

MINUTES

NORTH WEST REGION 2017

Date: Saturday 22nd October 2017

Venue: Garstang Golf & County Hotel, Bowgreave Drive, Garstang. PR3 1YE

Attendees: Val Coleshaw, Sandra McFarlane, Meg Starkey Jennifer Graham,
Sue Turner, Sue Chisnall Sumner, Linda Danielis, (trustee)

Branches Represented: Altrincham. Bolton. Cheshire Borders. Cumberland.
Glossop & District. Keswick. Lytham St. Anne. Macclesfield. Manchester. North
Lonsdale. North Wales. Parbold. Pendle. Preston. Rochdale.

Apologies: Liz Smith (trustee) Sibylla Rickards, Sandra Kendal. Chelford. Pamela
Heaton. Hilary McCormack. Merseyside. Monica Selway. Hilary Small.

Chairman's Report:

Chairmans report for NWR AGM 21/10/2017

Good morning all. Thank you for attending this AGM. Trafalgar Day I believe but hope that today is not a battle. I hope you all have a lovely time. Lots to see, hear and do.

I began this role with 24 branches and leave it with 22. Briefly Blackpool has decided to leave the Guild and continue as a stitching group. I went along a couple of times this year but their decision was already made. I wish them well and maybe one day they might re join. I was invited over to Dublin in early spring and so booked my plane tickets. A week or so before, I received an odd message suggesting that I contact the CEO. I was then informed by Terry that they had folded. My tickets were booked so I still went over and stayed with a friend. Unfortunately it co incided with some major rugby matches so was not quite what we wanted. We are both rugby supporters and had to balance the matches with visits/meals etc. Because I had had a weekend away, I didn't feel able to put in a claim for my travel costs. Just a pity I was not informed earlier.

My plan had always been to visit all 24 branches over the three years. I never expected so many complications. No two branches meet on consecutive days so I was up and down the country and the M6 became my second home!!! Only one more major hiccup, in September I apparently arrived at the Isle of Man one week early and so another very costly experience for me .Thank you to the other 22 branches who welcomed me, often with a cup of tea. I found that these visits were some of my very best experiences as Chair.

So what has happened since that last AGM. I guess that Capability Brown has dominated things. First we had venues to find, then work to collect, visits to the exhibitions and collection and return of all work. After this, with very little notice, Farfield Mill requested our work and again more strategic planning needed as some exhibitions were still running. I managed to collect almost 100 pieces. We joined up with the NE Region and Yorks and Humberside and I believe it was a very impressive show. The story continues. There was a roof leak at the mill so our work was kindly taken to safety in Middlesborough but this messed up our plans for collection and a longer journey than anticipated. One piece was not accounted for and I spent ages chasing it. Weeks later it was identified at the mill as a sold item and the embroiderer has now received her cash. A great relief for me. I must pay tribute to my committee at this moment as I could not have managed without their physical and emotional support.

The NWR day this year was hosted by Lancaster and again we were blessed with a warm and sunny day. I have to admit that it's the best view from a restaurant that

I have experienced. Lots to hear see and do as always, so thank you Lancaster branch for all your hard work.

The next host branch had to pull out at short notice. I discussed the issues with the committee and put it to them that they could organise if two branches hosted the day. Easy for me to say as I will have by then left the committee. Not wanting to lose this wonderful day, they agreed. We then approached Parbold and Pendle branches, both close to our hearts and they agreed to co- host. So next April we are in Leyland. Don't forget that the competition is "Our beautiful North West" Look forward to seeing you all there and I might have time to actually have a conversation rather than a few short words.

Our second year at Waddow Hall for the summer school and we have settled in really well. I visited Kim Thittachis group who were very productive but was delighted with my own choice, Nicola Jarvis. Personally I am not keen on kits but Nicola put so much time and trouble into making these fantastic kits it certainly made life a lot easier. I had already alerted her at Lancaster to my "going off at a tangent" so she was prepared and told me to own it. My owl soon took on a pink and purple hue but I love it. Details are available for the next summer school and Hilary will be our next summer school coordinator.

