



Embroiderers' Guild News

sharing opportunities for discovery and creativity

Enfield & District Branch www.embroiderersguildenfield.co.uk October 2012 Autumn Issue 09

Chairman's Message

Another year and another successful and exciting programme for our Branch. There has been good attendance at most of our talks and workshops and particularly for the in-house meetings when we've all gone away with something to show for our work. Highlights of the monthly meetings included Sue Walker's demonstration of her experiments in knitting techniques, Jessica Aldred's enthusiastic description of her role in making Kate Middleton's wedding dress, Peter Dell's passionate talk about the Henry Moore foundation, and more recently Yumiko Reynolds beautiful stitch drawing of relationships between mother and child and, more controversially, her own experiences of anorexia. Workshops had us bonding fabrics, making coil pots, "hot books" and embellishing whatever we could find. The results are amazing. In addition we should as a branch be very proud of our joint projects. I think everyone was wowed by the portrait of Elizabeth I which was unveiled at our January meeting. It contains such a diverse range of techniques yet manages to look a coordinated whole. Our Saudi postcards, although produced over a year ago were displayed in central London and greatly admired. And finally we were able to contribute to the local community by participating on a project for the newly opened Forty Hall.

Monthly workshops on the fourth Tuesday of the month continue to attract good attendance and an opportunity to try out new techniques, find inspiration and have a good chat. Young Embroiderers has also been going strong with a record number of girls trying their hand at everything from felting to fabric marbling. They are the future of embroidery and an important element of our branch

One of our aims as a committee this year has been to raise the profile of the branch locally in order to attract more members and this has had some success. We have a wonderful web-site and leaflets to hand out at local events – many thanks to Jill (and her son) for their fantastic effort. In spite of losing a few members this year numbers are still buoyant although we could always do with more as costs are rising and we always welcome new ideas and faces. We have been members of the Eastern branch of the Embroiderers' Guild for more than a year, but are only just beginning to see the benefits. Unfortunately the regional day was in Norwich, a bit too far to go, but will be in Romford next year; they also have an excellent web-site with lots of opportunities advertised for workshops and exhibitions so we need to make more use of them.

Finally I would like to give a big thanks to everyone who has helped the Branch over the year. In particular special thanks to the ladies who make the tea, to Jill as already mentioned for her work on the newsletter, programme and web-site, Ailsa, Ursula, Edna, Wendy and Mary for so enthusiastically managing the YE, Helen and Denise for organising the programme and to all committee members who put in time and effort to enable the Branch to continue.

I hope you also enjoyed the year and are excited as I am about our forthcoming programme.

Suzanne Twomey

Long Service Awards

Congratulations to Beryl Clark and Mary Jenkins on completing 25 years' membership.

Dates

for your Diary

October 11th-14 th

The Knitting & Stitching Show
Alexandra Palace, London
www.twistedthread.com

9th to 27th October

Breakaway'92 Creative Textiles Exhibition
Bishop's Stortford Museum
Rhodes Arts Complex,
South Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG
Mon to Fri 10am to 5pm
Sat 10am to 4pm.

October 19th 2012-27

January 2013
Hollywood Costume
Amazing collection of costumes exploring the role of costume in Cinema.

October 20th

10am Stitch workshop
At Oakwood Methodist Church. Come and explore Ruskin lace with Suzanne, Bullion stitch with Ailsa and/or Crochet flowers with Terina.

November 10th, 2-30pm

"Textiles and Tokens of the London Foundling hospital"
Guild Talk by Janette Bright.

December 8th, 2-30pm

Don't forget your entry for our Christmas competition 'Frost'



Olympic Post Cards - Stewarding At St. Martin In The Fields

By Wendy Chrichley

As most of you know, our Branch made 13 post cards depicting Saudi Arabia to commemorate the London Olympic Games. Rosemary and I stewarded in August and I did a stint again during the last week of the exhibition.

