



# SEE THE NEWS!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOUTH EAST REGION

FEBRUARY  
2017

ISSUE NO.22

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*Our Regional  
Newsletter is a great  
forum to advertise  
your branch  
exhibitions, special  
events, anniversaries  
etc.*

*Do make sure you  
also advise Kay  
Dennis so that  
information can  
be posted on the  
Regional web site.  
Contact me with any  
contributions!  
Janet Brown  
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07801 137349  
janet-brown@  
btconnect.com*

## Chairman's Letter

Hello,

It seems a long time since I wrote to you all, and last year's events a memory, but these were the highlights...

We had a wonderful weekend at the new venue for summer school (Roffey Park Institute, Horsham); the two tutors, Jenny Adin Christie and Lynda Monk did us proud, and with the lovely facilities at the institute we were really spoilt.

The Regional day at Maidstone was a lovely event, with a lot going on. The poppy workshop in the morning produced some wonderful flowers and has since been made up into a panel and presented to the Royal British Legion Village, Kent County Headquarters in Aylesford in November (see Page 4). Pat Trott gave the afternoon talk and as usual with Pat, she was interesting and entertaining.

Thank you Maidstone branch for all your hard work.

Thanks also to those who came to the AGM in Canterbury, it was lovely to see you all. The day was very well organised by East Kent Branch and we had a fascinating talk by Janet Clare in the afternoon. There were 16 entries in the Coats members 'Skyline' competition. Congratulations to Felicia Taylorson and Ann Sparkes for coming first and second respectively. Trustee Gill Drury gave us an update on the Guild.

This year is a busy year for us all, and preparations for the summer's events are well under way. The Branch Reps meeting in May will be first, followed by the members exhibition at Denbies Vineyard later in that month, our Summer school in June and the Regional Day at Ardingly in July. We are also celebrating the National Day of Stitch at Denbies again this year in August. There are more details of these events and booking forms further on in this newsletter.

Last year during the Celebration of Stitch day at Denbies we launched 'The Denbies Panel', which will feature leaves, grapes, insects and birds. The finished panel, which has been designed by Anne Sillifant, will be on show during the exhibition then later on at regional events during the summer. We are also hoping that a smaller panel will be made and raffled. If you have a leaf or insect pack from us, please will you return it to Anne by the middle of March, or sooner if you can. If you would like to make something towards the panel please contact Anne - her email address is:

sillifant@sweethaven.biz

The title for the members competition at the AGM this year is 'Shout One Colour', a wonderful chance to explore texture and stitch (either machine or hand stitched or a combination of both) in a single colour or shades of the same colour.

**Kay Dennis**

Website: [southeastembroiderers.co.uk](http://southeastembroiderers.co.uk)

## SE REGION EVENTS

15th to 28th May 2017

### **Regional Exhibition 'Connected By Threads'**

At Denbies Vineyard Gallery, London Road,  
Dorking RH5 6AA

Featuring the Denbies Panel stitched by  
members of the SE Region.

You are invited to submit up to three pieces  
of work to this exhibition; the entry form  
and terms are again being sent with this  
newsletter, and your application must be  
returned by 1st March. The deadline for  
submission of your work is 30th April;  
application by email is preferable if possible.

Members in the Region are invited to  
steward during this exhibition; you can help  
even if you cannot enter a piece of work.  
Contact Jan Brown (details on Page 1) who  
is organising the rota.



9th to 11th June 2017

### **Regional Summer School**

Roffey Park Institute, Forest Road,  
Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4TB

A Weekend Of Inspiration!

There are three Tutors to choose from:  
Wendy Dolan with Layered Landscapes  
in Machine Embroidery, Judith Bailey with  
a Whitework Embroidery design (Judith  
is replacing Lizzy Lansbury whose baby  
happens to be due in June) and Anne  
Sillifant with Vessels and Vases, or you can  
just come and stitch by attending the Stitch  
Retreat, a rare chance to work on your  
own projects and enjoy the company of like  
minded people.

Contact details and prices for the Summer  
School and the Stitch Retreat are on the  
attached forms and there are still some  
places available.

Come and join us!

15th July 2017

### **Regional Day 'Stitchfest'**

Our bi-annual day at Ardingly Showground,  
is open to the public so do invite your friends,  
as we have lots of good traders, workshops  
and demonstrations to enjoy. There will be  
a Raffle, an Educational Information Corner  
and a 'Sit, Stitch, Chill' Corner, where you can  
rest and stitch a small project. Instead of the  
usual competition, this year your branch has  
the opportunity to 'Showcase' its members  
work, to display what the branch you belong  
to is about and to highlight its strengths. There  
will be plenty of space for each branch to do  
this; branches are being offered a 6' table or  
equivalent space (no quilt frames).

Tickets will be £9.00 in advance, £12.00 on  
the door; your branch will receive a ticket order  
form soon and will be able to order tickets for  
their members.

There will no host branch this year and again  
members in the Region will be invited to  
steward for an hour during the day.

