

MARLBOROUGH & DISTRICT BRANCH

www.marlbroughembroiders.org

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2018

*Wishing all our members and guests a very warm welcome
and a Happy and Healthy New Year*

REMINDERS FOR THIS MONTH

- JAN 8th **SPEAKER: VALERIE THRELFALL**
"Secrets of the honeymoon suitcase 1850-present day"
- JAN 16th **DESIGN TO STITCH (3)**
- JAN 22nd **MEMBER-LED WORKSHOP: ANN LOUISE SMITH**
"Exploring print on fabric"
- JAN 29th **STITCH DAY**

DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- FEB 5th **SPEAKER: SANDRA MEECH**
"Journeys - Quilt Art/ Art Textiles"
- FEB 12th **YOUNG EMBROIDERERS**
- FEB 20th **DESIGN TO STITCH (4)**
- FEB 26th **STITCH DAY**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Another outstanding and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Branch party! A success in every way. Members and committee alike, all pulled together to ensure that the hall and tables were decked out with seasonal colour and decorations, that the ambience was congenial to amusement and pleasure, and that the lunch comprised a delicious, ample and varied selection of festive fare much enjoyed and appreciated by all. The surprise speaker was in every way a splendid climax to the proceedings. Harriett Riddell with her sewing machine in tow not only gave us an insight into her short but highly unusual and unique career and stitching travels around India, but also provided a truly entertaining visual display of her talents as a 'portrait stitch artist' by stitching a portrait of raffle winner and twenty five year Guild member **Margaret Gow**.



On behalf of the committee, a very big thank you to all the members for all their generosity in providing such an amazing spread and in rallying round at the end to help with the clearing up. On behalf of the members, a very big thank you to all the Committee for the planning, organising and implementing that

went on behind the scenes to provide such an enjoyable and smoothly run meeting and lunch. A particular thank you to Vernice for finding such an engaging and interesting artist as our surprise speaker. **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

Nikki Vesey Williams was so inspired by Harriett Riddell that she went home and promptly stitched a self portrait! Her Christmas present this year was an inverter and battery for stitching by machine outdoors - landscapes - when the weather improves! Not bike powered yet but watch this space!!!



GLIMPSES OF THE MOVIES-MADEIRA COMPETITION

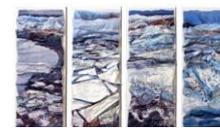
To be judged at ICHF's Fashion and Embroidery show in March 2018. This year two MDEG branch members have submitted entries to the competition. **Good Luck Nikki & Lindsay**

Nikki Vesey Williams' entry is based on the old favourite 'Mary Poppins'. It is a 3D patchwork carpet bag design made from recycled fabrics depicting machine stitched images from the 1060's film starring Julie Andrews telling the story of The Banks family in Edwardian London. The stitched images cover the surface of the carpet bag which is Mary Poppins' hallmark. Accompanying the bag will be her talking parrot umbrella and merry-go-round horse both constructed in needle felting!



JANUARY SPEAKER

Award winning quilt artist, **Sandra Meech**, is an international teacher and lecturer who works with quilting, embroidery and textile groups, both in the UK and abroad. She is also a member of the Society of Designer Craftsmen, Connections, the Quilters Guild of Great Britain and Quilt Art, an international group of quilt artists. She exhibits widely in the UK, in Europe and in North America, where many of her quilts are in private collections. Originally from Canada she trained as a graphic designer and fine artist, and became an art director for publishing houses in Canada and in the UK. Over time her interest evolved into stitched textiles through the incorporation of design onto fabric using photography, printing, collage and mixed media. Much of her early work was inspired by her studies of the Inuit people, their caribou skin clothing and her travels to the harsh landscapes of Canada's Arctic regions where the Inuits live. "Arctic Expressions" became the theme for a series of textile art quilts, which Sandra worked on for several years. Laterly, she explored other topics which include: "Within 4 Walls", illustrating urban living and containment, security, protection and aspiration; "Near North", representing imagery of woodlands under threat through fire, drought, the pine beetle and urban sprawl; and "Meltdown", which depicts the dramatic effects of global warming on glaciers and the polar regions, which is Sandra's current theme.