There were almost 3000 embroideries representing 204 countries and displayed alphabetically. I discovered many places I had not heard of, for instance, next to ours was Sao Tome and Principe!! It is on the west coast of Africa.

The embroideries were made using many different techniques. The Branch and country were noted at the top of each strip and each country had to have the flag depicted. Ours was made by Rosemary. There were flowers, birds, animals, buildings, faces, scenes, maps, etc. We have photos in an album and on a memory stick.

The event was well attended by very enthusiastic visitors. Most of them were amazed at the body of work. All were full of praise for the expertise and inventiveness. Some were on their second or third visit. It is too much to take in on just one visit.

Everyone said that the exhibition was badly advertised nationally and had only heard about it from friends. As it was held in the Crypt of St. Martin's, we were not able to put any more signs up on the walls to direct people who were visiting the shop or the adjacent restaurant. There was a board outside the Crypt entrance.

There were two packs of five post cards for sale in the shop. I bought one pack.

Everyone wanted to know where it would be going next and if it would be on permanent display. We were able to tell them that it would be exhibited in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire next month. Previously it had been exhibited in Much Wenlock, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, South Shields and Plymouth.



Members who made our cards: Rosemary Watts, Jo Hogg, Lilian Sanders (2), Edna France, Marion Lowe, Jean Clapham, Jill Bennett, Joyce Shilingis, Wendy Chrichley, Jackie O'Malley, Pat Cuckle, Barbara West.

London 2012 – Welcome the world By Pat Cuckle

I am not especially interested in sport and until the beginning of this year my interest in the Olympics was limited to the wish that Team GB should win as many gold medals as possible. However, as the excitement built up it became clear that London 2012 could not easily be ignored and I began to think that it would be good to get involved in some way. I like being out and about in London and enjoy promoting its great variety to my visitors; a number of organisations were offering training for Games Makers and Ambassadors, and local authorities around the centre of London were planning involvement. So when a colleague told me about a volunteers' scheme to Welcome the World that was being launched in Camden for its residents and workers I was interested. Camden was to have two information points, at Camden Town and Holborn stations. The idea was that we would help general and Olympic tourists in central London.

I submitted my application and an interview followed. The interview included the expected questions about why I was interested in meeting and greeting visitors and what I knew about places of interest in London. We were also asked to role-play visitors and greeters and this led to some hilarious scenes. After selection we had three days of training - two days on using information packs and guides and one day on security, delivered by the Metropolitan Police. We were given information on identifying suspicious individuals and articles that could contain bombs and how to handle a crowd and clear the area if a bomb was suspected. I learned how big an area needs to be cleared depending on whether explosives were contained in a brief case, a car or a truck! We would not have been expected to do this single-handed, of course, we were to call the bomb squad and assist where necessary.

The volunteers represented a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicity. We were provided with a distinctive purple and pink polo shirt (not my colour, but it could have been worse, i.e. yellow), a shoulder bag, a travel card and sufficient expenses to provide a drink and a snack during the break in each shift. We had to commit to a five-hour shift for five consecutive days – quite a light load compared to the Games Makers at the Olympic Park, some of whom did twelve hour shifts. I was allocated to Holborn armed with the maps, leaflets and booklets. We had no idea what questions we would be asked but a pattern soon emerged – the location of the British Museum, how to get to Trafalgar Square, where to get tickets for the Olympics (no, we were not privy to any secret supply) and advising on bus routes. Surprisingly, we were not often asked the whereabouts of public toilets. Some bemusing questions were asked such as whether there were tours of 10 Downing Street and what the Houses of Parliament were used for. The most unexpected question I was asked concerned the location of a large Tesco in which the tourist could buy a large bottle of Daz liquid (we wondered how long the gentleman in question was staying in London). The most touching request was from a newly-wed couple who had been walking round in circles for an hour, pulling large suitcases, looking for their honeymoon hotel; a kind-hearted volunteer showed them the way and stayed to make sure that they were registered and showed to their room.

