



SEE THE NEWS!

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOUTH EAST REGION

Website: southeastembroiderers.co.uk

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Our Regional
Newsletter is a great
forum to advertise
your branch
exhibitions and
special events

Do make sure details
are also posted on
the Regional web
site.

Contact me with any
contributions!
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Chairman's Welcome,

We have had a busy, exciting and successful year and it has been a real pleasure meeting some of you at the various events. As you can see below we have a new date to add to your calendar; please put these dates in your diary and I hope to meet even more of you next year.

Kay, Heather, Judith, Janet, Jen, Sue, Christine, Anne, Joy and Jo (a.k.a. the Region committee) would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Kay Dennis



[Another Date For Your Calendar](#)

Regional Art Van Go Workshop

'Colour & Stuff'

Combine dyes, fabric paint, and a 'bit of glitz' for creative fabric and surface effects. Using a 'mixed media' approach of layering, printing, transferring and foiling, explore regular and 'novelty' surfaces. End the session with lots of ideas and (time allowing) with a piece of unique fabric.

Date: 28th April 2018

Venue: Bellside Village Hall, Cobham

Cost: £30.00

A booking form and full details will be distributed to branches in the New Year. Viv Arthur has provided us with a requirement list which will be sent out to each member upon receipt of their application.

Summer School 15th to 17th June 2018

There are still places available on our Summer school next summer. Held at Roffey Park in Horsham, the three tutors are Nicola Jarvis (Hand Stitching), Fleur Oaks (Needlelace) and Ann Cooke and Angie Hill (Needle Felting with Embellishments).

The leaflet and booking form pdf's which have all the information you need have been sent to branch committees; applications to be sent to Heather Starbuck, details on the form.

Regional Day 14th July 2018

Hosted by East Surrey Branch in the Village Hall, Bletchingly, Surrey.

Branch Competition

Fantasy Wear

Create a fantasy fashion accessory e.g. a belt, bag, hat, headdress, collar, weapon, gauntlet, shawl etc based on myth, legend or fiction from the past or future.

The item must fit on a table space 50 x 50 cms (and be no more than 100 cms high) or be able to be hung on a wall in a maximum space of 50 cms x 100 cms.

A local costume maker/embroiderer, Miki Dennis, will treat members to a fantasy fashion show in the afternoon.

www.mikidennis.uwclub.net

As usual refreshments will be available but bring your own lunch.

There is plenty of parking at this venue.

Bucks County Museum

My son and his family live near Aylesbury, so when I found that my Grandparent duties unexpectedly gave me a free day, I persuaded my husband that going to the museum was a good way to pass the time.

The exhibition 'The Beautiful Stitch' was on and it was a delight. There were three large rooms full of pieces from the Embroiderers Guild collection. One room showed embroidery as art, another showed embroidery on clothes and household items and the third room concentrated on education. Each piece had an excellent description, including the date and the type of embroidery represented. As contemporary work was displayed alongside historical pieces it was interesting to see that our embroidery skills have not declined. Though of course materials, colours and design have changed. The embroidery pictured on our membership cards was there. The colours looking much more vibrant than the photograph depicts.

It was good to see large wall hangings and quilts displayed so that you could see them well and appreciate the full effect of the design and stitches. Stump work by Kay Dennis was on display as was a stuffed donkey made by pupils of my local school, Purley Grammar School for Girls. Even my husband enjoyed the exhibition. Having pieces of the Embroiderers Guild collection displayed like this for everyone to see is excellent. I look forward to going back to the museum to see the permanent exhibition when it is set up next year.

Gwen Strange
(Croydon Branch)

Regional AGM 22nd September 2018

Hosted by Horsham Branch in the Village Hall, Warnham, West Sussex.

Members Competition

'Nature in a Jar'

There is no height restriction and no need for a lid (a goldfish bowl is fine but not a fish tank).

YE Competition

'Bugs in a Jar'

Obituary for Mary Broughton

Mary Broughton, Honorary President of the Embroiderers' Guild Maidstone Branch, sadly passed away on 20th August 2017 aged 91 years. She is remembered with affection and appreciation by all the many people who knew her. Some of the Maidstone Branch members have fond memories of Mary as their needlework teacher at the Maidstone Technical High School for Girls (now Invicta Grammar School). Mary taught both 'O' level and 'A' level GCE needlework and, as students, Sue Young and Jeanette Perkins felt well supported in the development of their lifelong interest in textiles.

