

## N.W.R Chair Challenge 2019/2020- 'Positivity'

At last your NWR Chair has set a challenge- it's all about positivity and what your branch and members gain from being in the Embroiderers' Guild. After all, why are we members if we cannot find pleasure from belonging to a well-established group of like-minded persons.

I've decided to go along the lines of either making a concertina book or hanging which can be displayed either on your **branch welcome table or in your registration area**. This is the first place where new or prospective people gather, and it would be great if they could view the positive reasons to join or to renew their membership.

The idea is that every member of your branch would be given the opportunity to complete a part of this project, which could then be formed into a cohesive book or hanging. The completed work can then be brought to the 2020 AGM, for all NWR members to view and admire- **A group project** which would be neither arduous or time consuming as you have a year to complete the piece of work.

Below are some topics and ideas which may help you- some of which were personal to me but could apply to your members in general.

### Education

Summer School, Workshops, Hands-on sessions, Talks, Research, National Stitch Days, Young Embroiderers.

### Fun

Laughter with friends, Christmas Do's, Tea & Coffee, Cakes and Biscuits, Jacobs Joins, Regional Days.

### Challenge

Branch Officers, Out of Comfort Zone, Exhibitions, Taking on roles, Running workshops & hands-on sessions.

### Friendship

Meeting Old & New members, Visiting other branches, Sharing Skills and helping other members.

### Skills

Learning new techniques, going in different directions eg felting, quilting, gold work, teaching and sharing those skills.

### Opportunities

C & G, Regional and Guild roles, arranging Exhibitions, joining textile groups, Craft Fairs, running workshops.

I am sure there are many more- do a brainstorming session or whatever we are meant to call it these days?? You can decide on how you wish to proceed with this challenge.

## Instructions- 6" squares

### Requirements

- Good quality plain white or cream cotton
  - Pelmet Vilene or stabiliser
  - Paint or dyes eg Koh-i-Noor dye paints, acrylic paint etc.
  - Stamps, stencils, textured plates.
  - Hand and/or machine embroidery threads
  - Mount board (if making a concertina book)
  - Patterned fabric for backing.
  - Beads etc
1. Cut out a 7"- 8" square from cotton fabric for background - this gives a good allowance for turning under.
  2. Using something like Koh-i-Noor dye paints or similar to colour the background to suit your subject matter.
  3. When dry use stamps, texture plates or stencils to enhance the background if applicable.
  4. Cut a 6" square from Pelmet Vilene or Stabiliser and pin & tack to back of prepared fabric as above.
  5. Hand or machine stitch your design N.B. if adding beads make sure they are not too near the edges of the square.
  6. Trim the background fabric to about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " all the way around, turn over the fabric to the back of the stabiliser and press well. N.B. you should now have a perfect 6" square with the edges turned neatly under.



7. If making a concertina book, cut the mount board into a 5 ¼ “ square which will give you a little wriggle room. **Leave to one side until step 12.**

8. Cut out 7- 8” square from patterned fabric which will back your beautifully embroidered square.



9. Press and apply to back of your embroidered square, ensuring that it meets the edges all around. Pin in place.



10. Tack on 3 sides only- I left top edge untacked at this point.

11. Machine or hand stitch around the 3 edges.

12. Insert the 5 ¼ “ mount-board square between the patterned backing fabric and stabilised embroidered square.

13. Tack along top edge enclosing the mount board, and then hand or machine stitch.

14. Attach each square along sides with insertion stitch with strong thread, to form a concertina book.



15.If making a hanging you may decide to attach all the made squares onto a large piece of backing material or using an insertion stitch or similar you may wish to join each square to form a hanging.

**GOOD LUCK- I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THEM ALL AT THE AGM  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

Sue Chisnall-Sumner- NWR Chair Sept 2019