The weather during most of the Olympic period was mercifully warm and dry and this enhanced the whole experience. There was a great deal of good humour and camaraderie amongst teams of volunteers, it was great fun meeting people from all over the world and it was satisfying to help people enjoy their trips to London, so volunteering was a worthwhile experience.

Serendipity Exhibition 'Turning over a New leaf'

by Ailsa Bulger



Our next exhibition will be at Art Van Go from November 3rd 2012. It's in conjunction with Christine Benson who has been mentoring our group for the past year, helping us to focus on developing our individual work. She also runs workshops at Art Van Go.

For this event each group member was challenged to make a textile book and also use a piece of African material brought back as a souvenir by one member. Come and judge how well we answered the challenges.

Stitch Drawing with Yumiko Reynolds

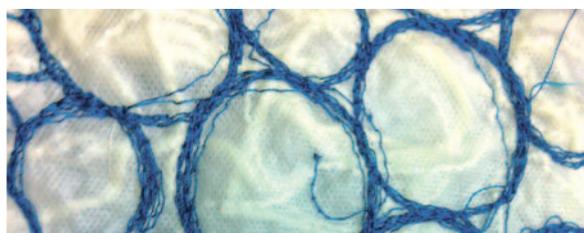
by Jill Bennett



Our September 12th monthly guild workshop, show-cased the work of an amazing textile artist – Yumiko Reynolds. Yumiko has developed an original drawing technique using her sewing machine and stitch manipulation. Her current imagery includes human forms, especially faces, with tonal hues

using threads; she uses various thicknesses of black, grey, cream and white threads on painted brown paper. Her favourite subject matters are "Mother and Child" and "Women." Yumiko describes her style of sewing technique as Stitch-Drawing.

After the completion of a City & Guilds course in Embroidery, Yumiko has concentrated on drawings and paintings for six years. Yumiko admires works by Alice Kettle and Audrey Walker.



William Morris Gallery
Open Wednesday to
Sunday 10.00-17.00



I had heard a lot about the updating of the William Morris Gallery whilst volunteering at 2 Temple Place, so I was really looking forward to seeing the changes to this Museum.

I have to say I was not disappointed. My husband asked "Was it still dark and gloomy?"; no, it was really light and airy. The prints looked wonderful. I particularly enjoyed the little video films about dyeing and making wall paper. I now appreciate how long it must have taken to produce wall paper. There were some lovely pieces of work by William Morris, and upstairs a little embroidered bag by May Morris. I particularly liked the drawings of Brownies-little men with pointed ears-they are supposed to help out with the housework; I want one to move in with me...

The real bonus for me was the Grayson Perry Tapestry; this was displayed in a small room on the ground floor. I stood for ages picking out logos that are now so familiar in our lives. Perry's point is, consumerism is our new religion.

The next exhibition coming to the museum is called Everyday Encounters; from 13th October 2012 to 3rd February 2013. This exhibition is a response by members of the Society of Designer Craftsmen to William Morris, who argued that art should be part of our everyday life. This collection of new work aims to bring the useful and beautiful into our homes and lives. There will be several textile artists showing their work. I will certainly be putting these dates in my diary.

On my way home I spent time shopping at the local market. I loved the small shops owned by Asian people selling silk, sequins, and fabric. The market is on Wednesday to Saturday if you also want to tie it into your visit.

by Maureen Morley



image: Paul Bommer

Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker, 850 Years of London Livery Company Treasures

By Jane Eadie

It seemed an interesting title at the Guildhall Art Gallery and I wasn't disappointed. There is much to be learnt about the livery companies of London these are my impressions of the visit. If you had asked me to estimate the number of guilds I would have said about twenty – in fact there are 108 dating from the 12th century to the present day!

Livery companies originally admitted women to their membership but this stopped in the 1800s. However, in 2002 the Company of Mercers admitted its first female members since 1797, other Companies now have followed suit women members.

