

TO RETURN, USE YOUR BROWSER BACK BUTTON

Cotswold Embroiderers' Guild Branch Newsletter Autumn 2014

+++++

Branch News

As some of you will be aware, our Bookings Officer Gill Griffiths had a stroke some days ago and remains in Gloucester hospital. A card has been sent to her on behalf of branch members with our best wishes. I'm sure you will be thinking of her and her family & friends at this difficult time. Ann Hampton is in close contact with Gill's daughter and is keeping us informed.

Janet Williamson has agreed to take on the role of Bookings Officer until our next AGM. Her contact details are shown at the end of this newsletter. I would like to extend my thanks to Janet for offering to take on this role.

~~~~~

### Xmas Social

This last event of 2014 will be held on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 2.00 – 4.00pm** at The Reddings Community Centre. Friends and visitors are very welcome to come along.

What is on offer:

- **'The Land Girls'** – a talk from Fiona Warin that promises to be both entertaining and interactive
- **Sales Table:** bring along any surplus fabric, threads, books or other embroidery accoutrements to sell. 10% of the takings will go to branch funds. Please label everything clearly with your name and the price. (See also about items to fill Lucky Dip Bags for the SW Festival)
- **Christmas Decoration Competition** Bring along your entry (see below) to hang on the tree and see which one our speaker judges to be the best.
- **Raffle**
- **Display of member's work** – please bring along the results of your stitching endeavours for the year to show us all what you have been up to. Please label clearly with your name.
- **Programme of workshops and events for 2015:** View what is in store for you in 2015 – an exciting programme celebrating our Golden Anniversary Year.
- Take the opportunity to catch up and socialise with your stitching friends while enjoying a cup of **tea and Christmas nibbles**.
- Hear more about our preparations for 2015 – including an update on the **SW festival** being held in Cheltenham on 18<sup>th</sup> April & our **Anniversary Exhibition** at Nature in Art in October.

**Christmas Decoration Competition:** Don't forget this competition which is open to all members:

Make a Decoration using any type of handicraft and bring it along to the Social to hang on the tree and be admired by us all. Our speaker will choose the one she judges to be the best and the winner will receive a prize.

## ***Pre-exhibition Workshop 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015***

Come along on 10<sup>th</sup> January for the opportunity to develop your ideas for your piece/s for our Anniversary Exhibition in October.

The exhibition title is '***As I Walked Out....***' suggesting a nature theme, but the staging of the exhibition will have an strong Autumnal theme incorporating the wonderful colours of this time of year, including gold (appropriate for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary). Each of these elements could be echoed in your work.

It will be a drop-in workshop (cost £5) and you can stay as long as you like. You will be able to try out different techniques (eg: transfer crayons, mono printing), and explore sources of inspiration. Jan Evans and Angela Bentley will be on hand to give advice, if needed, and help you transform your ideas into reality.

Please bring along something to draw on and draw with, as well as your preferred method of colouring. A basic sewing kit may be useful for experimenting with stitch techniques, together with anything else you think may help with ideas and motivation such as books, photos, magazine cuttings or work in your sketchbooks.

We hope and encourage all members to submit at least one piece of work to mark this special occasion.

Don't miss this opportunity to get started and prepare for the Exhibition in October 2015.

Please contact Janet Williamson to book a place so that we know how many to expect – she will be taking bookings at the Xmas social or you can contact her by phone.

~~~~~

Next Socialise & Stitch:

Friday 19th December 2.00 - 4.00 at the home of Maureen Steffen (23A Arle Rd, Cheltenham, GL51 8JT Tel: 01242 321676)

