

Hello everyone

I hope you are keeping well and busily stitching away.

Although some aspects of lockdown have eased, many people are still shielding and as yet we have no idea when our meetings will resume in All Hallows. It has been lovely to see so many of you at our zoom meetings, but I am aware that some of you can't access the internet, so this newsletter should keep you in touch.

Most of us have a large stash of crafting goodies so this is the ideal opportunity to dive in and get stitching. And we also have an ideal opportunity to exhibit and sell our work in Waterloo Sunset café, raising funds for MEG and promoting our talented branch. We do hope you will support this venture in order to raise funds for our branch.

Let's hear from our members now

Brenda tells us

*“Time & Talents for the Waterloo Sunset Cafe MEG sale of work in August, and using the stash that hadn't seen daylight.*

Having, blissfully, a bit more time than usual, I started investigating the boxes of 'may come in useful' sewing bits. Vicky had mentioned booking a fund raising opportunity for MEG in early August at a cafe in Waterloo, Crosby. I asked a friend who lives near the cafe what she thought about this. She knew the cafe, and had been there to see Art on sale, connected to a painting group she had attended. My friend also made the useful suggestion that any art work connected to the Iron men was popular with visitors to the area.

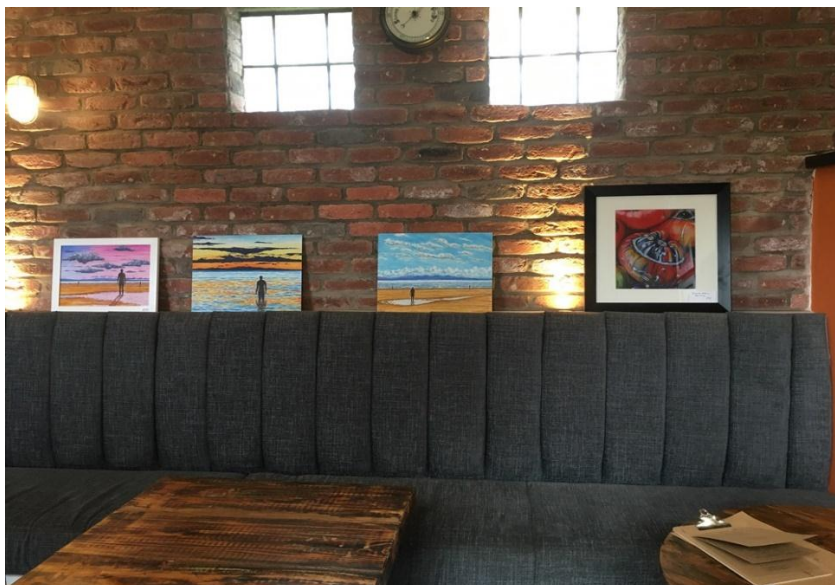
Hence, I made an Iron man image for a tote bag, and several more bags using bits and pieces, including stuff bought from the MEG meetings sales table, and raffia collected from the home of our lovely friend Marie Stacey, who sadly left us, but donated as much of her stash of crafting materials as we could use. The raffia made some striking embroidery on a canvas bag, and some very time consuming, but strangely satisfying coasters.

I hope someone will like them and buy them at the cafe in August to help with MEG fundraising! “



Michele and her husband George have also visited the café. She says

“It was a very pleasant café with a lovely ambience. We could have sat there all day, very happily, chatting and drinking coffee. I think it will be a great venue – especially for items related to the sea, estuary, beach, iron men etc. The urge for a sausage butty and a cappuccino was simply too great. Apologies to those of you still isolating.”



Pat tells us

“Having done a short course with Maggie Pearson on Botanical Printing, I was really inspired to learn more. I found an online course run by Nicola Brown who lives in Ireland and I’ve been really enjoying it.

A new module, complete with videos, arrives every Friday and it’s been good fun learning new techniques, collecting leaves and preparing rusty water. My friends were bemused when I put out a call for bits of rusty iron!



We have printed on homemade felt, silk and wool and we're now moving on to linen and manmade fibres. Results are not always reliable but it's a learning curve!  
I've been very pleased with some of the felt and with the silk and wool scarves. Some of these have already found a good home and they've been much appreciated.

First two printed on felt with onion skins and rose leaves

Third a silk scarf printed with rose leaves

Fourth fine wool scarves printed with eucalyptus leaves and onion skins”



Kathy has also been busy with various projects as well as her art and shares a photo of a piece of stump work recently completed.