I wish we had more success with YE groups. Three or 4 left in our region. I know that we attract the smart, sporty, musical members but then these hobbies seem to take over. How are we to pass on our skills if we miss out on this chance? We did contact the YE groups to invite them to Lancaster but they seem happy in their more insular world. We offered workshops etc and finally decided to send each branch £100.00 to spend. I know that this was appreciated. I also hear rumours that one branch is trying again to resurrect their YE. I do wish them success.

Last year I mentioned that Jennifer was to investigate Facebook and true to her words we now have a page. Do send her photos and snippets to keep the pages current. I also understand that the idea is to LIKE the pages.

A friend of mine casually said that she would look after our NWR Web pages. After grabbing her hand, we sat down to discuss what we could do. We added a Chairmans Blog so that you could read more about our region. Before this I used to put my visits on the Bolton Blog but this is not really the correct thing to do. My poor pal had had a mountain to climb but we think that we have now ironed out most of the problems. It is really time consuming so do visit when you have a spare few minutes. I would like to see it as the first place you would go for up to date information.

I am delighted that we still have a Journal. Much as I enjoy technology, nothing replaces the hard copy and I use mine so often and also when at exhibitions. We even managed to raise a small profit. However we are yet to find an Editor for next year....hint hint.

The move to Aylesbury has finally gone ahead. I have had several positive comments from members who have visited the exhibitions at Bucks Co Museum. Sue will be one of the first to see the place as the next Council meeting [actually next Wednesday} takes place there. I understand your concerns about communications with HQ but I am ever hopeful. I applauded the early bird offer for subs but complained like you about the short notice. Im sure Terry is relieved that I am retiring.

I have been asked if I am looking forward or worried about retirement. My answer is BOTH. When I volunteered to join the committee way back maybe 11 or 12 years ago I never thought that I would be in this position. Do my three years and then go....BUT I have to say what a pleasure it has been. I am proud to be a member of the NWRegion. We have had our differences but on the whole we all have the same

purpose in mind. My committee current and those who have retired have been amazing. Our meetings have been hard work yet always time for a joke. We care for each other. When Sue eventually agreed to be my Vice Chair and now take over from me, I knew that I was leaving a strong and loyal committee who will represent you and work exceedingly hard behind the scene. I know that I am preaching to the converted and the fact that you are here today shows your commitment to our Guild. Im sure you have all served on branch committees and some maybe regionally. We thank you for all that you have done. One last plea, think about what we can all do together and come and join us.

Many many thanks,

Val Coleshaw NWR Chair

18/10/17

Trustees report.

These are changing times... some inescapable challenges and some considerable successes.

Let's start with the successes and some new initiatives...

We have secured the future of the Collection in our contract with Bucks County Museum. We moved the collection a year ago. Since then we have developed excellent working relationships with Bucks County Museum staff, attracted new volunteers, some of whom already worked with Bucks County and seen an excellent exhibition of the Collection which is currently on display in their three main galleries. We are now planning the first exhibition in the permanent Guild 'Beryl Dean' Gallery due to open in the spring of 2018. We are also starting to plan a travelling exhibition of items from the Collection to go to six locations during the second half of 2018 or in 2019. All of this is being achieved against a background of increasing the quality of care for the Collection across each of the last six years while reducing the costs of doing so by 70%.

While on the subject of costs we are pleased to be able to report that 67 members, 68 branches and 5 regions have contributed to the Collection Care Appeal. Over £30,000 has been raised so far. The appeal will remain open until the end of the year. Our hope is that we reach the £45,000 target. Contributions averaging £150 per remaining branch would see us achieve our goal of funding the one-off and first two years' costs at Bucks County. This would give us a head-start to our long term contract. To put the £150 into context contributions from branches have ranged from £50 to £1800.

During the course of the last year we established a number of new relationships. Doing so built the reputation of the Guild with some potential long term partners including the National Trust, English Heritage, and many of the Capability Brown exhibition venues. An increasing number of professionals in the textiles community have accepted our invitations to become members of the Guild and taken part in our special exhibitions. The Guild is being increasingly seen as a valuable partner by other organisations, such as, Aurifil Threads, Upper Street Events, English Heritage, SSAFA (The forces benevolent charity) and the Mayflower 400 organisers.

We are starting to add new content to the Guild web site, Pinterest Boards and Face Book pages providing even more places where members can see and experience different aspects of stitch. There are now images of over 100 stitch and

textiles postcards available to members to view on the website. These postcard images trace the history of stitch and illustrate the work of contemporary artists. If you have information or postcards you would like to see added, details are on the website and in *Contact*. The Guild website, Facebook pages and Pinterest boards will become increasing resources for members and visitors. There is already a wealth of Guild material on Pinterest... have you seen it?

