



Doole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 154

January 19th , 2008

EDITORIAL

If you find any typing errors which have escaped my proof reading, I apologise. My fingers seem to have developed dyslexia on the keyboard. I feel like I used to when practising scales on the piano after an interval, the fingers all fall over each other and the regular rhythm is lost. I suppose it happens with anything we do not do regularly, lace being no exception. We are so privileged in the variety of styles and types of lace patterns available to us, when I change from one to another I often have to sit and think about the technique needed for the particular work. The solution is not automatically to hand. The answer would be to make more lace!

TODAY'S MEETING

A speaker from the RNLI will introduce the work they do this afternoon. With the Headquarters being so close it will be interesting to hear what goes on just down the road and how they support their fleet around the country. Our charity bobbins with the RNLI logo are on sale today for £3.50 each. Profit from their sales together with other money raised will be gifted to their representative at Lace Day.

Pat Gilbertson will be selling some more of her cards and 'Valda and Maureen' bring their spangles. We thank Rosemarie Emmett, ex PBLC member, Ruth Goulden who used to run lace courses at the back of her Wimborne Pottery shop a long time ago, and Sally James' family for their kind donations of lace pillows, books, bobbins, paperweights and other lace equipment which will boost the sales table and our funds.

Sheila Herridge and 'her ladies' let us have a look at their lace, another treat, I am sure, and our 'accomplishment table' (what a mouthful!) will hopefully show some very recent work by members.

PROPOSED TRIP TO THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF NEEDLEWORK

We are considering organising an outing to the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court on **Thursday October 16th 2008**. There are only a few Thursdays when they take visitors on an hour long tour of their premises while everyone is working. The rest of the day can be spent looking over Hampton Court Palace (Entry fee applies) or enjoying the park and gardens which are free and open to anyone. If you would like to go, please contact Jenny Lewis on 01202 676398 **by the end of January**. If there are enough takers she will book a tour and the coach to take us there.

CONDOLENCE

Our sincere condolences go to Thelma Horner, whose husband Richard died suddenly and unexpectedly on January 5th.

OBITUARY



Mrs Bertha Kemp (née Veeley) courtesy of ...

Bertha Kemp, Downton Lacemaker, who died in November 2007 at the age of 99, must have been a fascinating lady to know. She worked for the Downton Lace Industry from the age of eight, producing lace for sale and to order, winning cups for 'the most lace sold in a year' and 'the best lace produced'! She was also involved when the Industry presented gifts to Royalty: twelve handkerchiefs given to Princess Mary in 1922, Princess Elizabeth's wedding in 1947, to Princess Margaret in 1960 and Alexandra in 1963. Bertha used to be a regular at the New Forest Show and the Cuckoo Fair, demonstrating lace at great speed. Her first book on Downton Lace was produced in 1988 and she was a teacher of lace too, regaling her students with her lace stories. I read somewhere that 'her lace classes were really a history lesson rather than a perfecting of lace skills'

INSURANCE

A notice stating that the event is covered through the Lace Guild insurance is displayed, but this does not cover loss of personal property or any personal lace that you have taken to display. Items of lace submitted for demonstrations, exhibitions, meetings etc. have to be listed, valued and advised to the Lace Guild at least a month prior to the event in order to be covered by the insurance. The excess payable on all insurance claims is now £250. The Lace Guild is not able to offer cover for the theft of exhibits unless the theft follows a forcible and violent entry to the exhibition building.

PILLOW PARTY, SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY

Come to our February get-together at the Broadstone Community and Art Centre for a day of lacemaking and catching up with friends. I for one am looking forward to all the different laces everyone is working on. There are so many lovely patterns available to us, and there are always new things to be discovered. I love the way we all share our experiences, triumphs and disappointments, other ways of tackling a problem, finding solutions and just being happy making lace in each other's company. Bring lunch if you stay all day. Drinks and a biscuit are provided.

COMMITTEE APPEAL

In the summer we will be losing 3 members of the committee who need to be replaced. Would you please consider joining us at the AGM, or can you think of someone who is too reticent but would make a valuable addition to our ranks? I know it is a bit early, but time usually flies, and before we realise it, the AGM is upon us. So please talk about it amongst yourselves.