All welcome – at this meeting our travelling books will have completed their first circuit so we will be thinking about what next. Also if you would like to bring along some Christmas nibbles it will add some seasonal festivity to our meeting.

~~~~~

### **Workshops**

Our workshops have generally been very well attended this year and I'm sure everyone who undertook a workshop enjoyed their day and found it inspirational.

There is often more interest than places available – so if you are booked on a workshop but find you cannot attend for any reason, please ring our Bookings Officer to cancel and your place can then be offered to someone on the waiting list.

### **Recent events:**

Those of us who went to Oxford for ***The Big Stitch*** had a very enjoyable day. There were speakers, workshops, textile artists around the museum to watch and talk to, the World's Longest Embroidery to add to as well as the Special Exhibition 'The Eye of the Needle' and tours of chosen items in the collection.

Our **AGM** was very well attended – many thanks to everyone who came along. There was considerable interest in both the DVD of entries to the Members' Tree Rhythms Competition as well as the Folios on loan from HQ (these also went to Stow branch for one of their meetings).

### **SW Festival: Lucky Dip bags**

You will remember that we have previously asked for contributions of fabric, threads, trimmings, buttons, beads etc to fill Lucky Dip bags for the SW festival. We have received some contributions but more will still be welcomed.

Please bring anything you are able to contribute for this to the Xmas Social and give to Judith.

If you cannot bring it along to the social, please contact Judith who can arrange collection.

The Festival committee has organised a couple of dates to start filling the Lucky Dip bags – and Louise West has kindly offered her home for this. The dates are: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January & Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January – both from 10.00 – 4.00

If you would like to come along to help, please contact Judith for more details.

### **Hosting tutors:**

From time to time our workshop tutors need to be accommodated on the Friday night prior to the workshop. 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.

We would prefer to offer accommodation in a member's home rather than in a local hotel, so 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.

## **Stitching opportunities in 2015**

### ***SW Regional Festival Day Competition entitled : 'Festivals'.***

Pieces to be no larger than A4. Further details about this will be sent out shortly.

Members attending the SW Festival will judge this competition.

### ***Our own Golden Anniversary Exhibition in October 2015 : 'As I walked out...'***

This exhibition at Nature in Art has nature as it's theme – what do you see as you walk out?

However as the exhibition is to be held in the Autumn there will be a strong Autumnal / Golden theme running through the exhibition which you may wish to consider within your piece/s.

See elsewhere in this newsletter about our January workshop which will give the opportunity to start planning your work (if you have not already done so) with the help of Jan Evans and Angela Bentley to give you advice and guidance.

---

## **News from the Region**

- Jill Hazel from Bristol branch has been chosen to represent the SW region on the work on the Magna Carta panels.
- Ann Hampton will complete her term of office as Regional Chairman in Autumn 2015 – a call for nominations for this role will be in the next issue of Contact magazine.
- 11 out of the 19 branches in the Region took part in the National Stitch Day – an excellent result.

---

## **Guild HQ News**

Many of you will have heard the sad news of the death of Phillip Littlejohn, the husband of Jean Littlejohn. A card has been sent to her from Cotswold Branch offering our condolences.

### **What do I get from the Guild?**

We sometimes hear members say that they don't know what the Guild (ie HQ) does for them with the subscription they pay. Here are just a few:

- The Guild is an educational charity so by paying your subscription you are supporting the promotion of our craft to the public and to new stitchers as well as supporting the development of new tutors. Our subs also help with the maintenance of historical records such as the collection held at Guild House and the Folios – examples of which we recently had to view. Items from the collection make up the travelling exhibitions that are sent around the country – such as the one that was displayed when the National AGM was held in Cheltenham in 2013
- Maintenance of the library at Guild House – which is available for any member to use.
- Support for members' competitions such as the Members' Challenge – the number of entries for which significantly increased last year and the DVD of which we enjoyed at our AGM.
- Development of Distance Learning courses such as the 'Power of 5' and EG level 1 & 2 courses. Information about these is regularly published in Contact magazine and is available on the Guild website.
- Support for branch activities – eg the DVD we had at our AGM and the folios. Other DVDs are being developed. Also HQ offer a leaflet and poster design and printing service to branches. More support for branches such as a directory of speakers is in the pipeline.
- Insurance to cover our events.

This is just a taster – there is much more.

---

### **WHAT'S ON**

#### ***The Southern Counties Lacemakers and Needlecraft fair***

Saturday 22nd November 2014 10.00 - 4.00

Venue: Havant Leisure Centre, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AY

Admission £4.50 on the door.

Featuring: A Display of White Work Embroidery by Jennie Adin-Christie, Graduate of RSN

Demonstrations by the Japanese Embroidery Guild + Butser Lacemakers.

Refreshments available all day.

#### ***Stitching: A Cotswold Art - Great Western Embroiderers***

3rd - 22nd November 2014

Subscription Rooms, George St Stroud, GL5 1AE

for opening times ring 01453 760900 / 760999

For more information visit [www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk](http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk)

~~~~~

Lending scheme

It has been suggested that this newsletter could be used as a vehicle for members to request to borrow Embroidery books, DVDs or other resources – either according to techniques or specific embroidery/textile artists – from other members.

If you wish to borrow a named book, resources on a specific technique, or books by a named artist

then please contact me 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.

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.

Our members : The committee do not always get to hear if a member is unwell for a period of time or having difficulty getting to meetings. We would be grateful news of members could be passed on to one of the committee so that we can make contact and help out if possible.

Cards with best wishes on behalf of branch members have been sent to both Barbara Luck and Sonia Bocchi recently who are experiencing some difficult health issues.

~~~~~

I hope you find this newsletter of interest. Please let me have any items you would like to be included - notices, information, events, exhibitions etc. This is the newsletter for all Cotswold Branch members so your contributions are always welcome.

Happy stitching,

Judith  
(Chairman)  
01242 510561  
[judithanderson99eg@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:judithanderson99eg@yahoo.co.uk)

**Workshop Bookings:** Janet Williamson  
Tel: 01242 570883  
email: [williamsonjm24@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:williamsonjm24@yahoo.co.uk)  
Address: 24 Meadow Close, Cheltenham, GL51 0TZ