CONGRATULATIONS, ROS LOMAS! THE END OF A LONG JOURNEY

After a long and tortuous journey Ros has now completed an **online C&G Level 3 course in Design and Craft – Stitched Textiles**. Her journey started at Urchfont with a 1 year C&G level 2 course in machine embroidery. With the closure of Urchfont Ros discovered an online course designed by Sian Martin, a former tutor at Urchfont, enabling her to continue to level 3 studies. Distance learning proved to be a two edged sword: motivation versus self direction! Moving house twice during one year while on the course also proved to be a very demotivating influence at the time. The course comprised 6 modules, each consisting of 13 chapters. There was no face-to-face meetings to provide direct inspiration and motivation as all the completed work was photographed and uploaded to a blog. However Ros found Sian very supportive and encouraging through regular online constructive suggestions and yearly summer schools with Sian and other tutors. The summer schools also served as an opportunity to meet other students. The lack of direct contact with others doing similar work was felt to be a substantial drawback to distance learning. This was augmented to some degree by the development of an active facebook page providing ongoing friendship and peer support through tips and suggestions and greatly helping with motivation and encouragement issues. The theme for Ros's final project was conservation, for which she chose water conservation in India, using photographs and ideas gathered on trips. The hanging was inspired by the monsoon rains, the step wells and other water storage methods. Indigo dyed fabric from Vivien Prideaux's workshop was included in its construction. We look forward to seeing the hanging in our branch mini exhibition in June. Having spent 5 years learning new techniques and always having a new 'chapter' mapped out for her next project she now feels she has the opportunity to take stock and make decisions about the direction of future work. Ros says: 'This has been an amazing journey. In some ways I am relieved it is finished, but in other ways I am sad.'



Lindsay Sherwood's entry was inspired by the Harry Potter films. It consists of a hanging constructed from a hand painted cotton background with the Hogwarts silhouette cut from black felt. All the symbols are machine or hand embroidered with the exception of a small piece of painted velvet applique for the 'sorting hat', and a chocolate coin wrapper applique for the body of the 'snitch'.



EG MEMBERS' CHALLENGE 2018 - UNDERFOOT

If any member would still like to enter the challenge it is still not too late. Entries to be in by February 28th. All information on the Guild website <https://embroiderersguild.com/>



On the Beach

This is **Lindsay Sherwood's** interpretation of this year's members' challenge. Lindsay wanted to portray an image suggestive of the flotsam and jetsam of human detritus on our beaches. It comprises hand painted padded fabric for the rocks, rust dyed silk for sand, hand stitching to secure the silk and make the 'limpets' on the rocks and free machine embroidery on organza for the seaweed. Plastic 'rubbish' and discarded items have been used to highlight the impact on the environment of societies' waste - the sort of things that can be found on the tide line of a beach!
Good Luck Lindsay!

ROYAL WOMEN EXHIBITION

Venue: Fashion Museum Bath
Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street,
Bath BA1 2QH · 01225 477789
<https://www.fashionmuseum.co.uk>

Dates: 3 February 2018 - 28 April 2019
Jan-Feb 10.30-16.00, Mar-Oct 10.30-17.00
Nov - Dec 10.30-16.00

Entry: Adults £9 Seniors £8

Wives and daughters, sisters and mothers; none of the Royal women featured in the exhibition was a monarch, yet each played a key role in the British monarchy. Royal Women examines how these roles influenced their choice of dress. Exhibition highlights include Alexandra, Princess of Wales' wedding dress, dating from 1863, on loan from the Royal Collection, generously lent by Her Majesty The Queen. Also on display is an ensemble of gold and pale green velvet, worn by Queen Mary to the wedding of her granddaughter, Princess Elizabeth. A selection of royal accessories complements the fashions presented in the exhibition. Items of dress belonging to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother includes a dove grey silk satin ball gown from 1954. Dresses worn by the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret, show her glamorous side and her patronage of designers such as Christian Dior and Norman Hartnell. The stories behind the dresses and a choice of colour, cut or style can tell us much about Alexandra, Mary, Elizabeth, and Margaret, and how they chose to present themselves as royal women.



THE LONDON PRINT DESIGN FAIR



Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington
London N1 0QH <https://www.businessdesigncentre.co.uk/>

Dates: 20-21 March 2018 9am-6pm

Entry: Free but need to Register either online or at the door

The London Print Design Fair is the leading industry trade show within the UK, showcasing a unique offer of print design, embroidery, knit and vintage garments. The show is held twice a year and attracts more than 60 international studios from UK, Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand, US, France, Spain and Denmark. With all of the top International studios, presenting their latest collections under one roof, this is the ideal place to get inspired.