As one of the driving forces in setting up the Maidstone Branch in the late 1980s, Mary first called a public meeting at her school to see how many people in the Maidstone area and outlying districts were interested in embroidery. Pat Trott attended that gathering on a wet, windy and dark November evening along with a great number of others who came along to hear Mary Anderson from HQ outline what the Guild stands for and what would be involved in starting a new branch.

Mary was our first Chairman and took the role on a number of occasions through the years, before becoming Honorary President in recognition of all her work. She was very efficient, constantly writing notes in her Milkman's Dairy Diary – used solely for Guild business – and she never forgot to thank everyone who had helped during the year. Ready to listen and help whenever she could, Mary would give sound advice and ran the branch properly, 'by the book'.

She ran a great many workshops for the Maidstone Branch, always bringing enough stock and materials for people to use; we all learned a great deal from her. Mary was very good at promoting our branch and we had many exhibitions, both large and small, to advertise it and bring in new members. In fact, membership grew so large we had to move to a bigger venue. There were exhibitions in places like libraries, shop windows, shopping malls, The Maidstone Museum and the Archbishop's Palace to celebrate the work of all members.

As well as a lover of embroidery, Mary was very thoughtful, kind, caring and generous with her knowledge, but above all a lovely funny lady with a great sense of humour. When running a small informal group of members at her home in the early 2000's she would tell risqué stories about her time at Art College, while her lovely husband Sid and their cat would wander in and out. On sunny evenings, she would take the group outside to sew and relax under the wisteria. Unfortunately, Mary became ill in her later years, but she never lost that sense of humour and generosity, continuing to have a smile for everyone.

Catherine Shirley



What does the Embroiderers' Guild do for me?

As I travel around the Region, at Branch day schools or as a speaker I quite often chat about the Guild and mostly the response is good and members have high hopes for the future.

But sometimes somebody asks 'what does the EG do for me?' and, depending on the circumstances, I will reply 'what do you do for the EG?' There is a saying 'you only get out what you put in'.

The Embroiderers' Guild is for the members and made up of members of the Guild, it is not like a corporate company where there is a huge staff that runs the organisation – sure there is a small staff (working mainly from home now) and there will be staff working at Aylesbury to look after the administration of the Guild but basically the Guild is there only if the members do their bit, especially now there is a reduced number of staff.

So, what does the EG do for it's members..... Well, at ground level we have the Branches, where we get, exactly as the Guild logo says 'fun, friendship and fellowship'. Within the Branch there are meetings with speakers, day classes, stitching days, outings, members can take part in exhibitions and branch competitions – the list goes on. Yes, of course, there are private groups to join, but they don't have the wider outlook and history that an International Organization holds.

The next level is the Region, where Regional Days and AGM's are organised, both very good days and both extend the fun, friendship and fellowship to a wider area. Most Regions have their own newsletter, some have a web site and they organize events the members can join in with, like occasional exhibitions, competitions and Summer Schools. Then we come to top of the tree, the National Guild. At the Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury, now the home of the Guild there is a first class library, a superb embroidery collection and of course a wonderful collection of folios (which members and branches can borrow). We get the Guild magazine 'Contact' to keep us up to date with Guild matters. The Guild organises overseas tours and more at home, a superb annual convention, both which take the 'fun, friendship and fellowship' even wider.

So, going back to the beginning, what does the Guild do for me – a great deal! Without the Embroiderers Guild we would not have the huge fellowship of embroiderers not only in this Country but abroad as well, we would not have the beautiful collection of embroidery and some vast library of old and informative books.

So to reverse the question, what can you do for the Guildwell, at Branch level you can help with the organisation, you do not have to be on the committee, just be willing to help at events, the same applies with the Region, and again you do not need to be a committee member and for the National Embroiderers' Guild you could help at shows such as the Knitting and Stitching Shows that are held in London, Dublin and Harrogate and various exhibitions and events hosted by the Guild.

Kay Dennis