



Embroiderers' Guild

sharing opportunities for discovery and creativity

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South West Region of the Embroiderers' Guild held at Compton Dundon Village Hall, Somerset on Saturday 20th October 2018

Officers present:

Julie Stenning - regional chair
Judith Mortimore - regional secretary
Penny Hill - regional treasurer

1. Welcome and opening remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone present and thanked them for coming.

2. Branch roll call

The following branches were represented: Avalon, Blackmore Vale, Bristol, Cotswolds, Frome, Salisbury, South Somerset, Stow-on-the-Wold (50% of branches).

3. Minutes of AGM held on 21st October 2017

Amendments: (8) Proposal was seconded by Vanessa Hyde.
Acceptance of minutes proposed by Pam Cooper (Frome), seconded by Rosemary Cain.
Agreed unanimously.

4. Report on the activities of the region by the Regional Chair

Julie Stenning read her report as chair. See Appendix 1.

5. Report, on behalf of the trustees, on the activities of the Guild by the Social Media Trustee

The trustees' report was read by Penny Hill, Social Media Trustee.

Questions raised:

- Clarification requested of the email error, which had frightened some members. Penny explained that this was an internal email error, and the Guild was unable to send out an email immediately explaining this as the system couldn't be trusted to send the right one. This was an issue resulting from the move to the new database software.
- Information sought as to why branch secretaries were unable to themselves remove members who had left the Guild.
- One branch wanted it noted that they had found the process of renewing members to have been a lot easier this year.
- Clarification requested over falling membership. The Guild has an ageing demographic, and when branches fail as a result (most frequently) of being unable to form a committee, the Guild could lose 30+ members in one go. The new branches announced in the report would hopefully eventually counterbalance this. The Guild is also looking to introduce a virtual branch which might appeal to those who were no longer able to get to meetings or for whom local meeting times were inconvenient, as well as bringing in new members. This would be on the Guild's own website and be a members' only, advert-free, secure environment. Some quilters are also joining the embroiderers' Guild when they want to expand their repertoire.

6. Report on the finances of the region by the Regional Treasurer and vote to adopt

Penny Hill read the treasurer's report. The acceptance of the report was proposed by Alexia Gardener (Bristol) and seconded by Christine Smith (Stow-on-the-Wold). Acceptance of the report was unanimous.

7. Appointment of auditor

No auditor was appointed.

8. Committee appointments

There were no officers retiring. There were no volunteers to join the existing committee members, although there were some offers of general assistance outside of the AGM.

9. Election for YE representative

No nomination was received.

10. Any other business

Lost and found: The Chair asked if anybody recognised a set of rainbow squares she had inherited, without success. She was equally unsuccessful in identifying the owner of a bag left at the Craft4Crafters stall earlier in the year.

Business cards: The Chair drew attention to the regional business cards which are available for branches to use as part of exhibitions.

Tutor sharing: Requested that branches who had an enjoyable workshop advise the regional chair so that the information can be shared in the regional newsletter. Programmes could also be shared via the newsletter.

11. Date of the next AGM

The date of Saturday 19th October 2019 was referenced on the agenda. The Chair asked whether people felt the region should continue to hold an AGM, or whether, due to the large size of the region, splitting it into two should be considered. She drew attention to the fact that at present no branch has offered to host either the AGM or a regional day, and the regional committee, consisting as it did of only three people, couldn't run either themselves. It was agreed that the Chair would email branches asking them to nominate a contact to discuss how we moved this forward.

The consensus was that people did want the opportunity to meet up, but felt it would be better to split the region. The Chair agreed to discuss this further with HQ.

12. Thanks

The attendees wished the minutes to reflect their thanks to the regional team for their hard work, which was much appreciated.

The Chair thanked the committee and members of Avalon Branch for hosting the meeting.

The meeting was then declared closed.

Appendix 1- Chair's Report



South West Region Chair's Report 2017/18

Committee

The three members of the committee met formally 6 times this year and informally a number of other times (we live fairly close to each other). As there are still only three of us actively involved in the committee, it was difficult for us to organise many regional activities (I was also chair of Bristol Branch until yesterday, Penny is the social media trustee and is leading the setup of the new Virtual Branch and Judith is involved in committees for other organisations). We are very grateful to Sue Anderson and her team at Avalon branch for organising today's AGM with little involvement from the Regional Committee.

We published two newsletters this year. Please send us information and photos about any activities you would like to see reported in the next newsletter. Penny and Judith continue to update the Facebook page which is used to share information about anything Textile Art related that we want to share with you and the public such as exhibitions, conferences, pieces of work and photos that can be used for inspiration. If you have anything you would like posted on Facebook then please e-mail us at swestregion@embroiderersguild.co.uk.

