

Spring Stitching

Volume 3, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- ~ Our stand
- ~ Your work
- ~ Traders
- ~ Exhibitions
- ~ Downton Abbey
- ~ Textile Artists
- ~ Chocolates!
- ~ Ticket info

Inside this issue:

Sarah's Laws of Sewing	2
Branch Fees	2
Our workshops	2
Chairwoman's Chat	3
Medieval Dress and Textile	3
Local Events	3
How I Changed My Mind	4

MEG at Aintree

Our branch will have a large stand at the Creative Stitches Show at **Aintree, 26-28th April**.

We hope you'll come along and support us, plus view your fabulous work, which will be on display for all of Liverpool to see!

There are many attractions for stitchers at the show: **Bombay Stores, Silver Orchid Beads, Pfaff and Singer** stand, **Black Sheep Yarns, Meiflower** with their organza, satin and grosgrain ribbons, charms and tiny oriental satin hearts and **Mrs Mac's Emporium** and their bespoke hat-making courses and fascinator kits.

Exhibitions include: costumes from the TV series **Downton Abbey, The Art of Lace, Poetry in Stitches, 'Glimpses of Blighty'** ~ the Stitch/Madeira competition with stitched images of red telephone boxes, routemaster buses, Mary Quant, afternoon tea and the seaside, **One Step On Textile Group** and more.

Textile artists include: **Lorna Bateman**, who can be seen on YouTube demonstrating drizzle stitch sheep for a pincushion; **Felicity Howatson** who uses water soluble fabric and stitch to make bags, hats and waistcoats; **Wendy Dolan**, whose beautiful embroidered pictures of still life, landscapes, flowers and buildings will be on display,



If you fancy something a little more tasty, there's **Bexton Cheese** and **Linden Lady Chocolates** and truffles.

Tickets can be purchased by phone: **01425 277 988** or at **www.ichf.co.uk** Prices are: £7 on the door, (Seniors £6), or £5 in advance, (Seniors £4).

Come along and enjoy a lovely day ~ we'll see you there!

Tapestry Event

The **26th April** will see the unveiling of the Liverpool tapestry at the new Museum of Liverpool, on the waterfront.

Gill Roberts and Elsie Watkins will be there as Project Manager and Designer and **Sarah Lowes**

will attend to represent our branch to the press.

In the evening, there will be a party for all who worked on the tapestry, hosted by Joe Morris.

Gill will give a talk on the 11th May, 10.30am, also at the museum.



Sarah's Laws of Sewing

1) You will never have the right shade of thread that you need for any new project.

2) All threads are malevolent beings ready to snap and tangle at any moment. On purpose.

3) If a metallic thread works well in someone else's machine it will never work at all in yours. Get used to it now.

4) You will arrive at workshops laden like a pack-horse only to find that the one vital item you need is still on the table at home.

5) Traders at shows will be able to cast a spell over you to make you buy the latest gadget. When you get home you will have forgotten how to put it together, let alone what it does.

6) Your fabric collection will soon be bigger than your entire wardrobe.

7) If you try dressmaking, you will soon come to loathe the word 'easing' as you try to force a large sleeve into a small armhole.

8) Friends will tell you that machine embroidery isn't hard at all,

and it's not, if you have the eyesight, dexterity and concentration of a surgeon.

9) You will create an ever-expanding collection of beautiful books on textiles and enjoy looking at them, just not doing anything from them.

10) Your book collection will soon rival your fabric collection, which, when joined by your increasing amount of UFOs will take over the house.

11) You will have found a hobby that you will love forever.

Six Month Membership

If you have a friend who is thinking of joining the Guild, it is now possible to purchase a six month membership at the price of £15.50.

This runs up until September 2012. We still have three talks and three workshops left this year, so represents very good value for money.

We're always pleased to welcome new members and our latest one is **Ann Jackson**, who joined us at the talk on bridal wear ~ welcome Ann!

We apologise for the fact that the bridal speaker was particularly difficult to hear. We were unaware that this would be the case before the event.

We want all our members to fully enjoy our events and always try to ensure that this is possible.

*To read Workbox for just
£2 (in advance), contact
Vicky .Tel. 475 6337*

Phone Hilary 261 1253 to register

We still have a few places left on **Cathy Turner's workshop 'Colour fantasies with felt'**. Cathy is a popular teacher and was inundated with students at our open day last year. Felting materials are provided and the finished piece makes a great basis for stitching.

Members were very enthusiastic about **Rachel Davies** heat-gun workshop last year and now she is offering us a chance to experiment with water soluble fabric and stretchy things! If you've never tried it, now's your chance ~ why not try something different in 2012?! This is a machine embroidery workshop.

