



Newsletter April 2019

From the
Maker-In-
Chief



Hello!

Welcome to April's Guild of Makers newsletter. The main news this month is, "wow - what a wonderful [conference!](#)" We've built a fantastic community and I'd like to thank all our

amazing 'early adopters' (we now have over 170 members on four continents). Over the past year so many of you have joined in [#MakersHour](#) and, from my point of view, the most amazing part is seeing the great collaborations that have grown throughout our network.

Membership Renewal

Subscription types are now valid for 365 days, rather than until 5 April as previous. This means that the system may not allow you to 'renew' and you'll have to select a different subscription type from last year - sorry!

The concessions rate is self-certification. If you feel this is right for you, please use it and also spread the word. The link is [here](#).

If you need a reminder of your username / password, or have trouble with the system, please let us know.

Conference

Thank you to everyone who participated and also a big thank you to our wonderful sponsors, whose logos are all featured at the bottom of this newsletter.

Of course, a special thanks also goes to our speakers and workshop leaders. If you haven't already checked out their websites, please do so!

Speakers:

- [Dan Hett](https://danhett.com) (<https://danhett.com>) – BAFTA-winning creative technologist and digital artist.
- [Alfred Chow](#) and [Sue Archer](#) – Makers, problem solvers and Mousevaark herders (<https://www.makerofthings.org.uk> and <https://www.mousevaarks.co.uk>)
- [Paul Parry](#) – Creator of Nixie Tube Clocks (<https://www.bad-dog-designs.co.uk>)
- [Hanna Varga](#) – Maker of unique leaf sculptures in bronze (<https://ashleaf.london>)
- [Rachel Wong](#) – FashionTech Engineer + PhD student using stem cells to grow eyes (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/konichiwakittyshop/>)
- [Seb Lee-Delisle](#) – Award-winning digital artist and presenter (<https://seblee.me/>)
- [Glen Southern](#) – 3D Modeller, Digital Sculptor (<http://southerngfx.co.uk/>)

Workshops and Tours:

- Lock Picking Workshops with [Nigel Tolley](https://www.safeplaces.co.uk/) (<https://www.safeplaces.co.uk/>)
- Paper Animation Workshop with [Rob Ives](https://www.robives.com/) (<https://www.robives.com/>)
- Tours of [Autodesk Technology Centre](https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/overview)

[Facility](https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/overview) (<https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/overview>)

At the conference we also raised over £200 in the raffle, which has been sent to [Remap](#).

Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets.

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Happy making and Happy Easter!

Lucy

Dr Lucy Rogers

Founder, Guild of Makers

[@DrLucyRogers](#)

