

New Year, New Start!

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2012

Special points of interest:

- ~ Branch winners
- ~ Schoolboy winner
- ~ National winner

WINNERS ALL!

Hilary McCormack won the Traditional Stitch competition at the Christmas Party. **Helen Patrick** won the Christmas Card and **Judah Green** won the Mystery Object competition. Well done to all of them and we hope you enjoy your prizes!

Judah was an unusual winner in that he is only 12 years old, a pupil at Calderstones Comprehensive. His mother is **Leona Green**, an experienced dressmaker and pattern-cutting teacher. Maybe it runs in the family?! I did hear that his school textiles teacher had praised his work recently...

You may be wondering why none of these winners are in the photograph this time. It's because we are featuring **Janet Wilkinson's** prize-winning Olympic poster.



You may remember that the Embroiderers' Guild were running such a contest and **Janet** was joint winner in this national competition with someone from another branch. Go Janet! Putting Merseyside branch on the map!

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Posts Available

The posts of Treasurer and Secretary will be available from October as **Janet Wilkinson** and **Sarah Lowes** will be standing down.

Both ladies have decided to keep a log of all their duties this year to enable

a smooth handover to the next people who take on the work.

Janet and Sarah will still be on the committee for another year after they leave their posts in order to help the new officers.

Sarah is going to keep doing the newsletter for the foreseeable future.



www.megonline.co.uk

On 3rd December 2011 we officially launched our new Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild website. You can find it at www.megonline.co.uk.

The new website is in a very different form from our previous one. We can look at individual pages instead of scrolling down to find information. We have a Home page, with news that is updated regularly. Then there are Exhibition and Gallery pages which together contain 284 pictures of MEG embroidery and items of interest.

Each photograph can be enlarged

with a click of the mouse to fill the screen – easy to see details of the stitching. We will have many more book reviews and you can also read the Newsletter online. There is also a YE page – and this too will be updated regularly with all the YE work on display.

Ruby Porter MBE has her own Sreepur Refuge page. In the future there will be a page with past and present Workshops – so if you haven't attended a Workshop you will be able to see what work was done there. Even if you don't have a computer it is easy to access the

computer in the library(and staff will be helpful if you get stuck).

Some comments on the new site:

“Incredible detail in the photos”

“Lots of photos and lots of news”

“So modern and lively!”

“Shows off the amazing talent within the group”

If there's anything you'd like to see on the website, please contact Hilary on 261 1253

Sreepur News

Congratulations to **Amy Pick** who won the Sreepur Quilt raffle. The raffle raised £1198!!

Many thanks also to **Linda Sowler** who raised over £1300 by asking for donations to Sreepur for her Ruby wedding .

On November 19th there was a piece about Sreepur Christmas cards in

the Guardian. It described them as **'the only cards where every penny goes to the charity.'** Quite an accolade!

Apparently, The Charities Advisory Trust has warned that some companies that sell cards on behalf of charities are actually donating as little as 1.1%. So make sure to buy from the charities themselves ~

something to bear in mind next year, perhaps?

Sreepur also sell all kinds of greeting cards and notelets ~ just ask Ruby!

Reminders

The annual competition for the best use of **Colour** will be judged on **May 19th** at Ruby's talk on the embroidery of Bangladesh. Are you planning to enter?

There will be **Bring + Stitch** sessions before all talks this year. They will run from **11am—1pm**. This is

an ideal time to do some stitching on your **Water** piece for the Cathedral exhibition in June.

The Cathedral will be a very exciting place for us as a branch ~ hundreds of people pass through it and look at the exhibitions in the Well each week.

Our work will be seen (and purchased), by more people than ever before. The stewards will have leaflets to give out about the branch and we will have a speaker for a Saturday session with tickets sold in advance. **Don't you want to have something on show? I thought so!**

Chairwoman's Chat

The end of year party seemed to go with a whiz, no sooner had we set up the hall then it was time to clear away. Many thanks to everyone who contributed/made/helped in any capacity to make our final 2011 meeting such a convivial afternoon. Good to see so many familiar faces. We were visited by the area rep from the regional group who once again left knowing that Merseyside is a busy branch with so many talented members. I trust everyone kept well over the dark days and managed some more stitching for the summer exhibition.

Our first 2012 meeting is soon;

come and join in and catch up on what we've all been doing, besides eating and drinking. Our new web site is looking good under the care of Hilary. Please send her notes and ideas. If your email address has changed or you've got a new one please let Christine know. Using this method of keeping in touch will reduce expenditure on post. If you have none don't worry, we'll still contact you through the post, just a bit slower!