And did you see the 'White Walker'? He, or I should say 'it,' travelled the country for over a year. It attracted huge audiences and was featured in countless 'selfie' images. The piece is now being retired and refurbished. The plan is to use it or sell it to raise money for the Guild. We are currently investigating our options.

Our latest special exhibition, *Page 17*, an exhibition inspired by any book, attracted over 100 expressions of interest. Many of the pieces have now been completed and will form the centre-piece of our presence at the Knitting & Stitching Shows and other venues in 2018.

We continue to offer reciprocal YE/YQ memberships; a Guild representative takes part in judging the Young Quilters entries at the 'Festival of Quilts'; and the new 'Postal Pages' initiative is gathering momentum and interest with an increasing number of YE groups.

The pilot phase of the 'World's Longest Embroidery for Schools' has been completed. The results are very encouraging. We can now extend invitations to any school, in particular schools where members already have a relationship.

I would now like to update you on the work of the trustees and contribution made by head office. You may recall that the structure of the board of trustees was approved as part of the vote in 2015 to adopt the new 'Articles of Association'.

The new structure called for 12 seats, each one with special responsibilities or a special interest. At the outset in January 2016 we filled 8 seats and today we still have 4 vacancies. These are the seats for the Chair of Finance; and those trustees with a special interest in one of the following - The 3rd Age, Income Generation and matters Legal. The latter seat originally had a focus on matters legal and financial but in discussing a recent application the trustees recognised that, in an increasingly regulated world, the priority is for a trustee with knowledge and experience of charity, voluntary organisation, safeguarding and data protection law. We have now revised the description of the seat to reflect this emphasis and are still looking to fill each of these vacant seats.

Becoming a trustee involves a steep learning curve. Our primary focus is on achieving our charitable aims including the Guild delivering a public benefit and complying with existing and new regulations. We are also focused on the funding we need and risks we face. At the same time, we must be focused on the future of the Guild. Of course none of this is possible without the support, involvement and participation of you, the members, our network of branches and the regional committees. It is important that we reflect and act on the quote by William Morris, 19th Century textile artist and designer, when he said, '*We are only the trustees for those who come after us*'.

Those who 'come after us' must include a new generation of members both those who would join a branch and those who will primarily interact with the Guild via the internet... in all its forms.

We are asking you all to 'invite a friend' to join your branch. Many branches are losing members and yet we all know people who might enjoy being part of a branch.... in particular past members who have drifted away in recent years. Your new membership cards come with a leaflet that reminds us all about the Guild, its support for members and branches and the opportunities it offers. Page 4 of this leaflet includes space to introduce your branch to potential new members. Our hope is that each branch in this region will identify and agree 5 things that make their branch attractive to new members. When you invite a friend or acquaintance you can add these points to the invitation you leave with that person.

I was surprised at the number when it was announced that head office responds to over 10,000 enquiries and requests from members and branches. You may have been surprised as well. On Page 4 of the 'Your Guild' supplement in latest issue of *Contact* there is a list of 35 different services that help our network of 175 branches, 10 regions and 7700 members to function. In addition, Page 6 lists a further 17 member benefits.

A large organisation such as ours is increasingly subject to public reporting requirements and compliance. You have seen this is the recent policies on cash handling best practice, safeguarding adults and young persons and our policy on banking. A few members have questioned some of the wording of these policies and we will make sure we review each of them after 12 months. These policies are in place to protect all our members and those who volunteer in whatever capacity. Meeting these compliance requirements has also led to the most comprehensive report on the Guild being published to members and the wider public. It is available on the Guild website and can also be found on the Charity Commission and Companies House websites. It complies with SORP - Statement of Recommended Practice. It is worth reading. It gives the most comprehensive picture of the Guild ever published.

Data protection is the next area we have to address. New EU legislation referred to as GDPR - General Data Protection Requirement comes into force on 25th May 2018 and will involve us all. Brexit will offer little or no relief! We will be publishing more information on this in the next few months. Our plans for ensuring full compliance are well under way.

