

Golden October

Volume 2, Issue 5

October 2011

HQ Pieces In N/West!

Special points of interest:

EG touring exhibition

North West Location

Dates

Directions

Membership Secretary

Sreepur Exhibition

It is with great pleasure that I bring you the news that the new touring exhibition from HQ will premiere in the North West.

90 items of the Guild's collection will be on show in the Green Room at Barton Grange Garden Centre on the A6 between Lancaster and Preston.

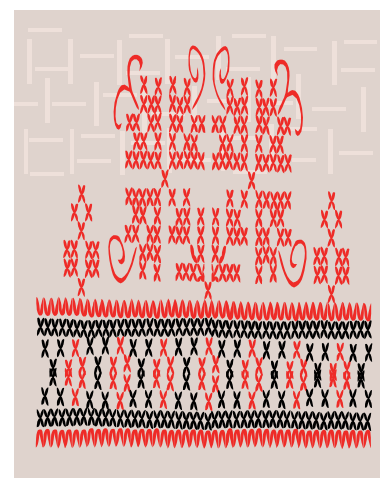
The exhibition will be on Thurs 17th, Fri 18th and Saturday 19th of November. It is open between 10am—5pm except for the Saturday when it will close at 4.30pm.

The location is easy to find with a huge free car park. The garden centre sells classy gifts, (time for a little Christmas shopping?) and has an excellent café and restaurant.

Admission is free but **you will need your membership card** so if you haven't paid this year's subs yet and got an up to date one ~ hurry up! Contact **Chris Bennett, Membership Secretary on 428 0426**

We're really proud that the North West has got in there first and secured the initial viewing of this collection, due in no small part to all our friends on the North West Regional Committee ~ thank you.

Not all members have a car, so it's time to get together and plan for a really good day out. Have a lovely day and enjoy the luxury of seeing these beau-



tiful embroideries without having to go down South!

Latest News

Ruby Porter will be at **St Barnabus Church** with her Sreepur exhibition and gifts from **31st Oct—5th November, open 11am – 4pm.**

Inside this issue:

Costume Drama! 2

Christmas Party 2

Family Heirlooms? 2

Chairwoman's Chat 3

Chameleon at Voirrey's 3

Snippets 3

Vicky's Visit to HQ 4

Harrogate

We are organising a trip to the **Knitting and Stitching show** at Harrogate on **Saturday 26th November.**

The price is £21 which includes your entry fee to the show. The coach will depart from the lions op-

posite the Empire Theatre at 8.30am

Please send a cheque for **£21** made payable to **Merseyside Embroiderers' Guild** and also an **SAE** to V. Williams, 3 Undercliffe Rd, Liverpool L13 6QH

Harrogate is always one of the very best shows, so don't miss it!



Costume Drama!

Fashion from 1790-1850

This lovely exhibition takes up three rooms in Sudley House. The shapes and styles of the clothes change rapidly in this period. The austere lines of the French Revolution soon blossom into the fuller silhouette of Victorian middle class prosperity.

These years see great advances in spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing on both cotton and silk. Dress becomes a mark of social status, emphasizing the difference between rich and poor ~ the latter existed in hand-me-downs.

The exhibition is supplemented by notice boards and contemporary prints.

Menswear is illustrated by a glamorous velvet embroidered coat and a utilitarian countryman's outfit.

A case of shoes emphasizes the daintiness of the ladies' feet and the fineness of the leather used.

Do look at the construction of the garments, the gathers, pleats, tucks, pipings, inserts and appliqué all showing the growing Gothic influence.

My highlights were the printed fabrics, the lace, a gorgeous silk shawl and three small covered buttons covering a piping join.

I must say, however, that the growing complexity of the sleeves, the dagging, the puff ball sleeves all

make me so aware of the dressmakers' skill.

June Hodgkiss

Walker Art Gallery: Feather Cuts and Flares 14th Oct onwards

This display will highlight the original fashions of the 1970's. Remind yourself of some of the most influential 'looks' of that decade, from the simple country styles of Laura Ashley, through the sophisticated evening wear of John Bates, to the glamour of disco.

My mother and I were big Laura Ashley fans and I had several maxi dresses that I used to wear to the library at weekends ~ such innocent times! **Sarah Lowes**

Christmas Party Time

Our Christmas Party will take place at **Ullet Rd Unitarian Church Hall**, (entrance York Ave), at **2pm on Saturday 3rd December**.

As usual, we will have a raffle, cake stall, sales table, buffet and traders.

This year, we have pleasure in announcing that Sarah Rakestraw will be bringing the ever popular **Golden**

Hinde to cater for all your goldwork needs, and **The Bead Shop** of Smithdown Rd will be the other trader.

Vicky of the Bead Shop has ceramic Matryoshka doll beads, gemstone beads and tiny coloured wooden beads to name but a few, to enhance your stitchery and enchant your eyes.

Both traders run their own workshops ~ just ask for details.

*Remember our traditional
stitch and Xmas card
competitions !*

Family Heirlooms?

We would like to invite you to bring along an item(s) for display on a family heirloom table at the **Christmas Party**.

There was so much interest in **June Hodgkiss's** display of antique baby clothes in September that we

thought it would be lovely to share our treasured pieces with each other.

