

## **NWR AGM 2019**

**Crofters Hotel, A6 Cabus, Garstang.**

**Date Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Apologies.** Terry Murphy CEO, Muriel Campbell chair of the Board of Trustees

### **Branches Represented**

Bolton, Chelford & North Cheshire, Cheshire Borders, Cumberland, Glossop, Kendal, Keswick, Lancaster, Lytham St. Annes, Macclesfield, Manchester, Merseyside. North Lonsdale, North Wales. Parbold, Pendle, Preston, Rochdale.

### **Minutes of AGM 2018**

**Matter Arising.** None, approved and signed off

### **Chair Report -AGM 28th September 2019 Crofters Hotel, Garstang.**

Another year has gone by, I believe it's a scientific fact that time goes quicker the older you get! Or maybe it's just the case of being very, very, busy?

I would like to thank all the members who are attending today. Having a combined AGM & Regional Day has proved to be controversial but was born out of necessity. It was either that or no Regional day in 2019. Hopefully this experiment will not have to be repeated in the future as Merseyside are hosting 2020 Regional Day & Glossop Branch have agreed to host 2021. (more to follow on those events)

Please consider hosting future Regional Days as it can be quite fun and very satisfying. Members love to visit other areas, and make a day of it, also the content of the event becomes more varied and exciting. Please step up to the plate, you will always receive help and support from the Regional Committee and be led through the processes.

The Regional AGM 2020 has been booked for Saturday 24th October at Barton Village Hall. It will probably be a similar format to the 2018 AGM, with business in the morning, followed by a catered lunch, and an afternoon fun stitching session. More to follow on this.

I have had a great second year as NWR Chair, problematical sometimes with copyright issues and such like blighting my life, but always rewarding.

Since the 2018 AGM I have managed to visit Pendle, North Lonsdale, Altrincham, Glossop, Cheshire Borders & Chester, Isle of Man & Manchester. I have a knack of getting lost, but somehow, I by some miracle I manage to arrive on time, and have always received a great welcome. So, thanks go to those branch members. I have also visited both venues for Regional Days in 2020 & 2021.

In October I am due to visit Chelford & North Cheshire Branch, and then onto Macclesfield Branch to do a talk the next day.

I am really hoping to visit some of the remaining branches later this year, and during 2020. Please remember to invite me to any special events, especially Christmas bashes always filled with cake & laughs.

I am booked to attend a Council meeting in Birmingham on 24th October which is vital as I missed the May one which fell on my birthday. Very Bad timing!!

However, I have managed somehow to keep bumping into Muriel to the extent we both thought the other one was doing a bit of stalking. Once, at the Scottish

Regional Day in Stirling, and then again at the National AGM. So, I have been keeping up with Guild matters to some extent.

I think I had better slot in a visit to my family in November before they cut me off completely!

Head Office have just recruited some more help, with Jo Head assisting Kirsten Blake with queries. Jo will be available to help with queries from the NWR, so she is your go to person, email [jo@embroiderersguild.com](mailto:jo@embroiderersguild.com) or T 07365 143915. Please note that Jo only works part time 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday.

Isla Ross who was the Guild Intern for 2018/2019 has now joined full time, specialising in social media platforms and will work with Louise Fraser-Jones on the main Guild website. She will also help branches with their on-line presence and will continue to design the layout for the Guild's E-books.

More details can be found in the 08/19 Contact magazine.

Alice Kettle is now our President, She, follows on from Jan Beaney and Jean Little John who have now completed their six year stint.

As mentioned in my report for AGM 2018, the Guild are still extremely busy trying to sort out the data base and other projects, whilst desperately trying bring the Guild up to date and of course financially viable for the future. So please bear with them, they are working very hard on your behalf.

The decision not to produce a NWR journal has also caused a bit of a stir in some quarters, but I am hopeful that more members are now looking at the NWR website <http://www.nwregionembroiderers.org> which is very easy to navigate and contains up to date information. You will find selected branch reports, news of events under the blog section, branch information including programmes & contact details, the tutor/speaker list and forms eg Summer School booking forms etc. This is the way forward as it saves paper & resources and is more relevant. I would like to thank all branches that have participated so far, and especially Lesley our Webmaster for her prompt actions when asked to add or amend any details. Please keep sending me information, which I can include in the Blog.

I also only produce a Regional Chair newsletter every 2 months, and this seems to be working.

As mentioned, I decided not to bombard members with too many challenges, but I have now decided on the NWR Chair Challenge for 2019/2020 which is based on 'Positivity'. The details have already been sent out to branches, and there is a sample of my idea along with a few hard copies in the hall. Please

excuse the quantity (only six pages) & quality of my sample as I was very rushed. But you will get the idea.

'Positivity' has always been my mantra through life, which has had many dark moments when I have had to battle to survive.

My idea also started with my visits to branches, where I realised the importance that visitors should feel welcome and that members must give out positive vibes.

After all, why do we stay in the Guild?