There were numerous items on display, all of great interest, but I can mention only a few. A print of Dick Whittington showing him with his hand on a cat, originally the cat was a skull but the printmaker thought a cat would sell more prints. There are several portraits, one of Samuel Pepys c1680, and another oil on panel of Sir William Walworth with his Company Coat of Arms. As Lord Mayor in 1381 he ended the Peasants' Revolt by fatally stabbing Wat Tyler. A charter on vellum was granted to the Weavers' Company in 1155 by Henry II and attested by Thomas a Becket. It is the oldest recorded livery charter.

Also on display was a vellum ordinance book c1405, owned by the Company of Drapers and a charter ordinance and record book of the Company of Pewterers for the period 1471 to 1599, this was also on vellum and beautifully illuminated.

The Company of Founders had lent the Weoley Cup c 16th century made of Venetian glass and enamelled gilded silver. The Master's Crown of the Company of Carpenters of 1561 is not a crown as we might expect, but a cloth hat in silver, red velvet and couched embroidery. This Tudor crown is worn annually by the Master following his election and is the oldest crown in the city of London. Two other surviving crowns were displayed. In the same showcase were 18th century shoes of silk and leather with a note that Jimmy Choo is a member of the Cordwainers (shoemakers) Company bringing the visitor right back to the 21st century.

Three gloves, displayed side-by-side, also spanned the centuries. Elizabeth I's coronation glove was made with extended stitching to give the impression of very long fingers, also on display were Elizabeth II's coronation gloves made by Dents in 1953, and presented to her 'as a sign of respect and deference', this glove was of white kid leather, gold purl embroidery and sequins. Bringing us back to the present - the third glove was a space suit glove, of white nylon canvas and black leather, worn by cosmonaut Colonel Alex Volker in 1985. In the same room is the manuscript score of Sir Edward Elgar's Eley for Strings (1909) which is the property of the Company of Musicians. The music plays quietly in the background.

New to me was the Company of Playing Card

Makers, among the cards they displayed were Japanese tarot cards c17th century. The Royal College of Needlework exhibited a lectern fall of silk, gold wire and various other threads.

Silver belonging to the Companies which has survived the vicissitudes of the centuries was displayed. One of the most recent pieces was the Millennium Dish by Stuart Devlin. It is about 3 feet in diameter with silver in the centre, edged in parcel gilt illustrating in relief most of London's celebrated buildings and landmarks. The Master's chain of office (1971) of the Company of Farmers has enamelled roundels on the theme of agriculture with a scene of the Battle of Britain in progress over the Kent countryside. The Company of Salters lent their Millennium Salt in silver with gold inlay and four black walnut pepper mills surrounding the central salt. Gold inserts recall the spots of the snow leopard on the Company's coat of arms.

The Master's badge of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shows a silver and enamel secretary bird. It was made in 1983 to mark the appointment of the first lady Master of that Company – or, indeed, of any Livery Company – coincidentally in the time of the first lady Lord Mayor of London, Dame Mary Donaldson, and the first lady Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The whole exhibition of these treasures, rarely shown together, of which I have only outlined a cross-section, was fascinating and inspiring. It is a sign of a good exhibition to leave wanting to find out more. I certainly did.

Young Embroiderers by Ailsa Bulger



We were pleased to welcome back 6 of our young embroiderers after the summer break. We have moved to a new venue – not so bright and airy, but lots more space for our activities. Before embarking on a programme to make our entry for next years Guild competition we took inspiration from a STITCH magazine project to make brooches with images of flower vases – good practice in sewing French knots. An idea we could copy for an adult meeting perhaps?



Ball Gowns: British Glamour Since 1950 by Jill Bennett

This exhibition is the first in the newly renovated Fashion Galleries. showing a series of stunning ballgowns, evening dresses and catwalk showstoppers, from the fifties through to the present day. A wonderful selection well worth a visit. Includes designers such as Vivienne Westwood, Bill Gibb, Alexandra McQueen and Zandra Rhodes.

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