However, in the immediate future, there is more to look forward to. Not just the 'Page 17' exhibitions but also the creation of hearts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ending of the first World War in 2018. We aim to create multiple exhibitions each of 100 hearts stitched and illustrated by members of the Embroiderers' Guild. Full details including a call for 'expressions of interest' will be/were published to members at the end of this September. *Thank you.*

Treasurers Report

As this is my last year undertaking this task, I trust you will not think too hard on me as I note the accounts had a deficit of £709.56 for the year. But just give me a minute.

You will of course see that the Bank has not given us £20.99 interest as last year, but has charges us £39 with an interest payment of £10.32, a net figure of £28.68

The levy has again gone down from 896 last year to 863 this year.

We have given £100 to each of the four branches running Young Embroiders'. We have found it is very difficult for them to travel to the Regional Day.

Summer School has made a profit; we do have to make a charge and never quite know how many will attend the School. However we have been asked to pay Waddow Hall each year the deposit one year in advance. This is the £1284.60 payment.

As the Regional Committee will be organising Regional Day next year, we have made a £350 deposit for next year.

The committee does work hard. The chair has managed to visit all branches; our committee members do need to travel across the area to meet together. Sadly the cost is £1754.85.

We have made a donation to the Embroiderers Guild for the transfer to Buckingham County Museum of £500. We have also had a donation for the Amy Williams fund; this will be in the restricted section of the accounts.

So two advance payments for next year of £1634 have offset the deficit of £709 for this year. And to end with, I had two very late payments for the Regional Day and have only paid those into the Bank in this current year.

Sandra McFarlane Treasurer

AREA RPORTS

Area 1 Reg AGM Report Sandra Kendall

Over the past year I have managed to visit all the branches of Area 1. The committees and branch members have been enthusiastic and worked hard in providing a full and varied programme delivering both traditional and modern techniques in embroidery. Many of the branches have made use of their own talent to deliver workshops thus reducing the cost of the overall bill for workshop providers. However, it is still felt to be important to have outside providers to introduce new ideas and add variety

Although money is tight in the branches by careful budgeting all branches aim to break even by carefully controlling spending and raising money through various sales

In most Branches membership remains about the same and as people leave there are usually new members to take their places.

Branches have helped promote the Guild by taking part in events such as National Stitch Day and by holding exhibitions on various cycles that suit their members

Lancaster Branch hosted the Regional Day this year which also included a retrospective exhibition of their work. The day was enjoyed greatly by members who attended.

Overall it has been a very positive year for Area 1 and we hope it continues into the future.

Area 2 Reg AGM Meg Starkey

Bolton

One of the main issues in falling numbers due to age, failing health and moving house, trying to recruit through joint exhibition with quilter's guild and huge effort on national stitch day.

Membership stands at about 35.

Expecting to have to increase branch subs to meet cost of speakers although finances reasonable good

Would like more members to attend workshops to cover costs

Lytham St Annes

Are maintaining their membership at just under forty. They are happy with that number and the participation of their members in many aspects of guild life. They have a good system for induction new members and have some strong outreach work in the local community

Their branch was very pleased with the early bird subscription subsidy as they dislike the constant requests for financial support from HQ

Parbold

Seem to have been strong on outreach having had sessions at two libraries and two garden centres. This has led to three new members

Combined with two textile art groups for an at

Exhibition at Astley hall

The Christmas buffet produced some amazing realistic looking stitched 'food'

Pendle

Pendle are a very busy branch and have a good relationship with Higham the village in which they meet

They have a full and busy programme and went to Towneley hall for national stitch day and are hoping for more links with the hall in the future

Following the retirement of their long term secretary they decided to share the responsibilities, an arrangement of which I hope to learn more today

Preston

Have been busy with full programme. Have welcomed some new and some returning members

Membership about 42

Exhibition at Barton Grange in February drew pleasing number of visitors. Next exhibition planned for 2019

Continuing with some annual events and planning an open day in March 2018 in hopes of attracting new members

Rochdale

Have been very pleased at the attraction of new members in the last two years. During that time a few of the older members have sadly passed away but membership stands at 59 which is very pleasing.

Meetings are busy affairs and we have had two open days (one for national stitch day) which have been well supported

Continue to use the talents of members and of visiting textile artists for workshops

Numbers from the branch are fewer today than is usual at regional events as we are proud to support the NW and always have good representation at regional days

Area 3 Val Coleshaw

It has not been easy trying to maintain extra special contact with Area 3 branches but I have done my best.