THE SECRET LIFE OF SCISSORS

Venue: Fashion and Textile Museum
83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF
T: 020 7407 8664 www.ftmlondon.org/

Dates: 9 Feb - 6 May 2018 Tues to Sat 11am-6pm
Thurs 11-8pm Sun 11am-5pm Mon- closed

Entry: £9.90 adults / £7.70 concessions

This display explores the complex multiple lives of scissors; everyday objects, universal tools but also ambiguous 'things', surrounded by superstition, myth and symbolism. From antiquity to modern times, scissors have remained irreplaceable and indispensable tools that also reveal an intimate human bond; their worn surfaces bearing witness to lives lived. The Secret Life of Scissors explores these different narratives in a sequence of themes: life and death, fairy tales, crime, punk and more, constantly mirroring the double-edged nature of this familiar yet mysterious object.



FASHION AND EMBROIDERY SHOW

INCLUDES

SEWING FOR PLEASURE & THE CREATIVE CRAFT SHOW

Venue: NEC National Exhibition Center, North Ave, Marston Green,
Birmingham B40 1NT

www.fashionembroidery.co.uk/birmingham

Dates: 15-18 March 2018 9.30am - 5.30pm (5pm Sunday)

Entry: Adults £12.00 Seniors £11.00

Fashion & Embroidery is the definitive showcase for anyone passionate about embroidery and textile art. Find a wealth of exciting materials, threads and embellishments all under one roof, and enjoy an array of astounding exhibitions. Learn about courses, take part in a workshop, pick up tips from one of the many textile artists or take your seat for one of the exciting catwalk shows. Last but by no means least, **Nikki Vesey Williams** and **Lindsay Sherwood** are both submitting entries to the Madeira sponsored "Glimpse of the Movies" competition which will be exhibited at the show! If you have a burning desire to show off your skills there is still time to enter a piece of work. Closing date is February 16th 2018. All information on the ICHF website.

ANNE MORRELL CHASING TENSIONS

Venue: Constance Howard Gallery,
Goldsmiths Indian textiles.,
University of London,
Deptford Town Hall - basement,
New Cross, London, SE14 6AF
<http://bit.ly/2pbq4bU>

Dates: 24 Jan-16 Mar 2018 11am-5pm, Wed-Fri

Anne Morrell, born Anne Butler in Chennai (Madras) India, is an artist and scholar on Indian textiles. She has written extensively on Indian embroideries for the Calico Museum of Textiles, Ahmedabad, India, and has developed a textile art practice investigating stitch as mark and language. This exhibition presents a body of new and recent textile work, emerging from a lifelong pursuit of an understanding of stitch and textile, and based on her extensive knowledge and research of both Indian textiles and British embroidery.



NATIONAL NEEDLEWORK ARCHIVE EVENTS

Venue: The Old Chapel Textile Centre, Maine St.,
Greenham Business Park, Newbury, RG19 6HW
<http://www.nationalneedleworkarchive.org.uk/>

Tel: 01635 38740

Times: Tues-Thurs & 1st Sat of the month 10am-4pm

Entry: £4

QUILTS FROM THE ARCHIVE EXHIBITION 1st-22nd Feb

A selection of quilts from the collection housed at the archive

POPPY DAY SAT 3rd Feb 10.30am-3pm

Poppy making day for the Wonderwool Wales and British Legion Project. Poppies can be knitted, crocheted or made from fabric. Everyone welcome. Contact the Old Chapel Textile Centre for more details.

HAND QUILTING SAT 3rd Feb 10.30am-11am

Free demonstration

THE SEW EMBROIDERERS' GUILD MEMBERS EXHIBITION

27th Feb-15th March

This exhibition encompasses many different techniques by members from branches in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire

OLD CHAPEL TEXTILE CENTRE FABRIC SALE

Sat 3rd March 10am-2.30

Annual sale of fabric, wool, threads, kits, haberdashery and much more.

FLIP AND STITCH CRAZY Sat 3rd March 10.30am-11am

Free demonstration

BRANCH EXHIBITIONS for 2018

We now have confirmation of a display space in the September 2018 West Country Quilt and Textile Show in Bristol. Also the dates for our mini exhibition are now booked for June 22-24. More detailed information at the January meeting, but in the meantime keep stitching!

If you have any interesting news items or any other information which can be included in our monthly Newsletter, please pass details to Maria. Also, please advise if you are willing to receive the Newsletter via email to help us cut the cost of printing. Tel: 10672 515283 or Email: mariafraser2013@outlook.com