TEXTILE FRAMERS

How often do we want a piece of lace or textile framed and are not sure where to go. I have heard some horror stories of work cut too small, mounted crookedly or even glued to the mount. Personal recommendations are always the best advertisement. So I take Mary Berrett's word for it, having seen the finished product. Benjamin at Avon Valley Framing, 86 Parsonage Barn Lane in Poulner has made a beautiful job of framing two large stitched pictures and charged a reasonable price.

ALMERIA DIARY - October 2007.

We have had a marvellous Autumn with a great variety of weather but it has been mostly sunny except for 6 storms over 3 weeks, 2 of which were "crackers" with the full Monty of lightning (fork and sheet), torrential rain and claps of thunder loud enough to make one cover ones ears and cower indoors. No standing on the balcony admiring the show!

It is also the season when fruits and vegetables are in at their peak and cheap in the market, so Pam told me how to pickle some red peppers. I have made several jars and because I cannot safely transport them home for Christmas, we have been eating them! I thought PBLC members might like the recipe and try something a bit different. Admittedly, one does need sun to help dry them but those of you with conservatories or a sunny window ledge will easily duplicate the conditions. So here goes!

Pickled Red Peppers

Wash peppers, dry and remove the seeds, cut into 1 cm strips and lay out in the sun for 2 hours.

Into a saucepan put a water and wine vinegar mixture (half water and half wine vinegar), enough to generously cover the peppers, with a bay leaf or two and a few black peppercorns and bring this to the boil. Blanch the cut peppers in this mixture for only 2 minutes and then remove with slotted spoon and lay out on kitchen towel paper in the sun for the rest of the day, say 4 hours.

Bottle in good virgin olive oil, making sure that you put a little oil in the jar first and then top up as you fill the jar with the peppers, and be sure to check that there are no air bubbles lurking in the jar!

Enjoy with anything!! Recipe courtesy of Pam and thoroughly tested by Thelma!

Happy pickling! Thelma.

My fault, this rather late and out of season article, but if it takes your fancy store the information in an obvious place in your kitchen, or you won't find it when the time comes for ripe peppers!
Lily)

And here is more news about life in Spain - Olive Picking.

Pam and Bruno gathered all the olives from the trees on their Complex, plus some from a friend's garden, and took them to the olive pressing mill inland from the coast. They watched as the olives were washed, weighed, graded and processed and from some 20 odd kg. of olives they had 4 litres of oil. The mill take half of what is pressed as payment, so no money changes hands. They had caught a man stealing the olives from their trees and an altercation ensued during which the man dropped 2 carrier bags of olives he had already picked elsewhere so these were added to their own crop. He ran off having had his glasses broken during the "exchange" and Pam suffered a bruised hand when she tried to intervene between combatants. The streets all around here are lined with trees - mostly lemons and olives - and if not picked only shed their fruits on to the paths so it makes sense to collect them. But actually stealing from a Complex is not on.

We have one small olive tree and I have a bowl full of olives which are soaking in a brine mixture to remove the bitterness and then they are bottled in olive oil with garlic cloves and spices and left to mature for several months. My first attempt but hopefully they will be edible.

Out in the campo at the commercial olive groves, the harvesting process is completely mechanized so no scratched hands and faces and aching backs. A tractor which has a 20 ft.

folding "umbrella" mounted on its front, surrounds the tree and when this is in place, a mechanism shakes the bole of the tree quite violently. All the olives fall into the umbrella which then decants its load into a truck, and when this is full, it goes straight to the mill. They have to be processed within 24 hours to retain their flavour and quality.

I have been making a Bucks Point hexagonal mat but it's a slow project as I keep getting into difficulties with it so am glad that Pam is around to put me right. In between times I have made four bookmarks and when I showed them to a friend at our Monday Craft Circle, she said could she buy one as a present for her friend and before I knew it, three had gone! So I have about ten pounds to spend on more thread when I return to the UK.