The joining of Cheshire borders and Chester has been successful. I attended a very interesting exhibition in the village hall at Bickerton in the spring. I was hoping for a pub lunch and went to a recommendation, but it was closed. A second further away was also closed so I finished up in the Egerton Arms. Nothing unusual except I live in the village of Egerton!!! Any how the food was excellent

After Xmas I booked and paid for my plane tickets to Dublin and then wrote to remind them of the times, they wrote back saying it was not convenient and that I must contact The CEO. I was THEN informed by the CEO that he thought Dublin has folded. I have heard nothing more. I had to use my tickets so went to stay with a friend and stood the costs of flights myself.

A similar story at the Isle of Man. I don't know how but I put the wrong dates in my diary and arrived a week early. A complete disaster.

Merseyside had a vote earlier in the year, as to staying/leaving the Guild. Kim the Chair sent me all the information and documents that were distributed. They were a very well balanced set of notes and the outcome was that Merseyside are staying with us. I did suggest that the documents should be read by any branch who was considering a move. She sent them down to the CEO and he was impressed.

I was delighted to welcome NWales back into the NWR. I visited last year but this year should be in Spain. They much appreciated the £100.00 sent for their blossoming YE group. In fact they brought along an excellent YE exhibition to the NWR Day and scooped up all the prizes.

A trip to Warrington later in the summer was very pleasant. They are a small but successful branch. I remember taking lots of photos of their work. I also took along the Everlasting landscape that was much admired.

Finally, the Wirral branch. It took quite a long time to get there and longer to return as the motorway was down to two lanes and then the junction I wanted was closed. But it was really worthwhile. They meet in an art gallery and I could have spent longer there.

I finish this report really asking you to consider the problem. We have not received any volunteer for Area3 rep. It's one of the best and easier roles on the NW committee. I would suggest that a volunteer should be a member of one of these branches .Just think, visiting your neighbours, and receiving travelling costs too. PLEASE.

Area 4 Reg AGM Report Sibylla Rickards **Chelford**

The membership this year has stayed steady with a small increase of new members. There is wider age range within the membership due to the evening meeting and attendance at meetings is high each month with several visitors drawn in by the excellent speaker programme. The cost of speakers and workshops has risen over recent years but a number of successful workshops are also run in house and a new venture is stitch and chat session to be run on some Monday afternoons. This gives an opportunity for members to get to know each other better and presents a friendlier face for newcomers.

Along with Altrincham, Manchester and Warrington a very well received Capability

Brown Exhibition was held at Tatton Park.
Planning is now under way for their own exhibition in 2018.
Encouraging people to join the committee is again a problem but spreading the workload out does make things easier for everyone.

Altrincham

The branch had to change their venue earlier this year but they are still on the lookout for somewhere more suited to their needs. Parking is difficult and there are steps that pose a problem. Although they are a small group they are fully involved with artistic events that are held in the town, such as 'Art with a Heart' as well as running an event for National Stitch Day.

Exchange visits have been made with other branches.

The problem of getting a committee together and especially taking on the role of an officer is a problem here too. Filling the major role of treasurer is particularly a problem here and will need resolving soon.

Manchester

Meeting on a Saturday and for the full day gives this branch great flexibility and also a wider age range in the membership. The size of the premises means that they can have several activities each month. They have some speakers during the year as well. They are also looking into the feasibility of establishing a YE group. At their recent AGM they also appointed two Safeguarding Officers.

The exhibition space that is booked at Event City every year always looks great and is a good promotional event for the North West as well as their own branch.

As well as joining in with the Tatton exhibition they have also had their own at Ordsall Hall last year and now one in the Old Parsonage in Didsbury.

Macclesfield

Silktown Stitchers, the Macclesfield and District EG branch, maintains a membership of approx. 30, with a few losses due to people moving or becoming unwell, and at least 5 newcomers last year. The branch has celebrated its 25th anniversary with the completion of a wall hanging and is now running the Travelling Books project. These collaborative projects enable members to see examples of each other's work and create a good talking point at public events. The running of the branch is working well but no-one wants to become an officer and the number of committee members is dwindling. Nevertheless attendance at meetings remains buoyant and they have attracted a good number of visitors with the quality of the speakers.

