

Doole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 165

November 7th, 2009

EDITORIAL

Some of you know that I had my other hip replaced in October but now I am on the road to recovery. I have to find the time to do all the exercises that the physios have set and to go for a mile plus walk every day. I'm a little lax about the walk. I give it a miss on days like today when outside is windy and wet. I'm not allowed to drive yet which is rather inconvenient, I have to rely on the other half for transport. Unfortunately all this enforced leisure has not given me extra time for lacemaking, as I'm not allowed to lean forward when sitting. I have spent the time writing up the instructions for the Christmas workshop patterns, which I didn't manage to complete before I went into hospital. I did get most the samples made up but only just on the day before I went in for the operation. Jenny worked one of the bauble patterns, which was a great help as time was short. I have also been making plans for future lace projects, as well as rediscovering previous hobbies I enjoy in embroidery and sewing.

TODAY'S MEETING

Our speaker this afternoon is Jane Atkinson talking about her class. Lacewing Designs are here with their extensive range of patterns, threads and bobbins. The group display is from Jane Atkinson's class. There is also a display of worked samples and patterns for sale for the Christmas Pillow Party to be held on November 28th.

TRIP TO THE AMERICAN MUSEUM AT BATH

Thursday May 13th, Jenny has booked this visit. The cost for coach and entry including a guided tour will be £25 with a £2 supplement for non-members. The museum will have a special exhibition on at the time of our visit entitled "Classic American Quilts". The museum is situated in a lovely setting at Claverton Manor, about two and a half miles outside Bath. Jenny will take names and deposits for the outing to the American Museum.

MOUNTING LACE WORKSHOP

Saturday April 17th, with tutor Pauline McLeod, start thinking about the lace that you will be mounting for this workshop. It always takes a long time to make a piece of lace. I know that I've got several pieces that need mounting but I am thinking of making a circular edging to mount during the workshop. Barbara will take names and deposits today.

ANN CALVERT

Whilst demonstrating at Kingston Lacy in late August this year we met Ann, over on a visit from Spain, who wished to be remembered to her friends and fellow classmates from Dorothy Brown's class. Ann said that she thinks of them all and misses her classes.

JANE ATKINSON'S CLASS

I first came across Jane Atkinson's work in February 2001 when she did a workshop for PBLC. The subject was using colour, texture and thicker threads. I was captivated by the possibility of combining this type of lace with my own subject of soft furnishings. It was another 3 or 4 years before I was able to join her class at Mudeford. We meet 6 times a term, dates being arranged around holidays and Jane's other commitments. Jane shares her great knowledge of design, threads, colours and textures. Although she is happy to support us in whatever we want to do she also encourages us to expand our skills and explore design using differing inspirations and methods. I am enjoying doing my first design which will be a metallic thread evening bag. The fact that I am prepared to drive to Mudeford from Broadstone in the evening in the winter speaks for itself. Jane always has interesting things to show us from her trips abroad or magazines or her latest project. I am amazed at the quantity and quality of lace that is made by my fellow lace makers and hope you will be too.

Gill Kingsbury

CREATIVE DIALOGUES BY 'THE TEXTILE STUDY GROUP'

I did decide to take the plunge and enrolled in a creative embroidery course in Portsmouth. There is nothing traditional in this course, except we visited a travelling textile exhibition in the Portsmouth Museum in our second session, writing impressions and sketching (very reluctantly) and carefully looking at the exhibits. Each member of the Group teamed up with a non-member working in a different field, then producing work inspired by their partner, either combined or separate. The visit was an inspiration, there were ceramicists, a stained glass window maker, bookmakers, a metal worker and several other combinations, and the whole exhibition was a treat.

Unfortunately when you read this, the exhibition will be over and will be disassembled, as Portsmouth is its last venue.

The collaboration I thought you might be interested in, and which certainly caught my eye, was between Ann Wheeler and Kitty Mason, lacemaker. As they live a considerable distance apart, one down here in the South, the other in Scotland, they did a lot of their 'creative dialogue' via the internet and snail mail. Both chose a favourite piece of

work in their collections and sent it to their counterpart for inspiration, and both were challenged by what they were expected to work with. Ann had sent Kitty a colourful Afghan purse with shisha mirrors, tassels and tiny blue beads, and Kitty sent Ann a wonderful piece of the finest Binche lace. Ann found the lack of texture a challenge which she overcame beautifully. She took the snowflake ground, enlarged it a lot, then worked the shape in layers of paper and used fine paper string to stitch the centres. Repeats held in place on a ground of scrim made two wonderful banners. I nearly missed the little white buttons stitched along one edge.



Kitty chose her coloured threads with great care, incorporating one that had fuzzy bits of unspun wool hanging out every now and again. That was used as the passives dividing the alternating squares, one in cloth stitch, the other with a variety of solutions: straight hanging passives, spiders worked in the centre, plaits in the passives, diagonal stitches, all giving this vibrancy of colour. At the edges she had made the occasional tassel, one colour wool enclosed in loose metal wire spirals with a contrasting tassel of unspun wool. Her second hanging was pairs of passives of the same wool some distance apart with fine workers almost invisibly just holding the passives in place.



They had decided that their work had to be large, substantial enough to stand up in a travelling exhibition context, and theirs was a true collaboration in that the banners were hanging together in harmony of scale and design.

