

NWR AGM 2018

Minutes

Date Saturday 3rd November 2018

Venue Barton Village Hall. Garstang Rd. Barton. PR3 5AA

Apologise. Lancaster Branch. Cheshire Borders & Chester. Macclesfield. Wirral. Mary Pryle, Independent. Anne Stark Parbold.

Branches Represented. Altrincham. Bolton. Chelford & North Cheshire. Cumberland. Glossop & District. Kendal. Keswick. Lytham St. Annes. Manchester. Merseyside. North Lonsdale. North Wales. Parbold. Pendle. Preston. Rochdale. Warrington.

Minutes of AGM 2017, approved and signed.

Chairman's report for NWR AGM 2018

Thank you for all attending this AGM, and I will attempt to keep this report as brief as possible.

NWR is a thriving and productive area, with plenty of activity in the branches.

I have managed to visit 8 branches so far this year, and I can say every branch has made me feel very welcome. As Val said last year, this is an enjoyable part of the job.

I have plans to visit Pendle just before Christmas, and then Glossop & N Lonsdale in 2019, and I will try to make myself available to accommodate any further invites.

I have been quite sneaky in visiting the IOM branch next July, and combined it with a week's holiday, with my friend Caroline and our respective Husbands. Hence hopefully insuring that nothing goes pear shaped this time, and it will also save the Region some expense.

My year has been eventful, with the Regional Committee hosting 2018 Regional Day, albeit with help from 4 branches on the day. This proved to be a great day all round, with loads of fun and participation. We had a brilliant speaker in James Fox who gave us a lively, interesting talk and brought loads of his work to see and touch. The venue was central, the staff very helpful and the food good. There were a few hiccups, but we are all human and mistakes occur.

My thanks go to Tracey Ramsay who was temporarily co-opted onto the committee and took charge of the stewards etc., also to the committee members who put an awful lot of effort into making the day special for the members.

Selected branches made a colour raffle bag each, which were filled with lovely 'goodies' – a great deal of beautiful work and our grateful thanks go to the makers.

We have had to make quite a few changes this year, but change can be good for the Region. Giving a fresh approach and some interesting challenges.

One of these changes has been the venue for this year's AGM, not entirely down to us as the Golf Club had double booked this event.

However, we will see what members think, and see how it goes for the future. We decided to order the food in at a very reasonable price, so we should get value for money. The usable space is obviously different, and we do not have staff to move tables & chairs, so I would ask the more able bodied to help us out with this. Sandra Kendall has again devised a stitch event for this afternoon, and I hope the members who have booked lunch will stay on after to participate. We must finish promptly at 4.00pm, and it would be great if again able-bodied members can help clear up, as the hall is booked for another event at 5.00pm.

The other change will be a joint AGM/Regional Day which will be held on Saturday 28th September 2019 at Crofters Hotel, on the A6 Cabus nr Garstang- more detail will follow. This is a trial event, and we could adopt this again at a pinch in the future if we are struggling for host branches for Regional Days.

We have a list of branches that have agreed to make a colour raffle bag, and the colours will be allocated after item 10 on the Agenda in respect of 2019 Regional Day- The Rosebowl theme is 'Twist it Turn it'

Thankfully Merseyside have volunteered to run Regional Day in 2020, and they are making good progress with this.

I would ask that branches volunteer as hosts as members do like to visit different areas in the NW, and it would be quite a commitment for any future Regional committees to step in every time.

The biggest change for 2019, will be no Journal. This is again a trial, and it was felt that the Regional committee have enough to do with having again to host the Regional Day next year. The gathering of information, passing this on to the editor, and then proof- reading numerous times is onerous and very time consuming.

The other reason is financial, and although the advertisers meet most of the costs of the printing, we have found that uptake from members for buying the journal is very poor. We print off 500, and I have nearly half of them left under my stairs!!!

We could mention saving trees and the wellbeing of the planet, and of course this does also feature in our decision.

My thoughts are that branches encourage their members to read the information on the NWR Website <http://www.nwregionembroiderers.org/> as all the details are to be found in there, and can be updated on a regular basis. Members do not need a password to access the NWR website.