Glossop

The membership has gone down at the start of this year unfortunately due to serious illnesses and a couple of members moving away but they will join branches in their new areas. Hopefully with a couple of events that have taken place recently the numbers might rise again.

Visits have been made to other branches with a view to exchanging ideas and speakers, and it is hoped to continue with this.

A 'Tempting Textile' day has been held to promote the branch and work of the Guild and it also raised some funds for us.

The new venture this year was to produce a collaborative piece of work based on a painting done by Harry Ousey, it is on show here today. 'Be Creative' magazine will be running an article about it in the Jan/Feb issue. It has been on display in a few galleries where his work has been exhibited. It will also be on show in Harrogate this year as well.

Following on from the collaboration with Macclesfield and the various Capability Brown exhibitions (Chatsworth and Farfield) both groups linked together for the National Stitch Day at Lyme Park, where a very successful day was spent talking

about the group projects as well as encouraging many children to stitch a variety of butterflies to take home.

Summer School Report 2016

Following Summer School 2015's disappointing attendance and the closure of Alston Hall, I was appointed Summer School co-ordinator, and luckily quickly found a really good alternative venue, Waddow Hall, near Clitheroe.

This venue is owned and run by the Girl Guide Association, and is a large house set in beautiful grounds, with the River Ribble running around part of its border.

The rooms are similar to Alston Hall, but are a bit more quirky which did pose some problems. However, the food was excellent and plentiful, the staff helpful and the workrooms good. We did have some teething problems, but that is to be expected when starting a new venture. Lack of a lift is the main problem, however the Hall does have a stair lift, and I am told they have plans for a lift when finances allow.

I managed to get two great tutors at very short notice- Lynda Monk- mixed media and Maggie Hickman-Smith- hand stitching. Both were brilliant teachers, very patient, kind and extremely generous.

We had a very good turn- out from the members, with 17 members booking for Lynda Monk, and 16 members for Maggie Hickman-Smith.

It is great to see the lovely display of member's work from this year's Summer School.

The raffle and donated goodies made around £250.00 which will be put towards future Summer Schools.

From comments made and the feedback forms, everyone seemed to really enjoy the weekend.

We have taken on-board the comments on the feedback forms, and we will try our best where possible to incorporate them in future years.

We have booked the hall again for 2017- 2nd - 4th June, with the proviso that we have a slot each year for the first weekend in June.

Kim Thittachi- mixed media and Nicola Jarvis-silk embroidery, have been booked for 2017. Currently Kim's workshop is fully booked, and Nicola's is just over half full with eight places remaining.

Due to the popularity of Summer School, the bookings for 2018 will be dealt with in a different way. We will go back to having a final date, which will be an agreed date midway through November. This will enable the deposit cheque to be sent to Waddow Hall by the end of November. We will also revert to the past method for booking, with booking forms opened the day after agreed final date, and in the event of a workshop being over- subscribed, names will be chosen at random.

Booking forms will be emailed to branch secretaries on 1st September, be found on the N.W.R Blog and will also be available directly from me. We will also make some available at the October AGM. This will hopefully be fairer and give everyone the same chance.

I have now booked Tutors for Summer School 2018- Valerie Wartelle- felting and Julie Triston - mixed media, both of which I hope will be popular choices.

The future for NW Region's Summer School is now looking rosy, and hopefully this trend will continue with the support of the members and the Regional Committee.

Sue Chisnall-Sumner - October 2016

Regional Day report

It was decided that due to circumstances that the Regional Committee would host the 2018 Regional Day.

I can advise you that Regional Day which is on 21st April 2018 arrangements, are well in hand, with a venue booked at Wellington Park Hotel and Conference Centre, Leyland, James Fox is as our speaker, and four traders booked. We are aiming for 200 attendees, which can be easily accommodated in the main hall, and with adequate on site free available parking.

The meal has been ordered, and will consist of two sittings with a choice of hot dishes, which includes a vegetarian dish, and three deserts, tea/coffee.

We are yet to arrange the finer points, ie programme, competitions etc 'Our Beautiful NW' is the theme for Rose Bowl competition.

The Regional Committee will be able to deal with these tasks, but we will need help on the day.

