

Cotswold Embroiderers' Guild Branch Newsletter

Autumn 2015

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Branch News

By the time this reaches you our workshops for this year will be (nearly) over – we have had lots of wonderful opportunities to try different techniques and stitches and all the workshops have been well attended. Our 2016 programme will be available to collect at the Xmas Social on Saturday 12th December (see below for more details). No-one has come forward to be programme organiser so Ann & Ros have agreed to continue for a further year – however this cannot continue indefinitely and I ask you to consider whether this is a role you could take on (maybe in partnership with another) to ensure we continue to have access to high quality workshops.

Membership – a message from Mary – thank you for remembering to renew your membership for another year; most people have done so very promptly which makes life a lot easier for the membership secretary.

Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our exhibition such a success – those who had pieces to exhibit, those who stewarded and especially to Janet Stevens and Mary Oliver for the organisation, as well as members of the Branch committee – not forgetting Simon Trapnell and his team at Nature in Art. We were really surprised by the numbers of people coming to see our work and the wonderful and appreciative comments that were made. For those of you unable to be present at the official opening, the Duchess of Gloucester was lovely and put everyone at their ease. She was really interested in our work and enjoyed talking to exhibitors about the techniques they had used. She confessed to us that although she does stitch – needlepoint – she rarely finishes anything, and like the rest of us has a good collection of UFOs. Terry Hughes (Karen's husband) kindly took photographs of the event and we hope to have some available to view at the Xmas Social and will also put a selection onto the website.

Her Royal Highness made the following presentations: Honorary Membership to Jan Evans in recognition of all the support she has given to the Branch over the years she has been a member, and a 50 year long service award to Isabel Elliott. Ann Hampton presented Penny Lacey with her 25 year badge.

Message from Ros Bendall:

It was good again to meet again members we don't get to see very often at the 50th Golden Anniversary exhibition recently. One such member is Isabel Elliott, still a keen stitcher, whose work was exhibited mostly in the historic section, plus she managed to do a piece of work especially for the exhibition. I would like to share with you the lovely note she sent after we escorted her home:

'you were both so kind and generous yesterday (6th October). I had had doubts at being among those selected for attention but everyone, including the Duchess, was so relaxed and welcoming I really enjoyed the afternoon. It was good to meet again fellow members from the past, especially Jan Evans, and to meet those involved in

the 50th celebrations and setting up such an attractive and impressive exhibition. I so hope there will be plenty of visitors to appreciate it and reward such hard work.

*I came home feeling a lot better and after the Green Man (her current project) will try to finish a 3D tithe Barn I started 2 years ago to convert into a dwelling as so many are now. After constructing much of it in Gloucester Royal Hospital *, more urgent tasks took over on my return home. If it works it will owe its existence to Janet (Stevens) last minute choice of the 'Village' when she and Mary (Oliver) came to select possible items for the exhibition.*

I shall certainly treasure my gold (50 years) EG badge even if I should have done much more in the past to earn it.

My sincere thanks to you both for much kindness.

With very best wishes, Isabel.'

* Isabel went through a traumatic experience over the New Year when she had a fall in her cottage and endured having to lie on her kitchen floor for 36 hours before being found and taken to GRH.

The letter was folded inside a card Isabel has made, on the front of which she had put a hand stitched golden ammonite.

Thank you Isabel for sharing your work and stories with us. You are a remarkable and cheerful lady, wonderful company and have a great sense of humour. All who met you said the same. We hope to see you again at Cotswold Branch.

Xmas Social

This will be held on Saturday 12th December from 2.00 – 4.00 at The Reddings Community Centre. As always this social is open to visitors, so please invite along anyone you know who may be interested.

We will again have **sales tables** (contributions from members only please) so bring along items from your stash that you no longer need and any stitch related books that are surplus to requirements to sell. **All items should be clearly marked with your name and the price.** As usual we will take 10% of the takings for branch funds. (Please remember to take away any unsold items at the end of the afternoon)

We will also have crewel and tapestry yarns plus other stitch related items from the estate of past member Alison Taylor for people to take in return for a donation to the Sue Ryder charity.

Our **2016 programme** will be revealed – with the opportunity to book onto the January workshop.

Our speaker for the afternoon is **Karen Van Hoff** who designs and makes a diverse range of artwork, including a collection of fine art jewellery and hand painted, embroidered textiles. She delivers an entertaining talk about how her career developed after entering a WI competition by mistake; and will accompany this with a display of her artwork, embroidered textiles, jewellery and a portfolio of images. If you want to see examples of her work, visit her website: www.karenavanhoff.co.uk

Competition: last year we held a competition for a Christmas tree decoration. This year it is a Christmas card – a handcrafted card that is stitch / textile related. The winner (to be decided by our speaker) will receive a prize.