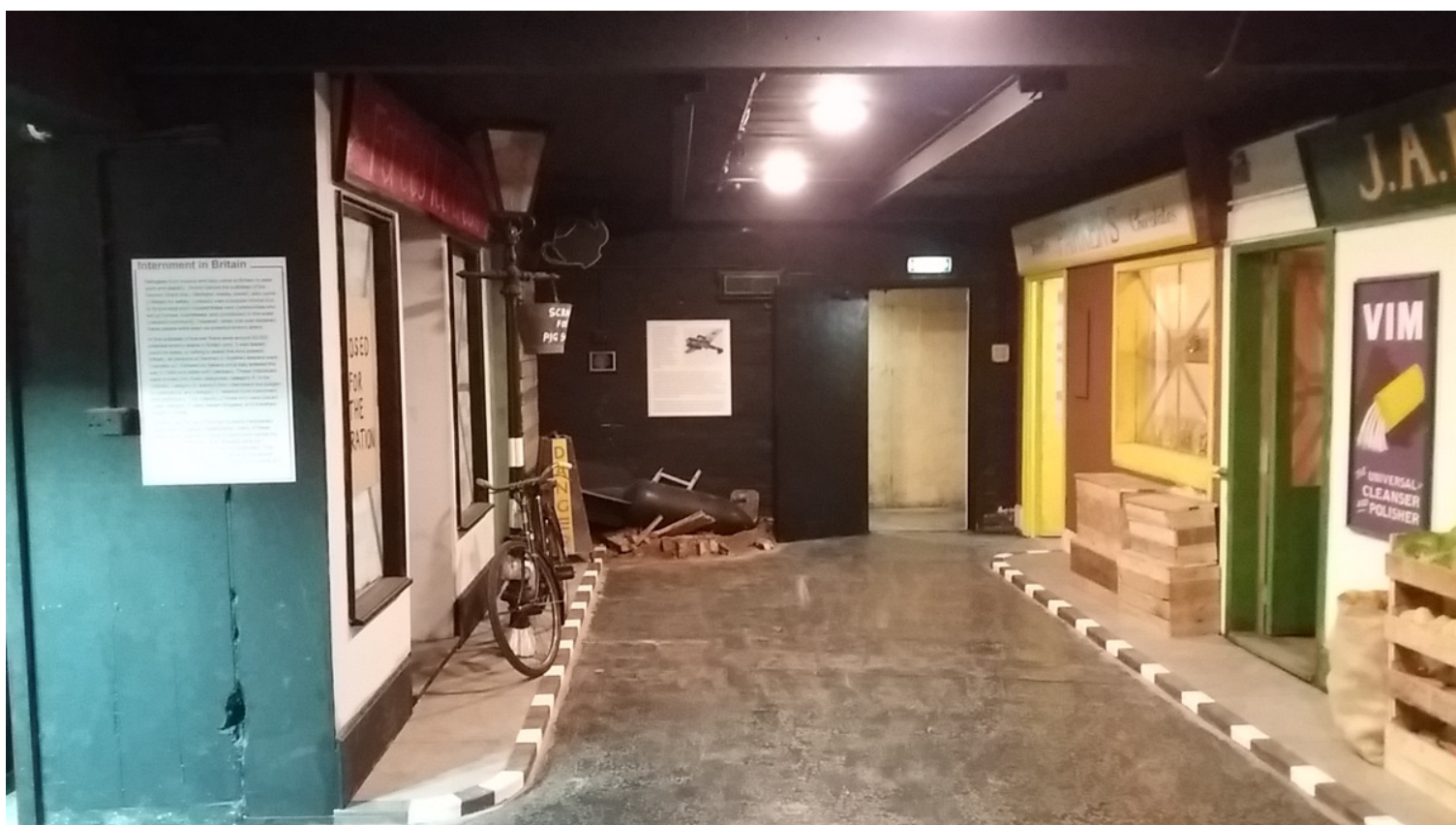
Ten questions with a maker

Name: Alfred Chow – Maker of Things

Website: www.makerofthings.org.uk

Twitter: [@Maker_of_Things](https://twitter.com/Maker_of_Things)

Location: Greater Manchester



1. What do you make?

We make 'bespoke furniture'. For our domestic clients that generally means rustic, simple

builds that are constructed in pieces. For our commercial clients, it can be almost anything. Some of our previous builds have included:

- Small cabinets for exhibitions and museums
- Free standing interactive furniture for displaying information
- A mobile bicycle drawn sewing workshop trailer
- A 'Boom Bike' bicycle sound system for music festivals and events
- The 'Poopicorn' fund raising marble run in collaboration with other makers
- A complete 1940s street scene of shops in an underground bunker museum

2. What does your making space look like?

A mess! My workshop is in the front room of our house. All of the 5m x 4.5m floor space is crammed with workbenches and machinery and all the available wall space is filled with shelving and racking for timber stock, off cuts, hand power tools, cramps, and anything else. In the basement beneath is the metal workshop where I can just about get away with bashing metal and making 'clangy' noises.

3. Where do you sell your makes?

Most of my work is through word of mouth and new clients will often make contact via Twitter or through existing clients. So that seems to have become my 'market place'.

4. Who inspires you?

That's quite difficult to answer. I could say a famous You Tube maker but whilst I am often entertained and impressed by them, and do sometimes learn a few things, it is different to being inspired to make or make better, or even to be a better person. I mostly take inspiration from our clients' part formed ideas and visions that I then have to make real.

5. What's your best failure?

Failures are funny things. If you are learning something or if you are experimenting or making for fun, then failures are both common and useful. I often have short deadlines and a limited budget with one chance to get a make right for a client. Failures tend to happen early and before too much investment has been made, and so they are often quite mundane. These can be due to poor quality materials or a painting error that just needs repainting. It's essentially a gradual re-evolving of an 'on the fly' make as the plan comes together.

Perhaps one make worth mentioning was the constant 'failing' of a buzz wire map table. The wands on the buzz wire not only buzzed on contact but also without contact lit up points of interest on a map. I then decided to put vibration motors in the wands to reduce the confusion of noise from four buzz wires. The vibration motors failed so many times due to the public leaving them buzzing quietly on the wire that it was getting embarrassing and costly in recalls. It has led to a strong desire to learn about Raspberry Pi and coding as a better way to make this sort of effect work. I think some simple code would have stopped

the buzzing after a few seconds of inactivity, and allowed more programmable interaction.

6. What's your favourite magazine / podcast / youtube channel / other making related "thing"?

I mostly watch You Tube for maker content. My 'never miss a single video' channels include: [Laura Kamph](#), [Jimmy DiResta](#), [Kids Invent Stuff](#), [Abom79](#), [Simone Giertz](#), and [Blondihacks](#).

To that list I'd also like to add a non maker: [Ron Pratt](#). Ron is a recovery operator and his level of professionalism is outstanding. It is also great to find a 'non shouty' American automotive channel.