Patti tells us

“

I've completed two pieces of work during lockdown.

The first, my picture of part of the inner courtyard at Speke Hall. I loved the strong patterns of the wall contrasting with the fresh green of the tree.



I used wools, some home dyed, braid, silver piping, dyed string and some silver netting which I've had for years and never used before but it was ideal for the leaded windows. The frame, of maple inlaid with leather was made by my husband who has been busy pursuing his hobby of woodwork during the crisis.

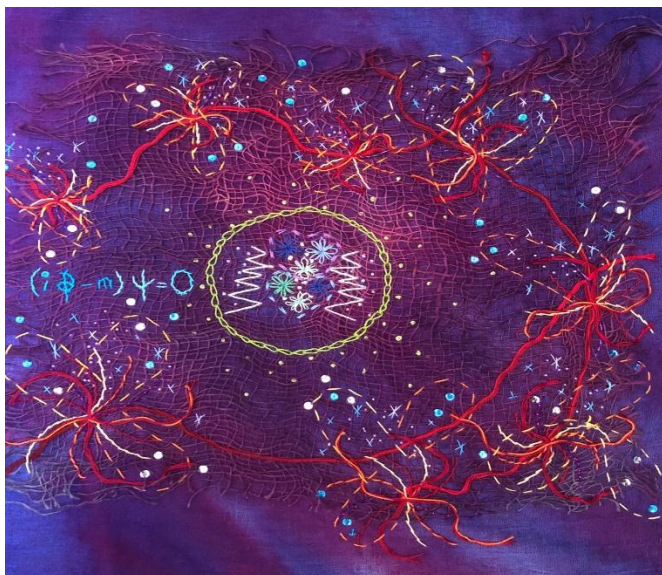
I've also made a cushion for a special chair, rescued from a Sunday school at a local church in the 1980s (they were replacing them with stackable plastic ones) and used by my daughter and then my son. It was refurbished this year for my grandson and I made the cushion for him.

His name is Sykes, he's 18 months old and he loves bees! I can't wait for him to be able to visit and use the chair. Looking forward to being able to meet up again”





Sarah has finished her piece for the renewal challenge. You may remember that this represents the inside of the atom, with quarks, electrons and a proton and lots of energy fizzing around. You don't often see Quantum Physics represented in stitch!



I hope many of you are also preparing pieces inspired by our “Renewal “theme. You can use any technique or textile as long as there is stitch included and it makes you think of renewal, regeneration, recycle, Spring or a fresh start after the current crisis is over. We looking forward to seeing your finished creations.

I have also been busy sampling lots of different techniques including eco printing, transfer paints soluble paper moulds, natural dyeing, collage quilting, veelon flowers, silk ribbon embroidery and Shiva paint sticks, all good fun and working through my “to do” list. I knew they’d all come in useful one day. I will make them into a “lockdown” book, at least this way there is something positive to mark this period of enforced isolation (and I’m running out of wall place, good job we’re having a Sale of Works!)



I also framed one of my "Speke Hall pieces". I couldn't decide between a sweetie bag and a glove so I did both. There's needle lace on the bag and hand embroidery and beads on the glove. Both are made of silk.







Just for a change I knitted this lovely little fairy, not sure who she's for as yet, but sure someone will love her!

I like to finish off by sharing some of the work of our young embroiderers. There are currently 7 of them aged between 7 and 15, and I do hope they all return when it is safe to do so.

This wonderful depiction of Speke Hall was painted by Kathy and the young embroiderers have stitched the motifs for the garden. This is still a work in progress, disrupted by Covid 19, but some of the girls are working on more pieces at home.



I do hope you have enjoyed this newsletter, but do remember the survival of the branch depends on its members. I would love to see what you've been up to, stitching related or not (cake recipes always welcome!) Perhaps for the next newsletter you could send me a photo of your favourite piece of work and how and when you made it. I can be contacted at [youngembroiderers@megonline.co.uk](mailto:youngembroiderers@megonline.co.uk) . Anyone without access to email can send me information, with or without photos, at Mal Ralston, 28 Plemont Road Liverpool L136RT.

Also, don't forget our exhibition and sale at Waterloo Sunset café. We hope that this will showcase our talented branch and raise much needed funds. This is being coordinated by Vicky, so please contact her on 4753114 if you have any work to donate.

Take care, look after yourself, and keep stitching.

Regards

Mal Ralston