I hope many of you will take the opportunity to enter.

Socialise & Sew

The next meeting is on Friday 6th November from 2.00 – 4.00 at the home of Maureen Steffen: 23A Arle Rd, Cheltenham, GL51 8JT Tel: 01242 321676

Capability Brown

Those of you who came to our AGM will have heard Mary update us about the Capability Brown celebrations next year and how we can be involved – especially through the exhibition opportunity at Croome Court. We will be sending further details out shortly.

News from the SW Region

The SW Region **Basic Hand Stitch** course which has been offered by Ann Hampton & Sheila Knight is now full and will be going ahead in the New Year and includes people from all 3 branches in our area.

Advanced notice: SW Festival Day 2016

Saturday 9th April 2016

Venue: Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7JE

Tickets : £25.00 to include lunch

Madeira Lecture: *Amanda Clayton 'My Blue Suitcase'*

Afternoon speaker: *Vivien Prideaux 'The Other'*

Competition: 'A Postcard from the Seaside' ; entries to be postcard size 6 x 4 ins

For further details email : swfestival2016@btinternet.com

Telephone: Jenni Ripley: 01326 618080

website: www.cornwallstitchers.co.uk

Guild HQ News

All members should have received the documents for the Consultation on the proposed new membership model. Please do read and respond to this consultation – the deadline for your reply is Friday 22nd January 2016. The final proposals will be published to members in February 2016 and will be voted on at the AGM in May.

National AGM – Saturday 7th May 2016 at the Manchester Conference Centre. See Contact magazine for more details.

If you plan on entering the current **Members Challenge – 'Looking Through'** – the closing date is 29.1.16

Details in Contact or on the EG website

WHAT'S ON

West Country Quilt & Textile Show

12th - 14th Nov 2015; 10.00 – 4.30

Exhibition Centre, University of West of England, Filton, Bristol BS34 8QZ

tickets £9.00 on door (£2.00 less if booked in advance)

www.westcountryquiltshow.co.uk Tel: 01179071000

Southern Counties Lacemakers and Needlecraft Fair

Seven Laces of Devon by Devon Lacemakers

Demonstrations by Japanese Embroidery Guild

Needle Lace by Catherine Barley

Embroidery by Jen Goodwin RSN

Rosaline Lace by Judith Cordell

Saturday 21st November 2015

10.00-3.30 pm

Admission £4.50 (children under 16 £1.00)

Havant Leisure Centre, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AY

Nature in Art

Artist in residence 10th - 15th November

Sue Waters, Textile Art

Something that might be of interest:

If you visit Kim Thittichai's website (www.nid-noi.com) you will find some free videos showing how to use the following products:

KK Glue, Hot Spots, Bondaweb, Polyester Organza, Solufleece, Pelmet Vilene, Transfer Foils.

Many of these videos together with others showcasing different textile artists are also available at : www.colouricious.com

Smocking machine

The branch owns a smocking machine which is currently with one of our members. If you wish to borrow it, please contact Judith to arrange the loan.

Lending scheme

If you wish to borrow a named book, resources on a specific technique, or books by a named artist then please contact Judith stating what you are interested in borrowing, together with your contact details. I will then publish your request in the newsletter & anyone willing to lend such resources can contact you directly. Such an arrangement will be made solely between the lender and borrower.

Hosting tutors:

From time to time our workshop tutors need to be accommodated on the Friday night prior to their workshop. We would prefer to offer accommodation in a member's home rather than in a local hotel and it is a lovely opportunity to get to know a tutor before the workshop and have the chance to ask questions and explore their world of working in textiles.

If you feel you would be able to offer such accommodation on an occasional basis please let Judith or another member of the committee know.

Future Programmes

The development of our programme of workshops and events is ongoing and we aim to put on events that you would like to come to.

Please do let the committee know of particular:

- ⤴ Tutors you would like us to book for workshops or talks
- ⤴ Styles of stitching / textile art that you would like to be incorporated into the programme
- ⤴ Places of interest or exhibitions we might like to visit
- ⤴ Any other topics or events you think would be of interest to members.

It is really helpful to have your suggestions – probably what you would like us to organise is what many others would like too. Please send in suggestions at any time.

If you have any news of members please pass it on to one of the Branch committee so that we can make contact and help out if needed.

TIP : Are you forever having to wind your bobbins up because they keep unreeling?

Get some plastic tubing from an aquarium shop ½ " wide and cut into slices the same width as your wound thread. Then make a cut across one side of this tubing slice so it will unroll and slip over the thread. You will never have a bobbin unreel again. If you already knew this – or have another method – please let us know.

Please send me any items you would like to be included in future newsletters - notices, information, events, exhibitions etc. This is the newsletter for all Cotswold Branch members so your contributions are always welcome.

Happy stitching,

Judith
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