With the aid of two non-Embroiderers' Guild members and the chair of Cotswold, we created more stitch a fish packs and Judith and Penny created the two aquarium panels which you can see here today. I am pleased to say that the Jersey branch have ordered one fish for every member and will be stitching them as a group project. They cost £1 each with money raised going to regional funds. We have plans to supply free packs to Young Embroiderers. Please talk to Judith or Penny about this.

The new GDPR regulations required some work, destroying some paperwork and going through hundreds of e-mails, filing them and deciding what to delete.

The Roadshow

In March, we held two roadshows, one in Westbury, Wilts led by Penny and Judith and the other in Neroche near Taunton led by myself. At Westbury, the morning session was a chance for people to talk to Terry Murphy about the Guild and the afternoon session consisted of a workshop with the discussion including topics such as what the attendees like about being a member of the Guild, what about textile art gives them a buzz and ideas about how to encourage new members. The day was swapped around at Neroche. The results of the discussions with Terry and the workshops were distributed to all members of the region.

Public Benefit

Now, I would like to talk about how our region has benefited the public. Three of the five principal objectives of the Embroiderers' Guild, as defined in the Articles of Association, are to:

1. promote and encourage the art of embroidery and related crafts;
2. encourage the creation of fine articles incorporating the use of, or associated with, embroidery;
3. educate the public in the history and art of embroidery;

The Region fulfilled these by taking a stand at Craft4Crafters at Shepton Mallet in April. We organised a competition, "Museum Discoveries" which had 31 entries. The winners were voted by the public, Janet Aygun from Jersey won 1st prize, Nanette Stevens from Frome and District won 2nd prize and Laura Horner from Exeter and District was 3rd. Having a public vote gave a good opportunity for the stewards to talk to visitors about the Guild.

We also gave visitors the opportunity to stitch hearts and we publicised the 100 hearts activity. The same personal friends helped us create heart kits one afternoon, Popi and Pat worked the Sizzix machine and Judith, Penny and I filled bags with hearts, sequins, beads and threads. We had a production line going.

Various branches lent us their branch or community pieces of textile art and we were also able to show case the first panel of our aquarium.

Many people in the region helped by creating inspiration packs.

We took 51 enquiries and I hope that some branches in the region acquired new members as a result.

Thank you to everybody who took part in the competition, created inspiration packs and helped us set-up and take down the stand and to steward.

Several branches held exhibitions this year; I had the fortune to visit the Blackmore Vale exhibition in June and the three of us went to Marlborough later in the month, we also visited the West Country Quilt and Textile show in September where the Marlborough branch had a stand, exhibiting their work based on "Take a Line". All these exhibitions were excellent.

Several branches also took part in National Stitch Day. Terry would like all branches to participate so that it can be marketed as a truly national day.

Branches

There is a lot of activity in the region in relation to workshops and lectures, many given by visiting lecturers and tutors, but also several given by branch members. Several branches hold Meet and Stitch, Sit and Sew, Socialise and Sew etc. meetings.

The advertising of spaces on workshops by the region has helped to fill vacancies.

Branches have also had outings; Marlborough and South Somerset visited the International Quilt Festival at the NEC and Members of the Exeter and District branch visited Exeter Cathedral and met a member of the Company of Tapisers.

The President of South Somerset was awarded the Trustees' Award 2018 for exceptional service to the Guild and another member of the branch won 1st prize in the machine embroidery category of the Member's challenge and took the Valerie Campbell-Harding prize.

Several branches are having an exhibition in 2019.

Maintaining committee numbers is an issue facing many branches and one branch in our region is currently without a chair, although there is a committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who stands on any of our branch committees, without you, we wouldn't be able to function.

Plans for 2018/19

This next year we plan to take a stand at the spring Craft4Crafters show in Shepton Mallet. We also want to take a stand at the West Country Quilt and Textile Exhibition in Bristol in September. We will be running a competition for both events. The Craft4Crafters theme will be landscapes, again in hoops and the theme for the West Country Quilt and Textile Exhibition will be Seaside displayed on Canvas up to A4 in size.

At the time of writing, we don't have any offers from a branch to host next year's AGM and we only had 19 people other than those from Avalon and members of the regional committee booked to attend today's AGM. The current rules and regulations require that the AGM is held in September or October each year. We will discuss with central HQ whether or not we can do without an AGM in 2019.

Thank yous

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members, Penny Hill and Judith Mortimore for their sterling work.

I also thank the auditor Paul Mugford who verified our accounts at very short notice.

I have already thanked members who stand on branch committees, but would like to thank them again. I know that many of you have had your arms twisted, but without you, your branches would not exist.

My final thanks go to members of the region, without members there wouldn't be a guild and we wouldn't have the opportunity to share with like-minded people, make new friends, learn new things, enthuse each other and the public; I could go on.

Julie Stenning Chair

October 2018