

# Calligraphy, the art of beautiful handwriting.



In 2011 I decided to try my hand at calligraphy after retiring from 40 rewarding years in the NHS in London. In 2016 I moved up to Sutton Coldfield where I pursued my craft at the Adult Learning Education Centre in Erdington, then moved to the Pen museum in the Jewellery Quarter.

I learnt the two most fundamental components of the art are, the studying of a script until one became proficient in its execution and the second part was to incorporate it into some visually beautiful illustration.

Though new to the calligraphy community, I am aware the handwriting skills which developed from ancient manuscripts through to today's heraldic shields is struggling as a result of arrival of the computer age which has given society an array of typefaces at the touch of a key and perhaps more significantly the undermining of handwriting skills in schools.

In this Post Modern period of constant competition, pressure and stress, the need for relaxation has become even more important to our wellbeing. Stimulated, as I am when engaged with my pen on paper, as I experiment with new ideas. I feel calm, serene and almost spiritual as I concentrate on my project at hand, yet I am still able to listen to Beethoven or Test Match Special.

Les Gillot