



## Embroiderers' Guild

sharing opportunities for discovery and creativity

### **SOUTH WEST REGION NEWSLETTER – March 2019**

**Hi all**

Winter is a great time for staying indoors and getting on with a stitching project, whether a new one or one that's been sitting around unfinished for far too long (I know how many of those I've got!). We hope you have all had productive winters!

In this newsletter, there's a report of an open morning at Avalon which other branches may like to emulate. If you have a branch event of any kind, please send us a report to share with others. We also have updates on our planned activities for the year. Sadly, we close on an obituary.

Judith, on behalf of the regional committee

#### **AVALON BRANCH OPEN MORNING**

The Avalon branch held their first ever Open Morning in December 2018. Their Chairman said that although she'd heard that other branches were very enthusiastic about open days, given their very rural location (in the village of Ashcott, on the main A39 between Bridgewater and Glastonbury) she wasn't sure anyone would turn up. In fact, with purely local publicity, 43 visitors came through the door between 10.30 am and 12 noon - outnumbering the members present! Everyone seemed very taken with the branch's travelling books, exhibition of 3D items, and entries for the Chairman's Challenge - members made hearts on the theme of 'love the sea'. Visitors and members were pleased to have the opportunity to talk about the projects they were working on and chat over tea and buns. Reporters from the local community newspaper came along and produced a glowing report with lots of photographs which appeared in their next edition, and to everyone's surprise quite a few visitors signed up to take part in forthcoming workshops and ten new people were present at the January meeting.

The main aim of the Open Morning was to raise awareness of what the branch does in its immediate locality. Whilst Avalon is a thriving branch known for their relaxed, friendly, and inclusive approach, only about a third of members live within a five-mile radius of Ashcott, many travelling 20+ miles to attend meetings. So, although the Open Morning was not actively designed to swell their numbers, the branch were pleased that five of their visitors have now joined, and two more have said they plan to do so next month. The committee felt that it wasn't an onerous task to organise the event, and they'd thoroughly recommend the idea to others.

## **CRAFT 4 CRAFTERS 2019, SHEPTON MALLET**

As you will be aware, the Region has a stand at this year's Craft 4 Crafters in Shepton Mallet, which takes place between Friday 11th and Saturday 13th April. 10.00-17:00 at The Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6QN.

Last year's show proved to have a wide variety of stalls and workshops, and was well attended. If you're in the area, why not come along? Be sure to stop by our stand, say hello, vote in the competition, stitch a flower, and take a chance on our lucky dip (every ticket wins a prize!).



Thanks to everybody who has volunteered to help, and all those who are sending entries for the competition, lucky dip prizes or stitched cards for sale.

## **NATIONAL STITCH DAY**

This year's National Stitch Day is now on the third Saturday in June, so in 2019 it will be on 22nd June and in 2020 on the 21st June. This year's theme is "Home" - see the Guild website for details. Please let us know what you are planning to do on the day!

## **WEST COUNTRY QUILT SHOW COMPETITION**

This year we also have a stand at the 2019 West Country Quilt Show, which takes place on 29th-31st August at the University of the West of England Exhibition Centre, Bristol. This new venture will feature a competition entitled 'Seaside'. Entries should be attached to an artist canvas maximum A4 size with no more than one and a half inches depth (the canvas can be used either way up). More details on the show and competition to follow!

## **GUILD AGM 2019**

This year's AGM takes place in Newcastle on Saturday 6th April. Penny and Judith will be attending - if you spot us, come and say hello!

## **REGIONAL AGM 2019**

It is very likely there will not be a regional AGM this year; we will keep you posted.

## **OBITUARY - ALISON HADINGHAM**

It is with great sadness that Plymouth Branch have to announce that Alison passed away on 26th January 2019. Her death comes as a great shock to all those who knew her.

Alison was awarded her 25-year Membership of the Guild pin at the Branch Christmas party. It was an award well-earned and of which she was so proud and pleased to receive. A stalwart of the Guild, she joined Plymouth Branch in 1993 and was soon heavily involved. She helped form a Wednesday evening group for working ladies in 1994. This group continued for several years eventually merging with the monthly daytime meetings.

Alison was Plymouth Branch Secretary from 1994 until 2001 and continued as a Committee Member until her death. She became the South West's Regional Secretary under the Chairmanship of Pam Cooper in 2004 and served until 2010. As in all things, she served the Region well.

Apart from administrative duties, at which she excelled, her talent in design, textiles, and all forms of machine and hand embroidery was admired by all. Her ability to pass on her knowledge and expertise has been greatly appreciated by all who attended her classes at the Branch, the last of which was in November, when she took a class of 30 of Plymouth Members, there were never enough for Alison, no one was ever turned away. We were fortunate to have her as tutor twice a year, usually during the winter months. Summers were spent in the motor home that she and her Husband Graham spent many happy hours touring Britain and the Continent. Never idle, during this time she spent her evenings and spare time (when not on navigational duties), preparing her classes, working on samples and preparing kits for her winter classes, with a little help from a G & T or three!

Her skill and knowledge were matched only by her enthusiasm. Although never uttered by Alison, the impression she gave always, was "If a job is worth doing it is worth doing well". This is the way she will be remembered by all at Plymouth Branch, with great respect and affection.

## **YOUR REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

The committee currently consists of myself, Judith Mortimore, secretary; Julie Stenning, Chair and Penny Hill, Treasurer. If anybody would like to join us to help organise regional events, please let us know. With modern technology, we don't have to physically meet to make plans and share good ideas! If you want to volunteer, please contact us at the regional email address [swestregionchair@embroiderersguild.co.uk](mailto:swestregionchair@embroiderersguild.co.uk).