



Embroiderers' Guild

MARLBOROUGH & DISTRICT BRANCH

www.marlbroughembroiderers.org

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2016

*Welcome to all our Members and
Guests. Happy Reading*

Reminders for this month

FEB 1st. Anne Griffith:
"Diamond Stitches"

FEB 15th. Y.E.

FEB 16th. Design to Stitch Course (4)

FEB 29th. Stitch Day

Dates for March

MAR 7th BRANCH OPEN DAY
Cas Holmes – "Magpie of the mind"

MAR 8th TUTOR LED WORKSHOP
Cas Holmes – "the Sketchbook"

MAR 15th Design to stitch course (5)

MAR 21st Stitch Day

February Speaker

Anne Griffiths specializes in working with transparent materials embellished with machine stitching and paint. Her starting point is often a word or quotation. Her work is inspired by her time spent at the facility housing the Diamond Light Source, the UK's giant microscope. This should be a very interesting talk. Don't miss it!

March workshop

Cas Holmes "THE SKETCHBOOK"
Cas is one of the UK's most renowned textile artists. She will be exploring creative ways of developing ideas through mixed media including dyeing, staining, drawing found objects, stitching and layering to open up the thought processes of your own work. Hurry to secure a place as the list is almost full! If you are interested please sign up or see Kay or Vernice to be added to the waiting list.

Our 2016 Ruby Anniversary Exhibition is no longer a distant glimmer but a quickly approaching reality! Please check that you have the dates in your diary and encourage friends and family to do the same.



Call for Volunteers: I am sure that you are all aware that the success of the exhibition depends not only on the contributions of all our beautiful stitched works of art and red squares for the displays, but also on the contribution of our valuable time before, during and after the exhibition. Please be as generous as you are able in volunteering your help with the setting up and taking down of the exhibition, or being available during the exhibition for stewarding, catering, organizing a raffle or running a sales table. Details can be found on the Branch website and **a volunteer list will be available at the February meeting. Please sign up.**

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday 20th April: Setting up heavy items – strong men required!

Thursday 21st April: General set up of exhibition

Friday 22nd April: Members evening reception – time to be arranged

Friday 22nd April to Monday 25th April 2016 10.00am to 4.30 Exhibition Days

Tuesday 26th April: Dismantling of all the exhibits, tables and stands –again some strong men will be required for the heavy items

Please see an exhibition committee member if you can press gang any strong able bodied males into helping!

MARLBOROUGH AND DISTRICT BRANCH WEBSITE

Congratulations to **Chrissie Seager** for committing her time, skill and creativity to the mammoth task of giving the website a fabulous new makeover, which from now on can also be accessed on a smart phone! **Well Done Chrissie for all your hard work!** As a branch we are very proud of your achievement in bringing us into the 21st century! Congratulations are also due to **Ros Lomas**, who helped to update the contents and who will continue to do so in the future. If you have not had a chance to visit our new-look website **PLEASE DO!** It is in a very easy to access format and contains information about our branch history as well as about current and upcoming activities, meetings and workshops. Copies of Newsletters dating back to 2012 and blogs from previous speakers and events are available for browsing. Please tell your friends and any would-be stitchers. I think they will be pleasantly surprised by both the website and the discovery of such a thriving stitching community in their locality.

Here is a link to the front page: <http://www.marlbroughembroiderers.org/>

BUNTING MAKING



A big **thank you** to everyone who came along to help with bunting making. A great time was had by all and lots of lovely bunting has been made. However **more is needed**. If anyone would like to help, please come along on **Stitch Day**. It is also an opportunity to finish off your red squares and tote bags! If you are unable to come why not pick up some fabric and a template at the next meeting and **make some at home**.

Other events

Grayson Perry: The Vanity of small differences
9th January – 10th April

The Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge st, Bath
www.victoriagal.org.uk/grayson-perry

A series of 6 large scale tapestries which chart the "class journey" of Tim Rakewell in the award winning Channel 4 series: "All in the best possible taste".

£3.50 concessionary tickets. Closed Mondays.

.....
Timorous Beasties

23rd Jan – 16th March

The Discovery Centre, Jewry St., Winchester
Tel: 03005551387

A world-renowned design company, most noted for their surreal and provocative textiles and wallpapers. Open every day. Free admission.

.....
Quinary

19th March – 9th April

Walcot Chape, Walcot Gate, Bath
<http://quinary12.wordpress.com/>

A contemporary textile art group exhibiting their work. Free Admission. Open 11-4.30 every day.

SW Regional Festival Day

Saturday 9th April

Pavilion Centre, Royal Cornwall
Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall

Tickets: **£29.50** Includes picnic lunch
plus tea coffee and cakes

Madeira Lecture by **Amanda Clayton**

Afternoon Speaker: **Vivien Pridéaux**

A great day out is promised for those who are able to get there.



Spring Knitting and Stitching show Olympia

3rd – 6th March 2016



This is the ideal place to find inspiration, learn new skills and shop for all your essential supplies. **Pre-booked concessionary entrance tickets £12.**
www.theknittingandstitchingshow.com/spring/

Winter Weather Reminder

As previously mentioned – if it becomes necessary to cancel any meeting due to bad weather we will endeavour, if possible, to advise members by email and would appreciate this information being passed on to others.

Members not on email are requested to check with

Suzanne: SAmail@stedman.org.uk tel: 01672861658

Or Maria: mariafraser2013@outlook.com tel: 016722515283

KEEP SAFE, KEEP WARM

World Textile Day June 4th at King's Sutton Millenium Memorial Hall, Astrop Road, King's Sutton, near Banbury.

Exhibition of stitched, embroidered and woven textiles. Free admission. Open 10am – 4.30pm.

Presentation by John Gillow on the Dowry textiles of West India and Pakistan. Also 2 short talks and a 'show and tell' of your own textiles (£2 per session). Sounds like a really exciting day out. One not to be missed, and on the plus side, it is not too far away.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk>

Summary of EG Consultation Meeting with Terry Murphy in Salisbury

Terry indicated that:

- The Guild has been a charity since 1985, existing to promote stitch and textile art, ensuring that skills are passed on, and remaining relevant to the 21st century.
- Problems have arisen within the Guild and efforts have been made to address these.
- There has been a lack of enthusiasm within some branches to recruit new members, resulting in the average age being 70; so the Guild wants to tackle this problem.
- Large amounts of funds and staff are needed to renew memberships so the Guild wants to attract professional embroiderers as patrons and trustees. This is now happening following the Capability Brown initiative.
- Consultation with the branches indicates that 65% of members would not want to be Guild members. This would not be financially sustainable.
- Many members felt that the different categories of membership would be divisive. Therefore this proposal is a non-starter!
- There is no plan B so membership will continue as is for the present, except that Direct Debit will be introduced to offset costs. £5 per month has been suggested.

Members raised the following concerns:

- It was suggested that all communication via the internet could be a problem in rural areas where access is limited. Terry indicated that the Guild's intention is, initially, to trial and, eventually, to provide a free website for all branches.
- The question of partnership branches was raised. The consultation identified that **many** branches wish to be autonomous and not be directed by the Guild while other branches were keen to work more closely with the Guild and be involved in national projects. Terry felt that this would pose problems for developing a national identity and that more work is needed to sort out the criteria.
- The name Embroiderers' Guild was raised as being outdated. Terry indicated that branches could call themselves whatever they liked as long as EG is also mentioned in the official documents.
- Concerns were raised about the insularity of regions. Terry indicated that regions are a complex issue. However, he felt that their activities should reflect the national body.

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
A copy is also available on our website. www.marlbroughembroiders.org