5th August 2017

### **National Day of Stitch**

Denbies Wine Estate, London Road,  
Dorking RH5 6AA

The Regional  
Committee will  
again be at Denbies  
to celebrate the  
National Day of  
Stitch with the theme  
this year of  
'Butterflies'. All Regional  
members are invited to  
join in; branches are also  
encouraged to organise their own event in a  
local venue.



**PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY AND  
JOIN OTHER MEMBERS IN THE REGION AT  
THESE EVENTS - A CHANCE TO RENEW  
FRIENDSHIPS AND CATCH UP ON THE  
NEWS!**

## A PERSONAL VIEW

In July last year I had the opportunity to take part in an art project 'Sensing Culture' which took place at various venues across south east England together with the RNIB and with Heritage Lottery funding.

Claire Buckley was the tutor of three sessions in Canterbury Cathedral archive library. Together with a group of well informed volunteers, nine blind and partially sighted people had the opportunity to explore by touch embroidered items and silverware, then to stitch our interpretation onto calico, held taut in a ring frame. As a past professional hand embroiderer I now had the opportunity to use different yarns which seemed to dictate their placement, so I let it be and took pleasure in just the familiar rhythm of stitch, making full use of my central vision in the hour designated.

In the following two and a half hour session Claire led us to explore Archbishop Bouchier's tomb (1404 - 1486), especially the reef knots carved into the stone. Then we went back to the library to create cords, tie these into reef knots and sew onto calico. As part of this textile project Claire had us all drawing around our hand on a linen roller towel, together with the paw prints of the guide dogs and all the volunteers and cathedral staff who assisted in so many ways. These Claire embroidered to create a permanent record, together with all our names.

I've known and live near Claire for many years (via the Embroiderers' Guild). In travelling together I had an insight for the third and final session. Again we had the opportunity to touch and describe more silverware; volunteers recording what we all perceived was part of Claire's project planning. This time we focused on three dimensional items, with the opportunity to explore, by touch, the seventeenth century brass Eagle lectern in the choir. My thoughts turn to all the artisan skills since life began and all those who mine minerals. Again working with fabric new to me, I set myself to make a free standing chalice, a form of construction I've never had the opportunity to do. The hour for stitching was too short

to complete the work but time for a rest for eyes. Claire kindly let me finish the work at home.

Taking part in this project was a very interesting, enjoyable and informative experience for me and how blessed am I in still having central vision with excellent care from Moorfields Eye Hospital and my local ophthalmologist.

**Marion Cantrell**

*Editor's Note: Marion writes that the 'value of this time at Canterbury made me aware of the please-therapy-enjoyment of the creative arts, especially hand stitching. With support, various aids, moral encouragement etc surely this can be part of the Guild's vision for all levels of ability, be it of techniques or physical capability'.*

## LOCAL COUNCIL INFORMATION

Recently I needed to get in touch with a Branch Treasurer outside the SE Region and I decided to go onto the Local Council's website for a list of local organisations. There I found the EG Branch list along with details of what they do, where and when meetings were held and names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails addresses of two contacts.

The Regional Committee were wondering whether this might be somewhere where branches might consider publicising their existence. Some of you might already do this but it is worth a thought.

**Judith Bailey**

## SE REGION WEBSITE

The South East Region's website has all our Regional News on it and Sue Potts, a Regional Committee member, now runs a Facebook Page titled See Region. Branches and members have been invited to post information about events, workshops etc that might be of interest. If you would like something added to See Region your branch chairman has Sue's details. You can sign up as a friend and see what is going on in the region. It also has three pages on Pinterest.

## PRESENTATION OF 'POPPY' PANEL

My branch, Maidstone, were hosting the SE Region's Regional Day last year and I wanted to do 'something in the community' for the workshop we had decided to hold during the morning. I approached the Royal British Legion whose Kent Headquarter's were in Aylesford and they were thrilled at the prospect.

It seemed appropriate to commemorate the Centenary of the Somme in the project and the design was inspired by WW1 artist Paul Nash who wrote 'Imagine a wide landscape flat and scantily wooded and what trees remain blasted and torn, naked and scarred and riddled. The ground for miles around furrowed into trenches, pitted with yawning holes in which the water lies still and cold or heaped with mounds of earth, tangles of rusty wire, tin plates, stakes, sandbags and all the refuse of war..... In the midst of this strange country... men are living in their narrow ditches. ....'.

I designed and created the panel using different techniques - I wet-felted the sky, machine embroidered the wording and stencilled and fabric painted the trenches and trees. Then added beadwork and French knots. Over one hundred poppies on had to be hand stitched on. About three dozen poppies were made at the Regional day and others were sent in from members in the Region - the many designs and techniques used show the diversity of skills. In all the panel took over a hundred hours to make.

I also wanted the textile to be representational, thus the silver poppy in the bottom left corner for the tangles of barbed wire, The 'Bleuet de France' cornflower for the many French soldiers also killed and maimed on the battlefield and the three translucent organza poppies in the top left corner representing the lost souls rising to the heavens. Of course the river of red poppies undulating from small to large creates perspective and a sense of movement against the scantily wooded, torn, naked and scarred land of trenches.



Karin Buccanan, with her 'Sunrise Over The Somme' at the Presentation