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

I 'meet' makers on [#MakersHour](#) every Wednesday evening at 8pm as a rule. I have also met up with a few makers in person at MadLab, MakersFaire, DoES Liverpool, Warrington Fablab, and at the Guild of Makers Conference. The most regular discussions I have with a maker takes places in the workshops with my wife Sue Archer ([@sueArcher6](#)), who is a maker too.

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

To be honest, not a lot really. Like most makers, I find pricing/quoting for work difficult. There can also be frustration around short deadlines but, as I love the projects I work on, I am often chomping at the bit to get on with it. I think the actual hard stuff is remembering how to log onto the website to file a tax return. I guess also finding time to work on my own personal projects can be quite hard.

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

I get paid to do the thing I love doing with clients I love working with and often in the hours I choose. I learn new methods, push my abilities, help others, have some of the best 'toys', and meet many wonderful makers to share stories and ideas with. Mostly, I just get to enjoy life at nearly my own pace.

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

Don't you all already all follow each other and all the other makers?

I'm going to amplify:

[@nikkipugh](#)

[@StitchOdyssey](#)

[@FinalBullet](#)

[@Agnesmjones](#)

[@missdalys](#)

Events

Liverpool Makefest

[Liverpool MakeFest](#), which is taking place at Liverpool Central Library on Saturday 29 June 2019, is celebrating it's fifth anniversary this year. It's completely free to attend and has something for the whole family, including workshops that always prove to be very popular. There are also pre- and post-parties for UK makers to get together, details of which will be going live in the next few months.

Opportunities for members


Tool to find or rent out workspaces

If you're based in London or Kent and looking for a space in which to create your makes, then [Artist's Studio Finder](#) could help in your search. Equally, if you have a studio space that you are looking to fill, you can register with this on-line tool to ensure your studio doesn't stay empty for long. Register for free [here](#).

Conference sponsors



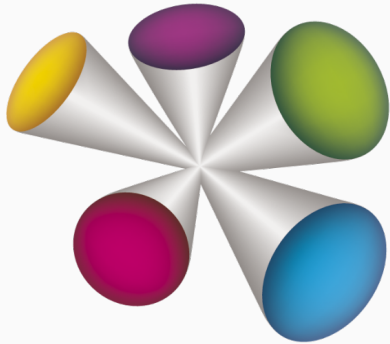
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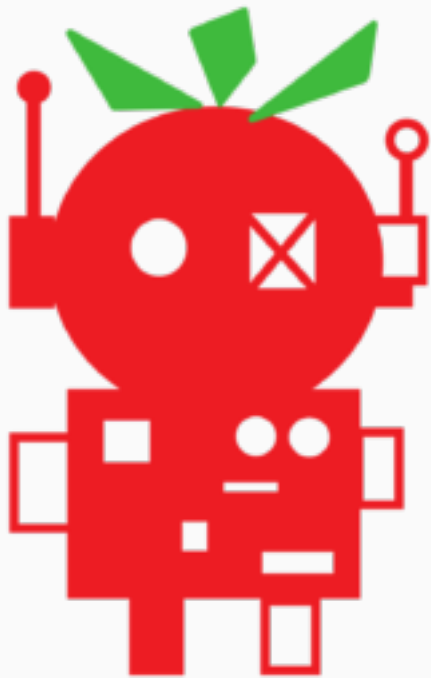
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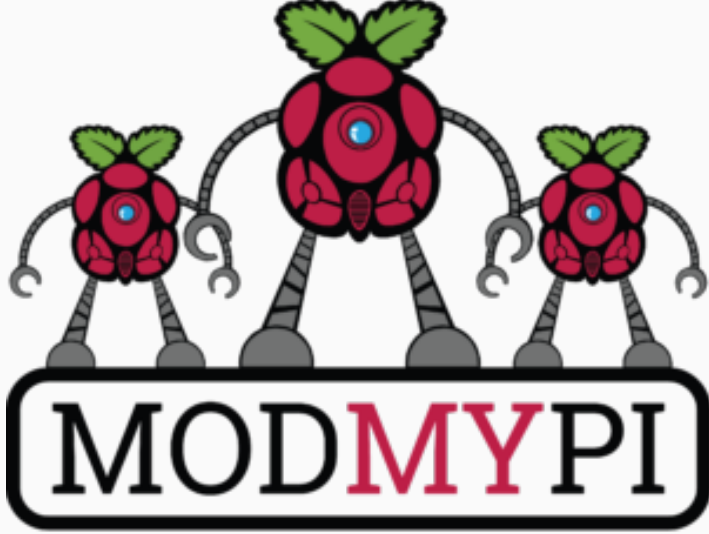


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