

Embroiderers Guild Exeter & District
Minutes for AGM – 09th September 2017

Committee:-

Dee Priest (chair)
Lynn Bennett (Membership Secretary)
Nicky Peterkin (Treasurer)
Alison Carder (YE Leader)
Pam Shead (Day Schools)
Liz Moon (Workshops)
Judith Venning (Secretary & Website)

There were 30 members present for the meeting.

Apologies:-

Sue Benyon-Tinker
Patricia Hewitson
Pat Boaden
Toni Tope
Janine Westgate
Theresa Brookes

Minutes of Previous AGM: -

The Minutes from the AGM on 12th September 2017 were circulated and approved. They will be available on the website.

Matters Arising: -

Travelling Books – It was agreed that a formal creation of books should not take place this year.
Christmas Meeting – There will be the usual Lucky Dip of sewing gifts.
Day Schools – they will stay at a minimum of £22 and will vary according to the price of the tutor and expenses.

Chair's Report for 2016-17:-

As this is my last report as chair and as a committee member my reflections on the year include the whole time. We have seen a period of great change in the national Guild with a lot of disruption, puzzling questionnaires, decisions made and unmade, worrying rumours and, finally, a measure of stability. Some branches have found this hard to comprehend and have argued and taken positions that were hard to come back from. Some have fallen by the wayside as have some individual members. I have been struck by amenable and grown up this branch has been. We've discussed issues and made suggestions but never in an unreasonable or awkward fashion. You have risen to many challenges and even been mentioned in dispatches! I am very proud to be a member of this group. Well done.

I have been lucky to have such a brilliant and supportive committee to help steer us through all this. The dynamics have worked really well and I feel confident that they will continue to do so with a new chair, chairs or indeed rotating chair. Thank you to each one of you. I would like to single one person out for extra praise. Lynn has been a rock throughout. She knows everything about the Guild, knows every name and doesn't forget things. She knows me well and has been such a good counterbalance to my tangents and reminds me if I've forgotten things (often I'm afraid!). Thanks Lynn.

We have had sadness this year with the passing of Betty. I will miss having her sitting in the queen chair with Jean, asking to see what we are doing and really wanting to know. She never did lose that curiosity. It was lovely that so many of you came to the funeral and a tribute to her.

I hope you will continue to enthusiastically support the branch and Head Office. They will need more ongoing fundraising to keep the work at the museum. You've made a great start and will, I trust, follow through with more ideas.

Thank you. Dee Priest

Treasurers Report: -

We have been frugal with our spending this year. We have two accounts a savings one with Unity Trust Bank and a current account with Lloyds. We have kept our current account with Lloyds to prevent excessive charges, but the Savings Account with Unity Trust provides us with Insurance cover against loss as part of the arrangement agreed between Unity Trust and the Guild. There is a charge against savings of £2.00 per month. We also pay £90.00 per year for public liability cover. In the savings account we have £1550.00 and in the Lloyds account we have approximately £2300.00 We donated over £500 to the Guild. We also received a donation of £500.00. Spending has been on Workshops, Dayschools, servicing of sewing machines and rent (which will go up a little in 2018). There is a "cushion" of £1000 allowed for against contingencies. There were no Matters Arising.

The treasurers report was incomplete because of the date of the latest statement. Therefore it could not be accepted by the branch. This will be done at the October meeting.

Membership Report:

We now have 45 members. Membership renewals to head Office will cost £33 if paid before 29th September and an extra £2.00 if paid after that date. Branch fees are unchanged at £18. Membership Cards for the new year will be distributed shortly.

Day school Report.

Pam thanked the members of the group for their support.
October 29th was Applique butterfly by Heather Everett
November 26th was Using Organza by Zoe of Thimblestitch
25th February was Coptic Book Making by Nina Fenner
29th April was Gold Work by Deborah Hastings
20th May was Landscapes by Heather Everett.

Overall profit for the year was £129.00

Day Schools have already been booked for 2017 – 2018
October 28th – Screen Printing by Val Hughes
25th November - Machining with paper napkins by Diana Wright
24th February - Dissolvable appliqué by Gwen Hartley
28th April - Crushed Spring Flowers by Jackie Martin
27th October Beach Huts by Anne Hellyer
24th November Boxes by Pauline Spence

Further suggestions were to contact Jan Tillet, Zoe and Rowena for future day schools .

Workshop Report: -

Liz thanked those members who had run workshops and said new suggestions were always welcome. The Stitch of the Month book of stitches is now available for members to browse during meetings.

