



Embroiderers' Guild

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MARCH 2019

HORSHAM  
BRANCH

Inclusive, Enthusiastic,  
Creative, Contemporary  
and Friendly



**Doors Open at 1.15  
For Stitch Time  
Meetings Start at 2 pm  
with the next  
'Swan' Demonstration**

**Your Contributions  
Are Important!**

Contact the Editor,  
Jan Brown, if you  
would like  
to share your report  
on a workshop,  
speaker, visit, show  
or anything else of  
interest, on:

01403 256973 or 240840  
07801 137349

or by email at:  
jan@janet-brown.co.uk

Hello,

I hope you enjoyed Felicity's talk last month on her rather unique collection of fashion plates.

This month we welcome Janet Bolton with her talk 'Hand Sewn Narrative Textiles: A Personal Journey'.

I hope you enjoyed reading Contact Monthly. I still have not heard from Kirsten at Head Office if distribution will continue through the branch Chairs or if they will email members separately. I will keep you posted!

Carolyn is now home from her trip to Nicaragua and I thought you might be interested to read about the support she gives to local schools on the remote island of Ometepe and her fundraising musical event next month.

With regards the Clear Vision Book Project I thought that if there is anyone interested in making a book for this worthwhile cause we could meet up first. I definitely would like to make another book as it is a lot of fun and such a worthwhile cause. Do let me know if you want to join in with this.

Apologies for sending this newsletter out so late; it has been a very busy month for various reasons.

I hope you have all been to Ramster to see the Embroidery exhibition. I have heard mixed reports from people (although that is often the case with exhibitions) but hope to go on Saturday. Remember it closes on Sunday so only a few opportunities to go.

**Jan Brown**

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Stitchfest 13th July 2019

Tickets for this event will be £9.00 in advance or £11.00 at the door, but members of East Grinstead and Horsham branch will be able to buy a ticket for £5.00 though me if they are able to offer some help.

I will bring in the Stewarding Rota today and hope some of you will be able to support the regional committee.

## Next Month's Meeting

25th April 2019

Speaker: Rosie James

Title: 'Photo Stitch Draw'

Rosie James is an artist working mostly in textiles. Her work explores the use of the sewing machine as a tool for drawing. Her focus falls mainly on people and the kinds of crowds that form when people gather, she is looking for the individual within the crowd. Her work also encompasses the use of the stitched line to create drawings which explore the whole world of stitch, textiles, fashion, craft etc. The ways in which stitching and textiles figure in our everyday lives is a continuing fascination. Rosie using screen printing as well as machine stitching and appliqué to create layers of imagery. Recently she has become interested in the ways in which a line is created on the sewing machine and how lines are everywhere we look. These lines link us together.



Sitting on Trafalgar Square Steps

## The Crystal Swan Jigsaw

I hope you are all progressing well with your piece of the Swan Jigsaw. Jessica and I spent an interesting afternoon working through the first stage, cutting out and stitching on the padding and discussing various stitches that would work on the shaped pieces we had.

Don't forget Teresa will be demonstrating at 2 pm today (details of each demonstration are in the Instruction packs) and she is always there for advice and help. We hope to have the completed parts returned in the May meeting.

If you are able to embroider an extra piece to add to our display then they can be brought to the June meeting.

We are all about Swans this year; even our Raffle story this month!

## A Fundraising Event

To support the children on the remote Island of Ometepe, Nicaragua  
with school equipment and educational materials

Introduction by Dr Carolyn Gibbs about her recent visit to Nicaragua

**Friday 12 April 7.30pm 'til 10pm**

The Chapel, High Street, Billingshurst RH14 9QS

Live Music by Huckabone & Mike Reinstein

Bring your own wine

Glasses, Canapes and nibbles provided

Tickets £10 from CCs EMPORIUM, Jenger's Mead

## This Month's Raffle

The Dream of Aengus.

Long ago, when the world was much fresher, there was a young man called Aengus. He was a poet and a singer. He was tall, good looking and irresistible to women (he thought). Everywhere he went he was accompanied by four fluttering birds who added their sweet songs to his.

One night he had a dream and, in the dream, a beautiful princess appeared with whom he immediately fell in love. As is the way with dreams there were other puzzling things – a glimpse of a dragon, yew berries, a white feather and the sound of golden bells.

Aengus dreamed the same dream night after night until he fell into a deep depression and became pale with longing for the beautiful princess. His mother and father sent for soothsayers and wise women to unravel the mystery and eventually they declared – “The young woman in your dreams is Caer Ibormeith the goddess of sleep and dreams whose other name is Yew Berry. She lives by the Lake of the Dragons Mouth but beware – for many years she has been under a spell. Every second Samhain (a pre-Christian festival equivalent to Halloween) she, her sisters and her maidens are changed into swans and they must live as swans for a year and a day. To break the spell, you must go to the lake on the eve of the festival of Samhain and choose your beloved from among the swan maidens.”

Aengus travelled to the Lake of the Dragons Mouth where he found one hundred and fifty swans swimming and singing. One of the swans wore a golden necklace hung with golden bells while the others wore silver. Aengus chose the swan who was decked with gold and plunged into the lake where he was immediately changed into a swan as well. He and Caer flew away together singing magical songs and they sang so sweetly that everyone who heard them fell asleep for three days and three nights. (Quite hard to work out who comes off the best in this encounter!)

Raffle: in the raffle you will find red and gold beads to signify the red of yew berries and the gold of the magical chains which bound the princess Yew Berry.

**Frances Westwood**

## Carolyn's Report

I have just returned from a most rewarding visit to Nicaragua, spending a month on Ometepe Island and a few days at La Mariposa Spanish School. Here I visited their community projects to see what I could learn. I took out special insurance covering war and terrorism as the Foreign office still deemed the country to be unsafe. I have to report that I felt safe throughout and was well looked after by my local contacts on Ometepe and by contacts of Peace and Hope. Project support expanded this time to encompass both the Rafaela Herrera School and Santa Teresa School.

More than 60 new uniforms were provided across both schools, cleaning materials, stationery, musical instruments, technical equipment, footballs, notebooks, pens. A small office space was created in Santa Teresa. Current equipment was reviewed and repaired. 18 boxes of donated equipment was collected and delivered including laptops, more uniforms, stationery and toys. Children and families showed enormous gratitude for what they regarded as substantial contributions and support for their communities.

Donations will continue to fund uniforms, stationery and equipment, Wi-Fi contract, musical and cultural and sporting activities and equipment, across this total of five schools. A possible future priority is books for a library at Rafaela Herrera; this school is also in a good position to be a support centre for the community.

We are collating information on teachers wishing to complete their training. Current economic difficulties mean that many have suspended their training and are working voluntarily or on partial salaries. I understand there are six teachers in this position at present and am awaiting further details.

I also have two current requests for university support from Jordy Martinez Ruiz aged 18 and Jesus Antonio Ruiz Hernandez aged 24, who live in the Urbaita community, for whom I am seeking donors. Jordy has won awards as an outstanding student and his parents who run a small grocery store, selling basic necessities, find it difficult to fund the costs. Jesus has returned to school recently to complete his secondary education, because the economic climate and political crisis resulted in a loss of work. He is trying to use the time to continue his education in preparation for better times. The two can offer one another mutual support. They attend university two Saturdays per month, studying at home in between. They travel to the mainland leaving at 4am and returning at 7.30pm. The cost of fees, materials, travel and subsistence is a mere £25 each per month, and would ideally cover 32 months of the course. Support for these young people is an investment in the future of the country and fosters positive international links. If you are interested in helping in this way, please let me know.