

# CINQUE PORTS SCRIBES

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## What goes on at our workshops?

We are a friendly and inclusive group of calligraphers and welcome all new members but if this is your first workshop with Cinque Port Scribes or you are thinking of joining us, you are bound to have some initial concerns, so here's what happens.

Most of our workshops are held on a Saturday, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, but occasionally we run two- or three-day workshops, depending on the tutor/subject when times can vary slightly. Always on the longer workshops, we take the tutor out for an evening meal and invite all members and their partners to come along for this more social occasion.

The workshops take place at Evington Village Hall, Hastingleigh, just outside Wye, Ashford, Kent, TN25 5HR. A beautiful part of the county and you should try and make time to stop and look out over the stunning Kent countryside.

The hall is open about 9.00 am and everyone is encouraged to come early to help and set up the hall; lay out their materials in readiness for the day and of course enjoy an early coffee and chat before the work begins. At the end of the day we ask everyone to help clear their tables and the hall. If you are unable to lift, there are lots of other jobs going begging!

Occasionally, depending on the subject and what the tutor provides, there may be a small extra charge on the day but you would be advised about this beforehand.

Most workshops are suitable for all levels but if one is geared towards intermediate or advanced, then this will be made clear on the booking form. If in doubt about your calligraphic level, just ask. CPS members are given first option to sign up, thereafter any spaces are offered to non-members but please check cancellation policy on the booking form. We aim for a varied calendar over the year, and all workshops can be used with our calligraphy : Scripts, eg Italic; Techniques, eg gilding; Complementary skills, eg book making.

Quite often, you will see phrases like 'usual calligraphy gear'. This can be quite daunting to a relative beginner, so if you are completely new, we would suggest the following items for a basic kit but we all have our favourite pen or piece of kit so just use this as a guide. We would be happy to advise on anything you are not sure of.

### Basic tool kit

- 12" or 18" ruler
- HB + H pencils
- Eraser + sharpener/knife
- Black, non-waterproof ink
- Penholders + range of nib sizes
- Reservoirs
- Small paintbrush (if used) to load nibs
- A3 layout pad
- A3 smooth cartridge paper, +/- 130 gsm
- Scissors
- Drawing board or supported writing surface
- Masking tape
- Water pots + kitchen roll
- Reading glasses, if you need them
- Protractor
- Camera/iPad to take pictures of the amazing work on show by tutor and done by students
- Notebook
- Gluestick

If you can't get hold of a particular piece of equipment, someone will usually be able to help out, or you may be able to buy items at the workshops.

In most workshops, the tutor demonstrates and then you will try to emulate the process. A format which is repeated throughout the day. Most workshops aim for you to have a finished piece by the end of the day but even if they don't, you will go away with loads of tips and advice for the future. Everyone works at a different pace, so there is no pressure if you like to work more slowly. Details of the content of each workshop can be found on our website as well as past and future workshops.

You need to bring a packed lunch but tea, coffee, biscuits and fruit are provided; you only have to come and enjoy yourself!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any one of the Committee.

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