Ann has been kind enough to send me her photos, as mine weren't altogether successful. She had also written an article in April's 'Lace', which I only just discovered on my 'to read' pile!!

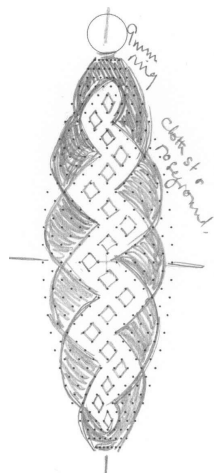
Lily Wills

PILLOW PARTY CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

This year the pillow party will be held on Saturday November 28th 10.00am to 4.00pm at the Broadstone Arts and Community Centre, a week earlier than usual so that we don't clash with the Broadstone Carnival. The workshop project, if you wish to take part, are lace covers to embellish your baubles. See the display of the baubles and get your patterns today. The threads used for the baubles are a mixture of 30 weight cotton and metallic threads with beads or sequins added to provide extra sparkle. Come along and join in the fun. If you prefer you can bring along your work in progress instead of doing the workshop.



HOW DO I DESIGN?



My inspiration for design comes in many ways. Sometimes from natural forms, but I also have a fascination for ironwork. I have photographed and drawn many examples of ironwork that I have come across both here and on the continent. However neither of these were the source of inspiration for the bauble designs that I created for the Christmas Workshop. I had the idea for the baubles earlier this year but didn't start working on them until I had finished my entry for the Rose Bowl competition. First I started by creating a shaped grid that would fit around a bauble. I had to dig out our Christmas decorations and take some measurements and then I used the computer to draw out the grid. I have a CAD program that I use for this. I printed the grid and then it was back to pencil and eraser, I doodled ideas over the grid to find pleasing designs. I made some 3D models with paper, coloured marker pens and some polystyrene balls that I had so that I could get an idea of the finished result. The next stage was to draft the designs, make a pricking and to start making

sample braids. I make samples to try out suitable threads but also to discover any errors in the draft. My designs aren't always possible to work without adjustments. Once all seemed satisfactory it was a matter of making up examples of all the patterns and last of all my least favourite part of designing, writing out the instructions.

Eve Morton

PBLC DEMONSTRATIONS IN 2009

Last opportunities to enthrall the public with your skill.

Upton House Saturday/Sunday November 21st & 22nd

The last two events of the summer happened too late to be included in the last newsletter. The Craft and Garden Fair at Kinston Lacy was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend. The display was much admired, a lot of interest was shown and we even managed to complete a snake. The young lady who put in the final pin was thrilled to be given the snake. The only drawback to the show was being sited next to the fudge stall, no, we weren't tempted but unfortunately all the wasps in the locality were. Many thanks to Betty, Margaret, Ann, Maureen, Kate, Lily, Jenny and June who all demonstrated at various times over the weekend.

The Stour Valley Festival was another pleasant weekend spent demonstrating lacemaking. Thanks to Barbara for the Saturday, and to Eileen, Margaret, Marilyn and Kate for the Sunday.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Leaflets and details of many of these events can be studied in full on the notice board during our meetings.

Nov 10th - Dec 3rd **Bristol Lace Group Exhibition** "Carnival in Lace" at the Bridgewater Arts Centre, 11 -13 Castle Street, Bridgewater TA6 3DD. Tues - Fri 10.30 - 5.00pm, Sat 10.00am - 1.00pm, Evenings Tues - Sat 7.00 - 11.00pm.

November 21st **The Southern Counties Lace Fair** at Havant Leisure Centre includes a display of Honiton Lace from Allhallows Museum, 10.00am - 4.00pm. Tickets £3.50.

December 5th **The National Christmas Lacemakers' Fair** at Cranmore Park, Cranmore Ave, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4LF. 10am - 4.30pm Exhibition, "Lace on the Loose" from the "Museums Luton" Collection. Tickets £7, free parking.

CLASSES AND COURSES

Unfinished Objects November 22nd at Porton Village Hall, Porton, Salisbury SP4 0LB UFOs workshop both bobbin and needle lace. Details from Jan Gardiner 01980 611932 email jan@lacewingdesigns.co.uk

Great Escapes Weekends in Country Houses, Lacemaking, Embroidery, Beading and Jewellery, www.greatescapes-weekends.com to find out more information or phone Jane Dickinson on 01825 733422 or 07711 348208

NEXT MEETING

January 2nd 2.00pm we will be back to our usual venue at St Mary's. Charity bobbins, made by Winslow bobbins, will be available to buy at the meeting and bobbins made by Stuart Johnson to order. This time though we will **only** take orders for the Stuart Johnson bobbins at the January meeting or else please contact Barbara Jackson or Jenny Lewis before the end of January to request a bobbin or bobbins to be ordered. Samples of the bobbins will be available to view at the meeting. Unfortunately the charity, Dorset Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, cannot provide a speaker for this meeting but they will come to the March meeting. Claire's Lace will be our supplier and the group display will be from Liz Pass' class. Bring your lace pillow for a "Make Lace" session.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send any information, articles or notices for inclusion in the next Newsletter to: **Eve Morton, 17 Forsyte Shades, 82 Lilliput Road, Poole, BH14 8LA or by e-mail to eve@chez-morton.com**