

# SUMMER'S HERE!

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## Marvellous Mal and her Beautiful Book!

I asked Mal how she constructed the book and she replied: " I do like to use silk because it feels so nice, but have often used calico or space dyed cotton, another material of which I'm very fond, must be the magpie in me!

I back with voile or whatever comes to hand to stabilise the fabric, the only rule is all pages

must be made from the same surface and backing as each other.

I then apply other fabrics, bits of lace or images or simply draw direct onto the surface, generally using air erasable pen, though have been known to use a ball point.

I like to add a variety of stitches to add interest and feather stitch

often crops up somewhere!

I use felt or pelmet interfacing to stiffen pages, turn right sides together and machine three sides, trim and turn right side out, hem stitch open edge and attach pages together before applying ribbon or lace to tidy up the join.

The size of the frame is ideal because it is so portable."

## President June writes...

I would like to apologise for my absence at Guild meetings. My medical condition makes me more or less housebound.

I am extremely lively in myself however and interested in the Guild activities and think of you a lot.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work -

the exhibition was very interesting.

I still embroider and use unframed canvas, experimenting with making small bags as presents, reflecting the person's personality as I perceive them. I love the colours and patterns as they emerge and I recommend these small projects to anyone.

Thinking of you all - I miss the friendship and warmth that the Guild gives us all.

**We think of you too, June and know that we can always phone up and pop round for some stitching or design advice.**

# Penny Lane Fabrics and Haberdashery

## Location

You may have noticed that a new stitching shop has opened on Smithdown Road. It is just under the railway bridge, heading towards town from Allerton Road, on the same block of shops as Avant Garde Hairdressers and opposite Subway.

## Owner

The shop is run by Jean from Northern California. Jean had been living in Portland, Oregon with three fabric shops in her neighbourhood when she came to Liverpool and was dismayed to find she had to go all the way into town to get any stitching supplies.

Jean enjoys creating applique embroidery and aims to stock "Things you can't get at John Lewis or Abakan."

## Stock

Currently, the shop sells Shetland/mohair/alpaca/cashmere wools from Jillybean Yarns amongst others. Also, laceweight and even finer, handpainted yarns.

Jean sells Liberty's Tana Lawn fabric plus lovely organic fairtrade cotton/bamboo fabrics on big rolls and also Tilda fat quarters.

She has three different weights of fusible interfacing, buttons, ribbons, felt, bondaweb, embroidery hoops, tape measures, scissors, Milwards machine and hand sewing needles and vintage bindings.

## Embroidery

I explained to Jean that we embroiderers are interested in more specialised items and spent some time with her showing the kind of

things we like, such as sheers, silk noil, silk carrier rods and cocoons, coloured cotton scrim, nets, devore, specialist threads, cotton perle, DMC embroidery silks etc.

She was very grateful and interested in these new items and wrote down the websites that I showed her so that she can increase the shop's stock.

Jean has a sewing room for her workshops, a lounge area, a little kitchen and spotlessly clean toilet - all for customers' use.

## Discount

Jean is happy to offer 10% discount to any branch member on production of their EG membership card.

[www.pennylanefabrics.co.uk](http://www.pennylanefabrics.co.uk)

10-6pm Weds-Sat, 12-4 Sundays

## We Shall Remember Them...

We are very proud to announce that several of our members are involved in a prestigious new project.

**David Peglar's** embroidery studio at the **Metropolitan Cathedral** has been commissioned to produce a special altar frontal for the November Armistice Day service, to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.

The piece has been designed by **Gill Roberts** and shows a landscape with 56 poppies. Each poppy represents ten thousand men killed in battle.

Two other members, **Vicky Williams** and **Hilary McCormack** are involved in the actual stitching, along with some non-members, all under David's tutelage.

Make a date to go along and see this new piece during November this year.

## 'My Afternoon with Bruce Lee'

This is a shameless plug for my prize-winning one hour play.

The play will be on at The World Museum (William Brown St), The Bluecoat and 81 Renshaw St up to five times from September 16th - 28th.

It concerns fifteen year old Cheryl from Tuebrook who is convinced that her mother just doesn't

understand her and that her father is only interested in taking her younger brother to karate lessons.

When internationally famous Chinese martial arts fighter Bruce Lee magically appears in her room, she pours out her troubles and Bruce helps her to find her own solutions.

Can Cheryl find the courage to stand

up to Janine the class bully? Can she help her brother out of trouble?

Is Mum having an affair?

My Afternoon with Bruce Lee is a family show with very little swearing and plenty of laughs.

As soon as I know specific dates I will email them out to members and announce them at the Tea party.

Sarah Lowes

# Chairwoman's Chat

Forty years ago, the Guild decided to pass on the skills of stitchery to younger generations, so Merseyside decided to kick things off in style. What better way to celebrate than by holding a party?

The day started with a real treat for the young embroiderers. The group turned up at the usual venue, and at the usual time. They had brought their sewing kits, but there was no sewing. Instead they spent the morning involved in a series of inventive drawing and design exercises that culminated in finding out about the story of the willow pattern. If they had had pins, we would have heard them drop! Even Hilary, who had joined them, was deep in concentration.

Then came the best bit as the tutor, Juliet, showed them how to apply special paint to a miniature plate and make their own willow pattern design. The skills of our budding artists really came to the fore. Each plate was displayed on its own stand for everybody to admire. A little

clear varnish will preserve the pattern for posterity.

While this was going on, the table was being laid for the party itself. Sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, crisps, rainbow jellies and, of course, a big birthday cake appeared as if by magic.

