter: [@BadDogDesigns](https://twitter.com/BadDogDesigns)
Facebook: [BadDogDesigns](https://www.facebook.com/BadDogDesigns)
Instagram: [Baddogdesigns](https://www.instagram.com/Baddogdesigns)



1. What do you make?

I primarily make clocks, although I've made anything from computers to synthesisers. Wherever possible, the things I build are made out of original old materials. I also use Nixie tubes in a lot of my designs; these are an old technology from the 1950's that display numbers inside little glass tubes.

2. What does your making space look like?

I work out of some converted stables on a farm, so I have a couple of rooms as my maker space. This gives me a working area, machine tool room, stores and display area.

3. Where do you sell your makes?

I have some pieces in galleries and shops in the UK and also an Etsy shop. I sell a lot of pieces through exhibitions - Grand Designs Live is a busy show - but I mainly sell direct from the website all over the world.

4. Who inspires you?

The likes of Tesla, Edison and Alan Turing. All brilliant minds and the world would be a totally different place had they not done what they did.

5. What's your best failure?

One of my commissions was a giant Steampunk robot called Wilson, which I built on and off over a couple of years. I was very happy with his appearance, but as his face consisted of just two eyes and a little lip, I decided to give him a mouth. Initially pleased with my

efforts, I soon began to notice a more than passing resemblance to Homer Simpson! Once seen, it could not be unseen. However, as it was all brass, and I had cut an opening in the front of his face, I ended up making a completely new face.

6. Do you meet up to discuss / make with other makers? If so, where?

Only local ones, but if we could arrange a bigger event then I would be totally up for that. However, [#Makershour](#) is a great time to catch up with everyone, and I know a lot of us have made good friends with other makers as a result of it.

7. Do you outsource / employ someone to do some of the non-making things in your business? If so, which aspects?

My wife Karen owns half the business and she sorts out all the accounts / Sage / VAT / invoice side of things, as well as doing a lot of soldering in the workshop! I would be lost without her. When I had a day job, one of my staff retired and he now comes back to the workshop one day a week to help dismantle things, which keeps him busy in his retirement. My daughter Mia also helps with the website and general admin.

8. What's been the hardest thing about making for a living for you?

I think it was taking the plunge to actually decide to do it and then committing a 110%. It was very scary to walk away from a secure and high paid job in senior management.

9. What's the best thing about making for a living?

Freedom, without a doubt. It may be long hours and completely all-consuming but you're doing it for you, not someone else.

10. Whose work would you recommend that fellow Guild members should check out?

David Kirkby's ([@dr_monkeyface](#)) and Rob Ives' ([@robives](#)) work is amazing, Tanya Fish ([@tanurai](#)) can make anything light up, even her fingernails, and Claire Pollard ([@thetuftii](#)) has made the most adorable cross stitch sampler. These are just a few!

Events

Monthly Fusion 360 events

Located within the FabLab at Beaumont Collegiate, Warrington, and hosted by John Grimshaw ([@LeanintoDesign](#)), these events take place from 10am until 3pm. A Fusion 360 basics session in the morning, which is focussed on a different subject each month, is followed by an afternoon spent in the FabLab for 'free play' and work on attendees' projects.

May be of interest...

[88 pianists](#) is a national STEM outreach programme for Key Stage 2 as well as an attempt to break the world record for the most people playing one piano at the same time. The current record stands at 19 people but as there are 88 keys on a piano, the aim is to invent “mechanical finger extenders” to enable all 88 performers to play.

With the record attempt taking place in Birmingham on 19 August 2019, 88 pianists is currently putting together teams - comprising two engineers and one musician - that will visit 40 primary schools across the UK over the coming academic year to help children design and make finger extenders. So if you have experience or instinct for mechanical design and creativity, and feel enthusiastic about inspiring a new generation of engineers, email 88Pianists-contact@eng.cam.ac.uk

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