Young Embroiderers Report: -

Alison reported another enjoyable year with the Young Embroiderers. Numbers have held steady at 12 (losing 2 but gaining 2)

Projects undertaken this year include Cross Stitch, Ribbon Weaving, Hair Accessories, Needle Felting and Beading.

Four youngsters attended the Day School with Heather Everitt, sharing the day with the adults and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves,, producing some brilliant work.

Some of the YE Members attended Westpoint in September and Craft4Crafters in January, to help on the stand. They were a big help with showing/informing the public about what they do at YE and how they created the samples on display.

I hope 2017/18 will be just as successful and I would like to thank Lynn, Nicky and the other adults who have joined us in our sessions. Everyone is welcome to come and see what we get up to on 3rd Saturday in the month.

Dee said it is a very important provision as very few groups are running such groups. They are an investment in the future of the Embroiderers' Guild They help to teach subjects which are now rarely taught in schools. This was confirmed by members who were connected with education.

Election of Officers: -

Dee Priest resigned as chair and from the Committee. Other members agreed to continue in post:-

Lynn Bennett (Membership Secretary)

Nicky Peterkin(Treasurer)

Alison Carder (YE Leader)

Pam Shead (Day Schools)

Liz Moon (Workshops)

Judith Venning (Secretary & Website)

Judith, Lynn and Nicky Peterkin will be the points of contact for Head Office.

As there was no individual willing to stand as Chair, it was agreed after a discussion with the members that they would institute a "rotating Chair". Members of the Committee would take it in turns to act as Chair. This was proposed by Sally Westcott and seconded by Annie Moore. Agreed by a majority of those present, with two against.

August Meeting

Dee asked the Members what they would prefer to do in August. This meeting is not well attended and often runs at a loss. Instead, would Members like to go on a trip, perhaps to the Birmingham NEC or the Somerset Quilting Show. All Members agreed to this suggestion. Nicky Peterkin will look into arranging the trip and suggested Coldharbour Mill which met with approval.

Westpoint Shows: -

Dee reported that we had our usual stand at the September Stitch show at Westpoint last year and will have one again this year. Lynn was able to recruit more volunteers to help stewarding for this year

and also asked for any further examples of work for display. The Cornish branch will be bringing and putting up for display their own contributions on the Thursday. Plymouth branch will steward on Friday. Dee will make arrangements to return both sets of exhibits.

We took part in the Craft4Crafters event at Westpoint in February, which went very well. South West Regional committee refunded the cost of the electricity, and it is hoped they will continue to do so every year. Members were asked to provide more items for sale at the February 2018 event. Members offered to help assemble bags of sale-items at the December meeting. Smaller items could be placed in baby jars provided by Nicky.

Regional AGM

The regional AGM is in Frome on 21st October. A representative or a raffle prize will need to be provided by our branch. See the poster and information on our website.

Anonymous Donation

A donation of £500.00 was received. The Committee proposed to buy two new Sewing Machines with accessories and hard covers, at a cost of £299.00 each. The donor kindly gave an additional sum to cover the total cost. The older machines will be kept until they wear out. It is hoped that gradually the stock will be replaced so that there is always a pool of 5 machines available. However this has not yet been agreed.

Equipment

Nicky will provide a list of equipment which is available for members to hire or book for a workshop or Dayschool. The list will be placed on the website. Members can book out or reserve items through Nicky Peterkin.

St. Thomas' Project (Formerly Cowick Tapestry):

Arrangements for the project to proceed have been thrown into confusion as the Vicar has now left. It was agreed that the project should be put on hold until a new Vicar is appointed and decides what he would like us to do. We can then set up appropriate workshops.

AOB

The Members agreed that volunteers would come forward to help with additional jobs as they arose, to support the Committee without having to be members of the Committee.

Name Badges. In future the badges will be kept, and issued on arrival at the meeting, in the hope that more people will wear them.

The Book Library will be sorted out and catalogued by Volunteers on 18th November at the YE meeting. Nicky, Judith and Paula offered to help Lucy.

Welcome Letter – Ann Martin, Dee and Nicky agreed to produce a Welcome Letter for new members which will include reference to the Book Library and Equipment available.

Marilyn Baker was awarded a certificate and badge for her 25 years membership of the Embroiderers' Guild. Marilyn is an invaluable member of the group, running the shop and providing endless supplies of materials, books and threads for members to buy. Well done Marilyn.

Dee was presented with gifts from the group, in recognition of her activities and enthusiasm as Chair.

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm

Date of the next AGM: 8th September 2018