Pauline Coddington last came to us and showed us how to create seamless felt handbags. This time, she's offering smaller pieces ~ miniature windows which can be stitched into and make great pieces for appliqué. Left over pieces from Cathy's course could easily be used for this, but Pauline can also supply pieces.

Chairwoman's Chat

Recently a friend, who is pursuing a Creative Writing Course, was asked to compose in prose or poetry on the subject What is Heaven? What is Hell?

As embroiderers we can imagine both. Hell would be to find all my materials a cat's plaything. Heaven would be to admire work by a textile expert.

I've been reading "Stitching for Victory" by Suzanne Griffith, which tells of the importance of stitching during the period 1939-50. During my visit to HQ last summer, I saw exhibits of beautiful design and composition in the Beryl Dean Gallery. Some had

been made with a reduced palette and little choice of materials from these years of austerity, but give pleasure to modern viewers. Do we have too much choice and find it difficult to begin a project? Is that why so many people say they are bored when really they are overwhelmed by choice?

My friend turned to the natural world for her inspiration; we can do the same when looking for ideas to express in textiles. The up-coming Colour Competition, (May 19th), is just such an occasion. Will the beauty of Spring encourage us all to put needle to material? Remember any tech-

nique is welcome.

Plans are afoot for our Cathedral Exhibition. Please sign up for stewarding for any period during the show. Lists will be available at the coming meetings.

The more people we can introduce to the fun of stitching and the camaraderie of the Guild the better. Members don't have to sew to join; a lively interest in all things textile will be sufficient. There are so many styles to explore and enjoy; get someone to try a new skill.

Medieval Dress + Textile Soc.

Following the talk on January 21st by **Sarah Thursfield**, some of you may have decided to explore the Medieval dress and Textile Society.

Unfortunately, the address on the leaflets was obsolete. The correct address for the membership secretary is: **Carol Thompson, 9 Fairthorn Rd, Charlton, London SE7 9RL.**

Their website is www.medats.org.uk

MEDATS will be holding their AGM in London, (venue to be announced), in October. The talk is called: 'Next to the Body: Underclothes, Linens and vegetable Fibres'.

They have three newsletters and three talks per year, all in London, also a yahoo online forum for questions and facts/discussions about anything to do with costume, weaving, spinning, dyeing or sewing of the period.

*Book a place with Vicky
on our Aug 19th trip to
the International Quilt
Show at the NEC, £23*

EVENTS

Ten Plus Textiles are holding an exhibition at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent, ST1 3DW. This show will run from **24th March to 31st August** and includes hand stitch, appliqué and quilting techniques ~ often on the same piece! Selected items are for sale in the museum shop.

Some of you are going along to the

National AGM, lectures and displays at Southport this year, **March 30th—April 1st**. We wish all members a good time and hope that one of you wins our turquoise bag of goodies.

11 members will be attending the **Regional Day at Preston** this year, on the **28th April**. The lunch choices are quite extensive(!) and the

speakers should be fascinating. We hope everyone has a lovely day and comes away with lots of new purchases. Don't forget, if you want to enter a piece for the Rosebowl or Coats/Anchor competitions, contact **Sarah** on **475 6337** and she will take it along for you.

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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.

How I Changed My Mind

The first time I went to the International Quilt Show at the NEC I was dubious.

I feared it would be far too 'Little House on the Prairie.'

Imagine my amazement at the sight of over 1000 competition art quilts. The word 'quilt' is used loosely. For example, one was made of chiffon and organza and depicted the cut side view of halves of tomatoes, showing them to be delicate and beautiful things.

These are quilts as works of art. Many are smaller and of wall-hanging size and every form of embroidery and embellishment you can possibly think of is used.

There were quilts from all over the world. I remember marvel-

ling at one wall-hanging from Russia, showing an apple orchard with tiny stumpwork figures and even tinier apples.

Needless to say, I was hooked on the show and have been almost every year since then.

One year, I set myself the challenge of just viewing the quilts. Four and a half hours later it was time to go home and I still hadn't seen them all.

Over 200 traders will be at this year's show ~ many of which you will recognise from Harrogate.

There will be galleries devoted to artists' work such as **Cas Holmes** and **Pauline Burbidge**, also a display and book featuring **Amish quilts and their Welsh connection** (who



knew?!). There will be stalls and quilts from Israel, Latvia, Prague ~ have a look at www.twistedthread.com to find out more.

Come with us on **19th August** and send an SAE and a cheque made payable to **Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild to Vicky for £23**. You'll never regret it!!