Branch details, programmes, contact details, adverts etc. are also included and easily accessible.

My intention is to ask a couple of branches each month to submit a report, possibly featuring an event or two with jpeg photos and I will enter them into the blog on the website.

I can also include competition winners from Regional Day / AGM, badge winners and obituaries etc. Everything which is traditionally in the journal.

If any members are unable to access the website I am sure their branch committee members can assist them and / or print items off. Also, the NWR newsletter which is sent out every two months, contains current news and information.

The Guild does have a reputation of bombarding the members with information, and quite often this is duplicated many times.

This change does bring up a small problem in respect of the Broderers Competition, but we have thought to deal with this by keeping this as an annual AGM competition and using the photo of the winning piece of work in all the following year's newsletters and the Home page of the website etc. Sort of an NWR annual logo!!

I would like to thank our webmaster Lesley for all her hard work in updating our website and actioning every amendment and addition I request. Sterling work, which is very much appreciated.

Summer School was another great success, and Hilary will read out her report later.

We received four applications for The Amy Williams Award (not Bursary) and this will be dealt with in item 15 on the Agenda. Thank you to participating branches.

Personally, I have attended two Council meetings, and found them interesting despite some information going right over my head. It's great though to see how other Regions are functioning, and I can tell you the NWR is doing pretty well.

I also attended the EG AGM in Milton Keynes, with Ann Cornes- again interesting and good speakers.

It has been a tricky time with the Guild, as despite my trying to be positive, they have made it very difficult with incorrect emails being sent to members. Please bear with us on this, staff at HO are very stretched and hopefully when the new data base is up and running things should improve. Muriel Campbell Chair of the board of Trustees will cover this in more depth.

I have and will continue to promote the Guild Projects. I think the 100 Hearts exhibition has been very successful. I visited Liverpool Cathedral to view the North's entries, along with Merseyside's beautiful 'Endeavour' exhibition. I was very impressed with both, and especially the fact that HO staff had further researched the subject matters and produced a lovely catalogue to go along with the 100 Hearts exhibition. Please try to get to the Knit & Stitch Show at Harrogate which is on 22nd-25th November to view the Hearts.

I do not intend to set a Regional Project until my last year, as I think members can become overwhelmed and should focus their efforts in branch and Guild projects.

Some branches were involved in National Stitch day- again Hearts! This theme is set nationally, someone there must feel loved up!!! I believe this National event will be moved to June from August, as most branches over the country do not meet in August. More will follow on this-

We are sadly losing two valuable members from the Regional Committee, Jennifer Graham as Secretary, and Sue Turner. Both are very valuable members and have given me loads of help over the year. Thankfully we have three new prospective members, Bev, Tori and Mary. I am sure they will fit in nicely and prove to be a great asset to the Region.

However, any additional new members would be very welcome- it means attending a committee meeting four times a year, normally mid-week for 4 to 5 hours- tea/ coffee & biscuits provided. Also, assisting with Regional events etc. Not too onerous.

Please see me after if you are interested.

In conclusion I would say that I have enjoyed my role this year, it enables me to meet members, try to assist whenever possible, and spread the joy of stitch and the Guild.

Oh dear, this report is longer than I thought, but my excuse is that I have typed it in large print so I can read it as Old Age creeps on.

Sue Chisnall-Sumner- NWR Chair

Trustees report - Muriel Campbell

2018 Report by Trustees or their Representative to Regional AGM's

We have much to celebrate as a Guild...

- New branches... Holt, Harwich, Arundel, Sheppey and others being formed as we speak.
- Our first permanent gallery for exhibiting items from the collection at Bucks County is now open.
- Partners and sponsors who see us an organisation that 'delivers'. Particular thanks to Aurifil, Glasgow Caledonian University, Upper Street and Empress Mills.
- A hugely successful 'Page 17' project and exhibitions.
- The start of the 100 Hearts exhibitions... 13 in total from 5 days to 3 months.
- The World's Longest Embroidery for Schools; the idea works and schools enjoy taking part.
- The library of postcards on the EG website; exclusively available for members to enjoy.

