



Embroiderers' Guild



February

MARLBOROUGH & DISTRICT BRANCH

www.marlbroughembroiderers.org

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome to all our members and guests

Happy Reading



REMINDERS FOR THIS MONTH

- FEB 4th** Meeting /Speaker: Ann Jackson
"Certaine Witches – Fear, Myth and Magic"
- FEB 18th** Young Embroiderers
- FEB 19th** Design to stitch (4)
- FEB 25th** Stitch Day

DATES FOR MARCH

- MAR 4th** **BRANCH OPEN DAY**
Meeting/Speaker: Karen Nicol
"24 Hour Stitch"
- MAR 5th** Tutor-Led workshop:
Jane Fairweather
"Teacup Trees"
(Free Machine Embroidery)
- MAR 19th** Design to Stitch (3)
- MAR 25th** Stitch Day



A gentle reminder to old and new members to wear their name badges. A box will be provided for those wishing to leave them at the hall.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER: ANN JACKSON



Ann Jackson was born in the USA, was educated in Scotland and now lives in Devon. She completed a post graduate course in Constructed Textiles, and has since been involved in numerous exhibitions of her work. The latest comprises a one-woman show based on a long term project entitled "Certaine Witches", which will also be the theme of her presentation. Through the project, entitled "The Witchcraft Series" Ann is seeking to represent the idea of power that "the witch" holds in our culture, both as metaphor for our fears, and as a representation of social injustice towards women. The "witch-hunt" is an idea that persists, both in accounts of historic witch-trials, and modern scandals and investigations. She uses historical texts and original illustrations, along with contemporary scientific and cultural references, to depict the stories of individual women. The medium Ann uses is a textile art form known as knotted tapestry, which is a fusion of Gobelin woven tapestry, and double half-hitch knotting, using cotton, linen and synthetic yarns & fibres. Overall, her work is concerned with breaking out of the convention which associates textiles and woven tapestry with a sense of cosiness and comfort. She sometimes includes elements of irony, and even humour. Her intention is to present an object which is both visually arresting, and thought-provoking.

MADEIRA EMBROIDERY COMPETITION 2019 GLIMPSES OF ROYALTY

Guild members were given the challenge to create a rich embroidered piece inspired by royals throughout history. Three of our branch members took part, creating some truly amazing work using both traditional and some quite unconventional techniques. Linda's and Lindsay's are displayed this month. We await Nikki's in the March issue.

This ambitious and beautifully executed traditional piece is the work of **Linda Wells**. She has included bead work, gold work, stump work, needle lace, Turkey work, thread painting, appliqué, cut gold/silver work, stumped filigree and stitched leather and suede techniques. In this sumptuous piece we get a glimpse of Royal Ornament in King Edward's crown, in the motifs from Queen Elizabeth's coronation robe, sceptre and orb, and royal symbol from the fleur-de-lys, the monarch butterfly, the queen bee and the 18 point monarch of the glen.



This spectacular 3D construction by **Lindsay Sherwood** combines tradition with innovation. Supported by a plastic torso covered in gold tissue paper, the black velvet and orange satin lined, ornamented bodice is enriched by the splendour of metallic gold thread machine embroidered sleeves, stitched from the reverse and comprising several layers to achieve the opalescent, opulent effect. The ruff and cuffs are stitched on nylon organza between 2 layers of water soluble fabric using both automatic machine stitch and free machine embroidery to produce a flat lacy fabric which is then pin-tucked to achieve the required shape. The whole is adorned with numerous charity shop pearls and 'jewels' made from acrylic painted beads from a charity shop chandelier!