I've been working on some small pieces for the Water show, using up threads from my collection. Now of course, I've run out! Dan

has been re-organising my work space and I've been sorting through boxes, hoping to discard items. If you have got to a similar stage please remember TWAMS and bring items to our meetings; I'll gather all up for the charity. I took some things up to the collector after the party, so now sewers in third world countries have more to use. I've also re-read *The Subversive Stitch*, a book from the 60's which made me smile at the apparent simplicity of the author's thoughts.

Happy New Year!.

Snippets...

We were very sorry to hear of the sad death of **Kathy Green's** husband. Our thoughts are with her and her family.

Taken from the visitors' book at our **Victoria Gallery** exhibition in the autumn: "I didn't know embroidery could be so arty!"

Looking ahead to the **National AGM at Southport March 30th—April 1st** of this year, branches have

been asked to provide a raffle prize.

The prize is a colour-themed bag of items for use in embroidery. Our colour is turquoise and if members have or wish to make anything suitable, please pass them to **Vicky Williams**, who would be glad to receive them.

The North West Regional day is in Preston on 28th April. Tickets cost £25 and there is a choice of

lunch!

See Page 4 for
all the news on
the Regional Day

EG at Aintree Show

Our branch will have a stand at the Aintree ICHF Creative Stitches show this year.

The dates are **26 –28th April**

We will be displaying some pieces of work, selling **Stitch** magazine and raffling **Louise Gardiner's** own piece from her recent workshop, a piece by **Ann Rogers** and one of

June Hodgkiss's bags. There will be lots to see at the show including a display of costumes worn by the female characters from the popular series '**Downton Abbey**'.

The Quilters' Guild of Britain will be showing '**The Romance of Words**', quilts inspired by the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's '**Sense and Sensibility**'.

There will be plenty of talks and workshops and stands in abundance!

Tickets cost £7 for Adults (£5 in advance) and £6 for Seniors (£4 in advance). Advance tickets can be purchased from **www.ichf.co.uk** or **01425 277 988**.

Opening times are 9.30 –17.00.

MERSEYSIDE EMBROIDERER'S GUILD

16 Wyndcote Rd
Mossley Hill
Liverpool
L18 2EB

Phone: 0151 475 6337
E-mail: senlowes@blueyonder.co.uk
Chair Vicky Williams
Secretary Sarah Lowes



Welcoming stitchers of all levels.



Embroiderers' Guild

Welcome to the Merseyside Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild

We are a group of people who are interested in sewing, embroidery and textiles. We welcome all stitchers from beginners to advanced. We enjoy what we do and we love to see other people's work.

We aim to have a variety of meetings during the year to try to cater for all people's needs or tastes.

We meet at All Hallows Church hall, Greenhill Rd, Mossley Hill on the third Saturday of every month. Lectures start at 2pm and finish by 4pm. Workshops start at 10am and finish by 4pm.

If you'd like to join, phone Chris on 0151 428 0426.

If you'd like to know more about our 2012 programme, phone Kim Parkman on 0151 334 5319.

N West Regional Day

This year, the North West Regional day will be held at Fulwood Methodist Church, Watling St Rd, **Preston**, PR2 8EA.

The date is **Saturday 28th April** and tickets are priced at **£25**.

And now to the important part ~ the menu! We are asked to choose in advance from:

- **Hot pot + red cabbage**
- **Chicken + veg casserole**
- **Vegetarian lasagne**

Tea and coffee will be available on arrival and before departure.

Speakers will be:

Dr Caroline Alexander ~ 'Horrockses dresses' and Sue

Rangeley ~ 'Fashioned With Stitch'

Some members may remember the company 'Horrockses Fashions' from the 1950's. A quick internet search revealed many photos of beautifully patterned dresses with full skirts and nipped in waists. This should be a most interesting talk.

Members may also know of Sue Rangeley from her beautiful book 'Embroidered Originals'. Sue is an internationally known embroiderer who worked for Bill Gibb in the 1960's and has work in the V&A permanent collection.

Her website www.suerangeley.co.uk shows her exquisite flowers and also



fashion embroidery. Don't miss this talk!

To apply for tickets, please send an **SAE** with a cheque for **£25** made out to **Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild + your menu choice** to Sarah Lowes, 16 Wyndcote Rd Liverpool L18 2EB.