- Our 8 Pinterest boards.
- The quality of entries for the Beryl Dean Award and Guild Scholarships.
- Similarly, the number and quality of YE and adult entries for the Members' Challenge.
- Our following on Face Book is growing and we have just launched our Instagram account.
- Our EG Distance Learning courses continue to grow and should expand considerably in the next few months.
- Our first regional exhibition of items from the collection opens in Ely Cathedral in February.
- And the White Walker is back on exhibition, this time in Glasgow for 6 months.

The CEO has been visiting regions to report to members in more detail and answer members' questions. These two and a half to three hour sessions covered as many as 15 topics in as much detail as members wanted. The sessions in Scotland, the North West and North East, Yorkshire and the South West went well; although we had hoped to see more branches represented at some of the sessions. The aim was to have all branches represented in order that members heard first-hand about the life and work of the Guild. The CEO is still willing to visit the remaining regions.

Our major challenge is the capacity at Head Office to deal with the increasing demands of member and branch support, implementation of new legislation such as GDPR and preparing the Guild to meet the challenges of the future; most recently commissioning a new database and communications tool with only very limited external project support. The Head Office team of three full and one part-time members of staff is insufficient to meet the demands on the organisation and expectations of members. Unfortunately, there are no funds to recruit more staff, the direct result of falling income from the magazines and persistently reducing membership subscriptions. The outcome of the low key initiative launched last year when we asked members to invite a friend was particularly disappointing – only three directly attributable new members.

And you have all seen the fallout in the form of the difficulties experienced in bringing the new database into commission. There have been errors, in one case a particularly regrettable error in that it caused some concern and worry but members have also been quick to judge whereas the reality is that these occurrences were the direct result of under-capacity and increasing demand in the face of falling income. Too often, the judgmental comments have been excessive and beyond the limits of what is acceptable.

At board level we have 6 trustee vacancies, all of which can be filled by suitably experienced elected or co-opted members of the Guild. However, it is inescapable that the role and expectations on a trustee are no longer satisfied by a three or four meetings a year where papers are considered, voted on and all move on to the next meeting. The demands on trustees are not inconsiderable.

In the last issue of *Contact* the Trustees invited all members of the Guild to contribute to a project on which many hold very strong views i.e. the name of the Guild and how it is communicated. Many say it is one of the biggest barriers to recruiting new members yet, to date, we have only 4

responses. However, our thanks to those who have put forward their solutions. There is still time if you have any suggestions.

We hope you can now see we all share the difficulties; ones that are common to all....

- Regions and branches unable to form committees.
- Post holders who are overworked and overstretched.
- Post holders who have been in-post for many years.
- Difficulties putting on an attractive programme.
- Falling attendances at branch meetings.
- A lack of on-line social media presence.
- Falling branch membership numbers.
- Dealing with new legislation.
- Funding the increased costs of products and services.

This cannot go on.

We have an organisation that is now well thought of and respected by sponsors, donors, business partners, textile artists (many of whom are joining the Guild), auditors, suppliers and exhibition venue owners etc.... and yet this is not translating into our ability (and perhaps willingness) to attract a new generation of members and, in doing so, sustain the organisation for the future.

We hope you can see that we all have stake in reversing these situations.

The trustees and CEO will be considering what we have to do and how we will need to work together to strengthen every part of our organisation... members, branches, regions and Head Office. We will be publishing plans ahead of the 2019 Guild AGM.

Muriel Campbell

White Walker

The White Walker will be auctioned after it comes off exhibition in Glasgow on 29/1/19. It will go on tour first (see above)

Questions from Floor

Val Coleshaw.

Q. Communications. I read the report of the AGM in the spring and saw that Jean and Jan our joint presidents had retired after a six year stint. HQ would have been aware of their imminent departure and would I'm sure have considered possible names to replace. Could you update us?

A. No names at present. The Guild needs a working president to go out and promote the Guild. Sugestions asked for from members.