Materials:

- Patterned fabrics, enough to make 20 2½" x 42-44" strips,
- Or ½ jelly roll.
- Wadding 1.5 m.
- Thread,
- Pins
- Tape measure
- Scissors, Rotary cutter and mat (if you have them)



FEBRUARY STITCH DAY: MAKING A CAMDEN BAG

Our themed stitch days have been such a success that the committee has decided to add this as a permanent option to Stitch Day alongside helping Margaret Heath with the Prospect Project and your own projects. This month **Kathleen McBride** and **Kathy Pollard**, two of our newest members, are leading the themed option with a demonstration on how to cut, layer, stitch and join the strips which will go to make up a Camden bag. Next month there will be an opportunity to complete the bag. Written instructions available on the day.

YOUNG EMBROIDERERS' PROJECT FEBRUARY 18th

After the great turnout and enjoyable time spent making beautiful angel decorations in December, the young embroiderers will be creating a more functional project in February. **Christine Hill**, and her band of helpers, will be supporting the would-be stitchers in making a felt, stitched needle case - a must for any embroiderer, learner or veteran. As always, new members are most welcome. If not sure, why not bring your (grand) child along for a trial session.



Robina Orchard, a long serving member of our branch has had a history - albeit some time ago - of making banners, historical tapestries, commemorative embroideries, altar frontals, lectern falls and kneelers. Therefore, when approached to recommend someone to undertake the commission of designing and creating a banner for Rowde and Bromham Mother's Union, she felt sufficiently accomplished to offer her own skills. Using the brief assigned to her, Robina completed this simple but eye-catching design from an initial drawing in chalk and charcoal to the finished piece in applique and couching.



TRAUMA TEDDIES

The Trauma Teddy was first conceived in 1990 in Australia when it was noticed that a teddy bear given to a child being treated after a traumatic incident produced a calming effect. The Red Cross became involved in designing and constructing bears to give to children in distressing situations. It has now become a worldwide practice instituted in all kinds of trauma inducing situations for example by firefighters, the ambulance and police services and the law courts. The teddies help distract children when something distressing is happening around them. The child keeps the bear and it becomes a comforter for them. If you are interested in making one please see the pattern attached with the newsletter and give your completed teddies to **Claire Allott**.



PAINTING COURSE AT AVEBURY WITH SUSANNA BAILEY

Venue: The Henge Shop Studio, High St, Avebury SN8 1RF
 Dates: Tuesday mornings 10am-1pm
 Fee: £22 per class website: <http://susannaibalei.co.uk/>

Susanna trained as an artist and printmaker for which she gained an international reputation exhibiting her work all over the world. She spends much of her time now teaching, both in the UK and abroad. For some years she has run a painting class at Avebury and through popular demand is starting another class of 7 students. All levels of expertise. There is a theme for each class, with a quick demo and some historical background. A great foundation for sketchbooking for stitch design! There are still spaces for anyone interested. Please contact Susanna directly. susannaibalei@live.co.uk



BBC RADIO 4 - PURSUIT OF BEAUTY, IN STITCHES

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00014k4



During this broadcast, which was aired on November 15th 2018 on radio 4, dress historian, Amber Butchart, talks to some leading contemporary embroidery artists who are liberating embroidery from its past, helping it flourish into a remarkable and radical form of progressive art. She discusses how embroidery is experiencing a boom and with that an astonishing image overhaul. She explains how a new generation of embroiderers are challenging the traditionally held view that embroidery is a simple domestic task or a dull craft, with complex, political, dynamic artwork that renews a desire for a lost haptic touch. Many are drawn to stitch for its tactile nature, hypnotic sound and its ability to convey profound ideas. One artist sews into the sole of her own foot, another embroiders photographs of war time gay erotica. But this new generation of artists are also struggling to be exhibited or seen on the same platform as artists making painting and sculpture. Do listen to this 28 minute broadcast while it is still available.

THREADS OF LIFE:

A HISTORY OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE

Venue: Fashion and textile museum
 83 Bermondsey St., London, SE1 3XF
 Dates: March 14th 2019 6-8pm Evening Talk
 Fee: £15 (£35 with pre-ordered book) More details: info@ftmlondon.org

Threads of Life is a history of sewing and embroidery, told through the stories of the men and women who have used the language of sewing to make their voices heard even in the most desperate of circumstances. Join the author **Clare Hunter** in what promises to be a fascinating talk, from the political storytelling of the Bayeux tapestry's anonymous embroiderers and Mary, Queen of Scots' treasonous stitching, to the sewing of First World War soldiers suffering from PTSD and the banner-makers at Greenham Common.