Parbold and Pendle Branches have volunteered to help out on the day with stewarding etc.

We hope to have seven themed raffle bags with goodies and members on the regional committee have kindly 'volunteered' their particular branches to make a bag and collect the relevant goodies. The Draw allocating their colour will take place after this report.

Hopefully all aspects will be covered, and members will book their tickets when all the documents are sent out, as we would like this event to be successful and enjoyable.

It has been mooted that Region runs future Regional Days, but personally I would like a branch to volunteer to host 2019 Regional Day, as I believe that members look forward to visiting different areas of the NW, and it is healthier to have diversity and change.

It is imperative that a branch/s volunteer today for 2019 as it would be a great pity for the Region to lose this annual event.

Raffle colour draw.

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Cumberland | Reds & Browns |
| Glossop | Blues |
| Rochdale | Greens |
| Parbold | Black & White |
| Lytham St. Annes | Purple |
| Pendle | Neutrals |
| Region | |

Young Embroiderers Groups Reports

Merseyside Young Embroiderers.

Annual report 2017

The generous gift of £100 from region enabled us to buy a Janome sewing machine; the girls have used it on a number of occasions, the latest being a session making stuffed dogs. The branch sends many thanks for this gift. Other workshops included weaving, using Markel paint sticks, papier Mache to make embroidered faces, cushions, bags, snowmen, toys and covering plant pots; the year has been very busy and happy.

We started the year with a trip to Liverpool Town Hall to present a crazy patchwork cushion to the Lord Mayor, Liz Gladden. Every girl contributed a section. The Mayor was delighted and it now has a prominent position on the Queen's chair, which is where the Queen sat on her last visit to the Town Hall.

Val Heron

Young Textile Group North Wales

The Young Textile Group North Wales is continuing to thrive. It will be interesting to see how the numbers alter as a new school; year starts.

So far monthly meetings, January to September 2017 have included printing, weaving, stitching, felt, and making a picture and banner for our group.

Highlights were the felt making and National Stitch Day at Bodnant Gardens.

Ronny White, one of our EG member's demonstrated felt making and each young person produced colourful piece ready to be made into a panel for a book cover and cover for a needle case.

On the National Stitch Day several young people came to help make and decorate butterflies, along with the EG members and many others.

We hope to display samples of work at our Biennial Exhibition on November 3rd and 4th 2017.

It was a wonderful surprise to receive the Kathleen Mansfield Trophy for the branch and 1st, 2nd, and 3^d prizes for the young people work at the NW regional Day, Lancaster.

Linda Beagan. YTG Co-ordinator)

Wirral YE

We have had a drop in numbers over the past year and are starting a drive to find some new ones. Last year 3 of our adult members shared their skills with us to make boxes, a lutrador notebook cover and an eco printed silk hanky. We also entered the DeDenne competition and won the group competition. We intend to enter the DeDenne again this year, possibly both as a group and some individual entries as well.

25 Year Badges.

Margaret Andrews, Rochdale. Jill Crowther Chelford. Jennifer Graham Cumberland.

Borderers Cup

Won by, Sandra McFarlane, Altrincham.

Amy Williams Award

Sue Bennet,

Election of officers

Chair. Sue Chisnall Sumner. Proposed, Val Coleshaw, seconded, Nicola Robinson.

Treasurer. Marguerita McBride. Proposed, Sandra McFarlane, seconded, Nicola Robinson.

Secretary. Jennifer Graham, Proposed, Val Coleshaw, seconded, Sue Chisnall Sumner.

Area reps

Area 1 Sue Turner

Area 2 Meg Starkey

Area 3 ----

Area 4 Ann Cornes.

IT Jennifer Graham

Summer School Hilary Cresswell

Journal Linda Danielis

Cards flowers and scarfs were presented to the retiring chair Val Coleshaw, and retiring Treasurer, Sandra McFarlane. Cards and scarfs were sent to retiring committee members, Sandra Kendall and Sibylla Rickards.

AOB.

There was no other business.

The new chair closed the meeting saying she was looking forward to meeting the branches and that now was a time to look forward not back and grow the Embroiderers Guild in strength.

Date and Place of next AGM

3rd November 2018.

Garstang Golf & County Hotel, Bowgreave Drive, Garstang. PR3 1YE

Meeting closed at 12. Noon