Q. It is getting increasingly difficult for HQ to operate on a limited staff, but I note wwe are now short of 6 trustees. This is a great concern for me.

A. again sugestions were asked for from members. Trustees job is hardwork and not a part time one.

Q. contact Magazine. I thought it was published 4 times a year but every time it appears it is several weeks late and I now assume it will only be printed 3 times not 4.

A . Editing is now done in house making it difficult with and a lot more work. Muriel will check on how many times it is published.

Trustee Apologe for subscription email going out, but not an excuse. HQ upset by the nastiness of the email back in relation to this.

North Lonsdale, & Manchester. Expressed tremendous support for HQ. and Terry Murphy.

Trustee. Terry will do anything to support members and branches.

Manchester. Bacs payments are no problem but make sure branch is on payment and an email sent to HQ to say it's been done.

Suggestion from the floor that the Levi go up to £2. Kathryn Thompson suggested it be put on the agenda for the AGM in 2019.

Treasurer's report

Summary of Income and Expenditure 2017-2018

This is a basic Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year.

Balance at the start of this financial year = £6726.20

Balance at the end of this financial year = £5444. 11

The significant difference is due to the fact that the Guide Association, which is a business and must pay its way, changed and significantly tightened up its rules last year following incidents at various venues in which, once an event had taken place, bills were not paid on departure but paid at much later dates and sometimes not at all.

From last year deposits were required for events 2 years in advance, not one and the balance of any booking had to be paid on arrival at the venue, not on departure.

Therefore we decided to pay a deposit for Summer school 2019 and 2020 otherwise we could not have secured the venue as availability was rapidly diminishing.

This situation will be carefully monitored as to future bookings.

Main Income / outgoings throughout 2017-2018:

Income	Trader s	Levy	Journal s	Expenses
	320.00	456.0 0	338.00	
Outgoing s			394.00 printin g	- 1596.98 Compared to 2017 Waddow 2019 deposit of £1399.60 Waddow 2020 deposit of £1399.60
<p>Expenses cover travel and accommodation for Regional Chair, who will over the three year tenure, visit all the branches and who attends HO / trustee meetings etc. Travel to meetings for Regional Committee members is covered plus prizes for competitions, Journal printing as required.</p> <p>Raffles, sales at AGM/ Regional day do raise funds which become part of Regional Committee income and which money is shared with Branches who support events by providing stewards etc. for the events concerned.</p>				

Summer School 2018 report & update on 2019

Summer School Report at AGM

2018 Summer School went well apart from usual minor hiccups such as windows being painted shut on hottest weekend of the summer. It was clear that the upstairs work room is unsuitable for Mixed Media courses and those requiring the use of sewing machines as there is insufficient room.

2019 – we have had to increase the cost because of higher charges at Waddow Hall and by tutors but we have tried to make it easier by suggesting the balance can be paid in two parts, at the end of February and the end of April. However we believe it still represents good value for money given it is full board for the weekend and the almost one to one tuition.

There are two tutors for next summer – Jenny Adin-Christie will be doing a course using metal threads and goldwork techniques. You can use your own threads or purchase a kit that contains everything you need. It is suitable for all abilities.

Wendy Cotterill's course will be printing and stitching on velvet to produce a number of samples inspired by the work of Gustav Klimt.

If you have any questions please see me or Sue.

Regional Day 2019

Most of the basic information has been covered in the Chair's report- however I will reiterate what a good day we had at Wellington Park in Leyland. Everyone played their part in a professional manner, the members seemed to enjoy the day with great trade stalls, a brilliant speaker in James Fox, good food and service and some lovely exhibition pieces of work, raffle bags and displays.

Unfortunately, Wellington Park is to be sold next year, and we were obliged to seek a new venue for 2019. Jennifer came up trumps with Crofters Hotel, Cabus near Garstang. It is situated on the A6, has plenty of parking to the rear, and all the facilities we need. You can even book B&B -so no excuses re distance to travel.

It was a majority vote from the branches that next year we combine the Regional Day with our AGM. This has been booked for 28th September 2019. We will just extend the morning business meeting to incorporate the AGM, and after lunch continue with a speaker, Competition awards & raffle as usual.