THE WOMAN'S WORK: FEMALE ARTISTS IN THE SWINDON COLLECTION

Venue: Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
 Bath Road, Swindon, SN1 4BA
 Dates: Jan 24th - Mar 16th, Tues-Sat 11.00am-4.30pm
 Entry: Free www.swindonmuseumandartgallery.org.uk



This exhibition explores the work of female artists in the Swindon Collection and includes paintings and drawings by Gwen John, Mary Fedden, Gillian Ayres, Nicola Tyson and Sylvia Gosse. Historically, female artists have been under-represented. Recent exhibitions have aimed to showcase more work by female artists, but this is the first exhibition in more than twenty years to celebrate female artists. The exhibition features portraits, landscapes and abstracts. It will look at both the female artists who broke through the restrictions of the early 20th century art world, and the contemporary artists who offer a unique perspective on a women's experience of the world.

SWINGING LONDON: A LIFESTYLE REVOLUTION TERENCE CONRAN-MARY QUANT

Venue: Fashion and textile museum
 83 Bermondsey St., London, SE1 3XF info@ftmlondon.org
 Dates: Feb 8 - Jun 2 2019 Tues-Sat 11-6
 Thurs 11-8, Sun, 11-5, Mon closed
 Fee: Adult £9.90, Seniors £8.80



This exhibition will present the fashion, design and art of the Chelsea Set; a group of radical young architects, designers, photographers and artists who were redefining the concept of youth and challenging the established order in 1950s London. At the forefront of this group of young revolutionaries were Mary Quant and Terence Conran. It will span the period from 1952 - 1977 and will present fashion, textiles, furniture, lighting, homewares, ceramics and ephemera in an exhibition that explores not only the style but the socioeconomic importance of this transformative period of time. Key pieces include rare and early examples of designs by Conran and Quant, plus the avant-garde artists, designers and intellectuals who worked alongside them, such as designers Bernard and Laura Ashley, sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi and artist and photographer Nigel Henderson.

RSN: THE EMBROIDERED HOME EXHIBITION

Venue: The Royal School of Needlework
 Apartment 12A Hampton Court Palace
 East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9AU
 Dates: Jan 28 - to Aug 01 2019, 11am & 2pm
 Entry: talk and tour £16 - Booking required
<https://royal-needlework.org.uk/events-exhibitions/>



The new display will feature pieces from the RSN's unique collection and will illustrate how embroidery has been used to beautify the domestic environment. The exhibits are worked in a variety of techniques and include bedspreads, sheets, tablecloths, cushion covers, fire screens as well as smaller items such as letter holders and table mats. The exhibition embodies a fascinating social history from the 19th and 20th centuries with many pieces telling stories of their own.

'MY JOURNEY' EXHIBITION BY SUE MARKHAM

Venue: National Needlework Archive, The Old Chapel Textile Centre,
 Main St, Greenham Business Park, Newbury, RG19 6HW
 Dates: March 26th - April 25th, Tues-Thurs & 1st Sat of month, 10-4
 Entry: £4



Sue is a member of the textile art group Out of Bounds, which comprises four textile practitioners who work as a group to support each other and improve their textile efforts. The work displayed in this exhibition includes pieces completed since doing C&G Patchwork and design. She is experimenting with a variety of techniques to create her own style combining patchwork and embroidery.

BRISTOL EMBROIDERERS' GUILD EXHIBITION

Venue: Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre, Shirehampton Rd
 Bristol, BS9 1BN
 Dates: Feb 22-23 2019. 10-4.30 Entry: £4

Do support the Bristol Branch biennial display of work. There will also sales tables, refreshments and free parking in the grounds.

