

## SGA Annual Report 2020-2021

Despite this being a year of lockdown and covid restrictions we have had a busy programme with some twenty individual lecture presentations on Zoom the majority on gemmological topics and a lesser number on jewellery subjects. These include,

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Annual General Meeting followed by a Quiz set by Clare Blatherwick

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Half-Day Symposium

Garnets: The Chameleons of the Gem World *by Andrew Fellows*

History and Value Factors of Pearls *by Anu Machanda*

As a Jewellery Buyer, do You need to be a Qualified Gemmologist *by Kerry Gregory*

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Lyon & Turnbull Jewellery Auction Preview *with Ruth Davis and Kier Mulholland*

Sadly, there was no Christmas meal in 2020 and all events this year have been online only.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

What Happened Next after the Architect met the Ammonite *by Richard Weston*

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Important Jewellery Collectors *by Clare Blatherwick*

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

The Chelsea Colour Filter in Identifying Cobalt Glass in Sapphire *by Charlie Bexfield*

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Half-Day Symposium:

Travels into the Queensland Gemfields *by Barbara Kolator*

Synthetic and Imitation Opals *by Tony Smallwood*

Australian Diamonds *by Sarah Claire Edwards*

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Lyon & Turnbull Jewellery Auction Preview *with Ruth Davis*

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Jewellery Trade Catalogues *by Craig O'Donnell*

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Maureen Edgar *by John Andrew*

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### Half-Day Symposium

De-Mystifying the Process of CVD Diamond Production *by Sammantha Maclachlan*

My Journey as The Gemstone Detective *by Kim Rix*

Forecasting on the Post-Covid International Gem Market *by Stuart Robertson*

Recent Developments in their UK Gemstone & Mineral Marketplace *by Charlie Bexfield, Marcus McCallum & Alistair McCallum of Audit Fine Minerals Limited*

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Colours of the Natural History Museum *by Robin Hansen*

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Half-Day Symposium with a Halloween Theme

Bewitched: The Thinking Gemmologist's Guide to Enchantments! *by Sarah Steele*

Horror Stories from the Gem Market *by Stuart Robertson*

#### Gemset 2021 Report.

Gemset 2021 proved very successful despite the effects of covid-19 on the further education establishments. Unfortunately we received no entrants from any of the Art Colleges as their students' bench time was very severely restricted by their governing bodies. We did however receive 77 entrants from the further education colleges. As always, not all entrants submitted finished pieces but we received 58 pieces showing variety of gemstones, design and methods of making. Best First Year and Overall Winner came from Fife College; Best Primarily Handmade and Best by Other Methods of Production from Glasgow Kelvin College and there were eight Highly Commended awards made to students from Fife College, Glasgow Kelvin College, and City of Glasgow College.

The further education colleges expressed their gratitude to the SGA for continuing to run the Gemset competition during Covid-19 as it gave their students a focus and motivation to work while the covid restrictions were in place.

Small groups of members had an opportunity to visit Bring Diamonds CVD synthetic diamond manufacturing facility in Newcastle during the year on various dates.

We have welcomed several new members and there is a separate membership report.

We are planning and preparing activities for 2022 which we expect to include our long awaited 25<sup>th</sup> Conference at the Westerwood Hotel in May and hopefully some field trips which have always proved popular.

I would like to thank our speakers, both domestic and exotic, who have supported our programme. Also, thanks to the Office Bearers and Committee including our two new 'Ambassador' committee members in Birmingham and Chicago, Andrew Fellows and Cigdem Lule, also Jacqui Mathieson for running the Gemset Competition and many other members who have worked hard on our behalf. I should add that all of the above contribute to the SGA on a voluntary basis and receive no payment other than essential expenses.