I intend to concentrate my efforts before Christmas, book a speaker (this is in hand), traders etc. etc.

Hopefully this will be the last year that the Regional Committee will have to organise Regional Day for a good while, as Merseyside are in the midst of organising 2020, and I have expectations that we may have a candidate for 2021.

Please consider organising this event, combine with your nearest branch if you feel overwhelmed due to lack of members, and remember that the Regional Committee always help and now have good experience in organising the Day!

Actually, it may be hard work, but the satisfaction and enjoyment you receive makes it well worth doing. It's also good fun!

Sue Chisnall-Sumner – NWR Chair

Regional Day raffle colour

Regional Chairman Purple

Parbold Black/ Grey/ White/Silver

Cumberland Blue

Lytham St. Annes Green

Manchester Orange/Yellow/Gold

N. Lonsdale, Neutrals.

Glossop, Red/Copper/Brown

Rochdale Rainbow colours

YE report

Embroiderers' Guild N Wales Branch
Textile Group North Wales

October 2018 Young

The Young Textile Group is nearing the end of its second year and has done extremely well.

We have 15 JE members registered with the Embroiderers' Guild, who meet monthly. As well as being able to access the JE website for information and activities we gave each new member a goodies bag to celebrate.

This year activities included printing, weaving, Batik work, Boro, Chicken scratch, making Suffolk Puffs, felting and learning lots of new stitches. The young people have made many interesting items, keep an on-going record in their own notebooks and have a lovely Group Photo Album.

The youngsters as well as others enjoyed making hearts at Bodnant Garden as part of the National Day of Stitch and displayed work at the Rhos Craft Day.

The highlight of the year was coming third with the 9 – 12 Group entry for the JE De Denne competition 'Underfoot', with a piece called 'Stamping Ground'. Also, we had 1st and further prize for Individual entries in the '8 and under' category.

We were very pleased to get an award for the Group Display at Regional Day earlier in 2018.

To advertise the group we produced posters, postcards and book marks highlighting the young people's work.

What a fabulous year, and we couldn't have done it without the enthusiasm of the young people and the versatility and skills brought each month by our adult EG members. Thank you to everyone involved in supporting the Group. Many have been very generous with their time and donations of fabric and thread.

Linda (Coordinator YTG North Wales)

Merseyside YE showed their skills in the recent exhibition in Liverpool Cathedral; visitors were greatly impressed with the variety of techniques demonstrated.

The leadership has changed, due to illness. The new leader is organising the coming year with a team of tutors from our branch.

We wish them all good luck.

V Williams

Chair MEG

Election of Officers & Committee.

Chair. Sue Chisnall-Sumner. Proposed, Nicky Robinson.

Seconded, Vicky Williams

Secretary. Beverley Elliott. Proposed, Meg Starkey

Seconded, Barbara Bauckham.

Treasurer. Marguerita McBride. Proposed, Sue Chisnall-Sumner

Seconded, Jennifer Graham.

IT. Victoria Riley. Proposed, Kathryn Thompson

Seconded Mary Seaman.

New Committee Member. Mary Seaman. Proposed Hilary Cresswell.

Seconded, Joanna Heasley.

Amy Williams Award. Valerie Cockcroft, N. Wales

25yr badges

Joy Madden. Manchester

Margaret Mills. Macclesfield

Marilyn Brown Cumberland.

Broderers Cup Winner. Nikki Parmenter, Manchester.

Closing Remarks

Thank you all for coming, as without members support there would be no Guild.

Please try to find time to buy a raffle ticket, pick up a 2019 Summer School booking form, spend money on the sales table, and look at the displays of work which include the Regional Peacock, the Everlasting Landscapes and the now completed Regional Travelling book.

To those staying for lunch and those participating in the Stitch session, please enjoy.

Please be careful travelling home, and we look forward to seeing you at future Regional Events.

Date & place of next AGM

Saturday 28th September 2019

Crofters Hotel, A6 Cabus, Garstang.