At half past twelve the extra guests of honour arrived. Past YE leaders and many tutors who turn up time and again to hold workshops had been invited to join the party. They all marvelled at the work on display and at the book that Hilary had made of the projects that had been completed over the past few years.

Val showed the current piece of work, which is sponsored by NADFAS for display in the Museum of Liverpool on the Albert Dock. I won't spoil the surprise by telling you all about it. Suffice it to say that it was colourful, fun and with excellent stitching, just like YE.

There were many reminiscences over the food and the cake was cut to

a round of applause. Two of the older members of the YE group presented flowers to Val and Hilary, to thank them for their help. But Val hadn't finished with us yet. Parties need party games. She handed round pencils and paper and we were all embroiled in a brain-testing quiz. I don't think that I have ever heard so much laughter as we racked our brains and suggested silly answers. There were prizes for each age group and Gill Roberts won a tie-break for the adults.

Nobody went home empty-handed, though. Party gifts and cake disappeared with the departing guests as well as a lot of happy memories. My thanks to Val Heron and Hilary McCormack for organising such a good day and to our guests of honour for keeping the YE group going like a continuous thread for so many years. Who knows, might one of our current youngsters be organising a party

themselves in forty years time?

## Tea Party Time!!

We have some gorgeous things lined up for you all this year!

Along with delicious cakes, we can promise you some jams and chutneys on the **cake stall** - always popular.

The **tombola** is back with lots of prizes and your £3 admission fee also includes buffet refreshments.

Our wonderful **table sale** will be back with lots of bargains at knockdown prices and Ruby's **Sreepur stall** is ideal for presents and treats for family.

Our two fabulous traders are **Sue Sercombe of TexArt** and the welcome return of **Magie Relph and The African Fabric Shop**.

Amongst other things, **Sue** will be bringing: hand dyed threads, space dyed fibres and fabrics, hessian, cotton and linen scrim, velvet, Sari silk ribbon, rayon twist, rayon floss, hemp, cold water soluble film, Dyer's pack - and who could resist 'Banana fine slub'??

For more information go to [www.texartcreative.com](http://www.texartcreative.com)

**Magie** will be bringing: beautiful hand dyed batiks, kola nut, indigo fabrics, sun prints, screen prints, safari and animal skin prints, bark cloth, printing blocks, bag kits, recycled beads, charms, all kinds of baskets and handmade buttons.

For more information go to [www.africanfabric.co.uk](http://www.africanfabric.co.uk)

We hope these things will tempt you to come along and perhaps bring a couple of friends, too.

Saturday September 6th, Ullet Rd Unitarian Church Hall (entrance on York Ave), L17 2AA, 2-4pm.

**Perhaps these two traders present an ideal opportunity to stock up on speciality items that we might need to make Christmas presents - I know it seems early to think of such things, but it's better to buy now when you can handle the goods than order from a website.**

**I also notice that Elsie Watkins workshop on November 15th is called 'Let's Print!' so printing blocks will be needed...**



## Embroiderers' Guild

### Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild

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**Chair:** [Kim Parkman](#)

**Secretary:** [Sarah Lowes](#)

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

We aim to have a variety of meetings to try to cater for all members' needs and tastes.

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

If you'd like to join, phone Vicky on 0151 475 3114.

If you'd like to know more about our 2013 programme, phone Marie on 0151 625 8349.

### Welcoming stitchers of all levels

[www.megonline.co.uk](http://www.megonline.co.uk)

## Madeline's Memories

### Early Years

I was born in 1920 and when I was old enough to hold a needle, I did a little smocking on dresses. Then in about 1937, when I was 17, I joined a class in Conway St and did upholstery, woodwork, French Polishing, pewter work and weaving. I also embroidered at this time, starting to learn free machining on a Bernina. I became a member of the Merseyside Guild and took part in a hanging for the Women's Hospital.

### City & Guilds

I joined an embroidery class in Birkenhead and this was when I became quite good at free machining. After a time, the teacher advised me to do the four years City and Guilds at Chester College and when I joined, I bought my own machine.

### A Medal

In the final year, we had to do a piece that was three feet wide and I chose exotic elephants, with bats down the side and dragons at the

top. My teacher came to my house to see it and said that the college could not help me with it. I completed it and when examination time arrived, I hung it with my other work. A short time later, I got a letter from London to say that I had come second in the country and that I would be getting a medal.

### Surprise

I collected my certificate in Chester and the medal was to come later. Then, one day, I was asked to give a talk at Burton Manor. After my talk, I was invited for refreshments and on entering the room, there were my teachers, Voirrey Branthwaite from Brimstage Hall, groups from college and some of my friends! I was presented with the medal, which had been sent to my teachers. It was a lovely surprise.

### Fur

Shortly after this, a journalist got in touch and then came to the house. Obviously, he had heard about my medal but he proved

much more interested in the role my dog had played in my life. I combed my dog I kept the hair and spun it. Then, when I had enough, I would take it to Conway St and weave it on the loom. It so happened that it was still on the loom when the college closed for repairs and the journalist told me that at this point, people saw it and talked about it. They just could not believe that I had used my own dog's fur.

I only had what was like a spinning top to spin the fur but I produced two hangings, one four feet long by two feet wide and the other five and a half feet long by two feet wide.

### Madeline Duggins

Many thanks to Madeline for writing down her memories of her happy times in craft work and embroidery. I would be delighted to receive other members' memories/experiences, be they long or short, so please post them to me - address on programme card or email

[senlowes@icloud.com](mailto:senlowes@icloud.com)

**Sarah**