Pam has just completed a miniature lace table cloth for a friend's dolls house and is now busy making Christmas decorations from a French pattern and also lots of Christmas Cards which is the other hobby which keeps us both out of mischief! Time just flies here and it's almost time for me to pack and come back to Poole and prepare for Christmas so hope to see you all in January if not before. Pam has asked me to pass on her good wishes to you all and she hopes you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hasta luego. Thelma.

FOR YOU COMPUTER LITERATES

You'll need broadband to go through this website – <http://lacespider.blog.cz> . The photos are fabulous and there are hundreds of them. If you find 'in English' in the left hand column you can read the explanations too. That was Liz Pass' message, and I fully agree!! Lily

DEMONSTRATIONS

With the winter break over, our demonstration calendar is starting again in March, Easter being early. We give you the dates as soon as they are firmly booked, so you can plan a long time ahead if you wish. But if you like to arrange things at the last minute, there is no law against sudden decisions to demonstrate. Valerie has the rota, so get in touch with her if you would like to use some time lacemaking and talking to visitors simultaneously. You can demonstrate a whole day, half a day or just a couple of hours.

Valerie has nearly enough lace to finish 10 aprons to be worn when demonstrating. Two more lengths would complete the task. Any offers? We also need some new pieces of lace to go into the demonstration case. Some pieces have been used during the last few years and will be returned to their owner. Does anyone have lace they are prepared to give us on a long loan to replenish our stock? Valerie has been very good at keeping a record of each venue display, so that people can see a wide variety of lace being made these days.

Upton Country Park	Sunday/Monday	March 23 rd and 24 th
Kingston Lacy	Saturday, Sunday/ Monday	May 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th
Kingston Lacy	Saturday/ Sunday/ Monday	August 23 rd , 24 th and 25 th
Upton Country Park	Saturday/ Sunday	November 22 nd and 23 rd

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

- February 23rd, **Wessex Lacemakers Suppliers Fayre**, at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, (just off of J25 M5) 10am-3pm, Entrance £3.
- March 1st **Woodley Lace Day**, at Woodley Baptist Church, Hurricane Way, Woodley nr. Reading, Berkshire, 10am-4pm, Tickets £3.50 or £6.50 incl. lunch, Speaker: Maggie Stredder-My life in Show Business, Information from Sally Farmer, 81 Water Road, Reading, RG30 2NP, e-mail: sally@jcs.gb.com
- March 1st **Weald Lace Fair**, at Collyer's Sixth Form College, Hurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2EJ, 10am-3.30pm, Entrance £2, children free, Lace displays, demonstrations and refreshments
- March 9th **21st Lace Fair, Essex Lace Makers**, Chelmer Valley High School, Broomfield, Chelmsford, CM1 7ER, 10am-4pm, Admission £1, Demonstrations and Refreshments.

LACE CLASSES, COURSES, WORKSHOPS

- Great Escapes 2008** Wonderful Weekends in Country Houses, Lacemaking, Embroidery, Beading and Silver Jewellery, prices £295-£315, Information from Jane Dickinson, Tel 01825 733422/ mobile 07711 348208, e-mail: jane.dickinson@talk21.com, www.greatescapes-weekends.com.
- Saturday, April 5th **Fantasy Flowers** with Mainly Lace at Burton Green Reformed Church Hall, 10am-4pm, Christchurch Lace Society members £10, Visitors £12. Fee with booking to Mrs. Maureen Woodruff, 2 Brownsea View Avenue, Lilliput, Poole, BH14 8LQ, please enclose SAE.
- August 2nd -9th **Bruges Week**, A Lace Week held at the English Convent in Bruges with two lace tutors from the Kantcentrum, Details from Grace Jones on 0208 643 5633.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Saturday, **March 15th**, when Heather Wilson, 'undercover agent', will be talking on Ladies' Underwear. Jean Turner is coming with her supplies and Jackie Barton's group shows us their lace. As ever, it would be lovely if you could bring your pillows with lace in progress and finished pieces for the 'accomplishment table'.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send any information, articles or notices for inclusion in the next Newsletter to: Lily Wills, 14 Highland Road, Wimborne Minster, BH21 2QN or by e-mail to lacewills@talktalk.net