



Embroiderers' Guild

June 2020
Newsletter

Brighton Branch



I hope you are all keeping well and free from the Corona Virus. It is a shame that we cannot meet but very necessary and wise. The Patcham Community Centre is closed and is worried about its finances and when or if it can open. However Boris has announced today that libraries can open but it is too early to say what will happen at the Community Centre.

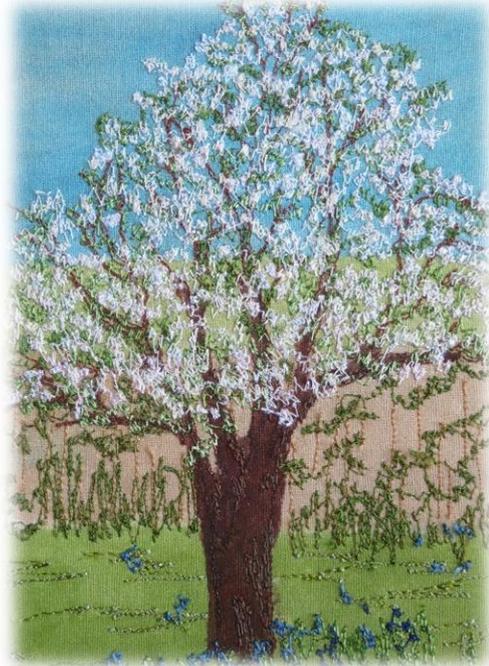
The Brighton Guild committee has decided that we will not meet again until September or October at the earliest. We have cancelled all booked outside tutors and their workshops, but promised to rebook them in 2021, if at all possible. Our monthly meetings will be run by members.

The September/ October AGM has been cancelled but Helen has said she will be able to produce an Annual Account. This is following advice from Terry Murphy, the CEO of the National Embroiderers Guild. The committee position holders, assuming they are willing to continue, will therefore continue in their present position. We are also in need of more committee members, either as general members or as secretary. Nominations and suggestions can be sent to me, Carolyn Brown at begwebmaster@btinternet.com This is vital if the Brighton Embroidery Guild is to continue, and flourish.

What have you been stitching during 'lockdown'? I began by creating laundry bags with Eastbourne Sewer's, which then merged with Sew Sussex and a 'Pocket full of Rainbows'. I now make masks and headbands for Sew Sussex which has a Depot in an Eastbourne Church Hall. I'm off to the Church Hall on Thursday afternoon to help fulfil orders for the NHS from all around the UK. You can order items to stitch from the Sew Sussex website, which is a very professional website sandbnhw.org. I know other members have been making scrubs, masks, hats, isolation gowns, hearts etc. There are local drop off points in Brighton, Lewes, Seaford and Royal Mail will deliver and collect items free of charge. This may not be embroidery but vital stitching. Who would have guessed that our skills would be so needed. Sue Lacey, I believe, one of your 'Young Stitchers' has been making hospital scrubs!

Lockdown Embroidery

Terry, Carolyn and Kath's Postcards. Terry and Carolyn both chose to stitch blossom trees found within or near their gardens. The springtime cherry and pear blossom were beautiful earlier in the year. It lifted your spirits at the beginning of lockdown. Kath's embroidery was sent to her friends living on the continent.





Helen's lockdown stitching.



It would be fun if you could email me photos (high resolution please) of any stitching you have completed during these trying times. I will then circulate it around members and put copies on the website.

News

The Embroiderer's Guild has produced "The Story of the Embroiderers' Guild Collection' , Parts 1 and 2. Those of you who have registered with their website will have already seen these. They can be accessed from the website.

The South East Region Newsletter was interesting. Although the July Regional meeting was cancelled, the competition 'A magical game', will be judged at the Ardingly StitchFest on the 17th July 2021. The games will be displayed in the ground floor Kleinwart Suite and judged by an outside judge! So a much wider audience for our contribution.

At the moment the South East Regional Celebration of Stitch Day will be held hosted by the Dorking Branch on 26th September 2020. The competition for members and Young Embroiderers is "A stitched Initial".

Stop Press

I heard from Viv, the manager of the Patcham Community Centre, yesterday, they are unsure whether they will open in the next 2 weeks. The library will be kept separate from the main building, and people will enter the library directly from the outside. The Community Centre will need to be made Covid safe before it is opened and they were unsure if this could be done before September. Each room would need to be cleaned before and after each hiring. There is also a problem using the kitchens or toilets, and hiring to more than one group per session.

The committee have decided that to keep everyone in the Brighton Embroidery Guild safe we will **definitely** not have meetings until September and **possibly not until 2021**. Before we can all meet again we will need to do a risk assessment and make sure everything is Covid safe.

Would anyone be interested in meeting in groups of 6 in my or Dianne's garden, for a 'Stitch and Natter'. This would obviously be reliant on the weather but we feel it is possible. You would need to book a place. Alternatively, or as well as, we could have an online group using Zoom, What's App or Messenger. This is possible as I taught my granddaughter, how to make a face mask, whilst using Messenger. It went towards her Guide's Craft badge! It took a bit of practice and " grandma we can't see" but we improved over the 2 hours and finished successfully.

We have a few ideas as to what we could do, such as one of Dianne's kits, patchwork etc.

Please let me know if you are interested and email begwebmaster@btinternet.com