Not all pieces need to be antiques in the strict sense of the word, but we'd love to know the story behind them. One of my pieces will have a note pinned to it saying: 'This tablecloth showing embroidery and pulled

thread work was given to me by an old friend who was 102 when he died ~ I wonder how old it is?'

Please put your name at the bottom of the note so that we can be sure that all pieces go back to the right people! Looking forward to seeing your things!

Chairwoman's Chat

A quick blink and summer has flown by! The Tea Party was a great success, so good to see many of you. The committee worked really hard and it all paid off. If any member would like to join Izzy's gang in the kitchen please come forward. Your Guild needs everyone's help then we can all enjoy ourselves.

I hope you all managed a trip over the summer to view beautiful work. I started in Dorset, when I visited a friend and we went to Bovey Tracey to see a lovely exhibition, not just of embroidery but many other crafts. A good way to miss the rain! At least my memories of BT are not just of rusting tanks, which I saw some years back.

I moved into Surrey and saw some

lovely pieces on display in Guildford; I also called at HQ! (see Page 4) There is a good display in the entrance of the new building and other pieces on walls.

A small committee spent a few hours deliberating over which pieces to show at the **Victoria Gallery and Museum, Brownlow Hill** exhibition. 10 LARGE pieces were selected and will be delivered soon. Do join the embroiderers at **2pm on Friday October 21st, for a 'Meet the Artists' session**, admire the work and enjoy afternoon tea in the building.

Val and Hilary spent an exhausting 3 days in the Anglican Cathedral recently promoting our Guild in the Craft Fair; Val was also advertising the Elizabeth Hoare Gallery.

Our next trip is to **Harrogate for The Knitting and Stitching Show**. I can't guarantee it won't snow but a good time is certain!

See you at the AGM

Treasurer's Request

Postage is a big problem for us ~ if you have an email address, please let us have it so that we can email you this newsletter. Likewise, if you can take a copy of **Contact** for a friend, please do so.

Chameleon at Voirrey

If you haven't yet been to see **Ann Rogers'** North Wales group **Chameleon's** show at Voirrey's, you are in for a treat.

Each exhibit is shown alongside the photo that inspired it and what a difference this makes! It's fascinating to see how each embroiderer has interpreted the images of flowers, sea or sky.

There are some 3D exhibits such as

the spherical rose bags, (how on earth were they made?!) and beautiful pictures/hangings using silk, handmade felt and a wealth of other techniques.

Also for sale is a lovely book by **Linda Jones**, with one page showing the original photo and the facing one showing that work that came from it. It is a delight for any embroiderer of any level as there are years' worth of inspiration in it.

Some of the breathtaking flower photos are also for sale.

*This exhibition finishes
on Oct 29th so make
sure to see it before
then!.*

Snippets...

Our congratulations go to **Hilary McCormack** on gaining an A* in her A Level in Art and Design...and to **Elspeth Baxendale**, (a new Grandma!) on the arrival of Freddie George...also to **Ruby Porter** who made £1531 for Sreepur Orphanage and Womens' Refuge at the Town Hall in August and £203 from you, our loyal members at the Tea party.

We're pleased to hear that **Margaret Gold** is back in Liverpool and recovering well. Margaret sends her thanks to all who sent her good wishes recently. Congratulations also go to **Janet Wilkinson** who has a piece called **'The View—August 2011'** in an exhibition in Manchester: 'Hung, Drawn and Quartered ~ Arena Artists @ Bankley Studios

and Gallery...Your secretary has a book out this month with Barefoot Books. It is a new version of **The Snow Queen**, (text by me), with beautiful illustrations, (not done by me, needless to say). Amazon are selling it for the princely sum of £6.29 with free delivery. It's never too early to start Christmas shopping for a grandchild!

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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 2010 programme, phone Kim Parkman on 0151 334 5319.

Vicky's Visit to HQ

Inside the large detached building we were greeted by Joe, a charming volunteer, who showed us around and then left us to drool in the gallery. This has a wonderful display of work; some made very recently, others dating from 10th-12th centuries.

A handsome book of samples made by Mrs St Osythe Wood during and immediately after the war made me realise how lucky we are with the choice of materials available today. She had sewn a poignant message stating how fed up she was with the choice of fabrics. She was determined to use up all she had, hence some odd colour schemes! We felt sympathy for the situation embroiderers suffered in the 1940's.

Terry Murphy met us and he chatted about the move and reasons for the choice of building. The situation at Hampton Court had been rather frustrating in many areas. Staff are still re-training in the new building. We read a draft document that is going out to all EG members and which made us think of having a trip to HQ and other surrounding areas of interest next year.

I had asked to inspect books about stump work. The library is in a room at the front and I was distracted by the collection and other topics. Every wall appeared to be showing pieces from branches. Wirral branch had a piece constructed from squares making a composite picture. I felt we should aim to have something in the collection. I adver-



tised our 2012 exhibition to Terry ~ perhaps we could invite someone from HQ to attend it? We have talent that should be recognised. After some coffee, we left, my sister fairly staggered by the wide range of styles and media ~ she'd never heard of burn and dissolve!

I really felt I'd had a feast of embroidery! **Vicky Williams**