There are numerous reasons I do, and if, and when I ever felt the Guild was not for me, I would simply leave. It would be a personal choice, which should not have to affect any others in my branch. However, positive change can be made from within, but constant negativity can spread and lead to discontent and a very bad atmosphere in the meetings. So please stay positive- there should be no place in the Guild for pettiness.

On a lighter note, Summer School continues to be successful and Hilary will give her report later.

This year we have received two nominations for the Amy Williams Award. Both were worthy winners which made the committee's choice very difficult. The winning nomination will be read out later followed by the presentation.

National Stitch Day 2019 with the theme HOME seems to have gone down very well, and some NWR branch photos and reports were featured in Contact. I hope you all enjoyed your events, and that they hopefully generated some interest in the Guild.

The Regional Committee continue to work well together with the aim of making our members as happy as possible. We are all volunteers, who despite family/work commitments etc, put a great deal of effort into all we do for you.

I would like to put out a plea to all members that we really could do with a few more committee members, as we will be losing a couple of members next year.

Please see me or any committee member during the day to discuss. Don't forget that you can change or influence things from within.

To finish I would like to say that we have a great Region, that all NWR branches and members should be proud of.

**Sue Chisnall-Sumner – NWR Chair**

**Trustees report – Muriel Campbell**

Trustees' Report to Regional AGMs

(NWR AGM Crofters Hotel, A6 Cabus, Garstang Nr Preston, PR3 1PH 28th September 2019)

Thank you for being here today and supporting your regional committee by your presence at this AGM and activities built around it. Hopefully, the business of the meeting will be of interest and include recognition of special contributions in the last year.

The Trustees were pleased to be able to honour the achievements and contributions of our members, particularly those we presented with the Trustees' Award for service to their branches and the Guild and the CEO's Award for a special contribution to running head office.

Our Guild Scholars and Graduates will be at the forthcoming Knitting & Stitching Shows, including one graduate, Catriona Charlton, who has completed 15 years in the Guild at the ripe old age of 22! Sadly, we are unable to report that Catriona is one of many. Attracting young people and indeed older adults is proving increasingly difficult not least because we only have to ask Alexa or Siri or go to Wiki or You Tube if we want to know the answer... whatever might be the question.

So it is not surprising that so many branches are reporting difficulties in recruiting new members and replacing those who feel it is time to hang up their needles! While Alexi and Siri may be all-knowing they can't stitch and they cannot be there to provide help when it is needed. But this support is available to all join one of our network of branches throughout England and Scotland.

With these factors in mind we have launched a 15-month initiative to find and recruit new members. We have opened a new 'Branch Visitors' section on the home page of the EG website. Head Office will be preparing press releases, posters and leaflets and posting information on social media that will support each branch participating in this initiative and, as we all have a mutual interest in attracting new members, Head Office will be sharing the first year membership fee of £38.00 on a 50/50 basis with the branch each new member who joins between now and the end of December 2020. Each new member recruitment will boost branch funds by £19.00 for their first year of membership.

For many months we have been working hard to prepare the first of our virtual branches, to be called 'ThreadIT'. This is the initiative of our social media trustee, Dr Penny Hill, and when it comes on-line in the near future it will be open to all of our current membership. We will be announcing the opening and initial programme on the website and in Contact Monthly. Our ultimate aim is also to extend our membership to stitchers around the world. Imagine being a member of a multi-national branch comprising stitchers from many countries!

Closer to home there is the opportunity for individual members and branches to introduce stitch to people who may be dealing with the effects of stress or the after-effects of a traumatic experience or simply looking for companionship through stitch. Food-for-thought when it comes to building our branch memberships. If your branch wishes to act on this please share your ideas with our Education Trustee – Amanda Smith – who will help keep all concerned informed in relation to ideas and successes.

Existing members have been enjoying our new e-books, the most recent of which featured a Derbyshire Branch project and due immediately or perhaps just arrived is the first of our series featuring branches around the Guild. In this instance Dundee Branch; to be followed next year by the story of East Kent Branch. If your branch would like to tell its story to fellow members please contact our digital media specialist, Isla Ross, via [digitalmedia@embroiderersguild.com](mailto:digitalmedia@embroiderersguild.com)

But sometimes, and perhaps all-too-often, technology may offer efficiency benefits but it also tests our patience to the extreme. In these days where GDPR requires us

to take increasingly rigid steps to protect personal data branch committees will have seen new levels of security that accompanied the renewals process documents sent to them by head office. With so many changes of membership information and contact details and the need to keep up with these changes at in branches and at head office we are all being challenged, not least when we are having to develop software that 'talks to' Outlook, Gmail, Sharepoint or Apple to name but a few software platforms. We are looking at ways to reduce the workload for all concerned. This will require changes in how we do things. Early in the New Year we expect to announce new, potentially less challenging, less time-consuming, ways to record and update the status of all our members.

In the immediate future the excellent entries to the 2019 Guild Project, HOME, will be exhibited at Ally Pally and Harrogate and later next year, at the NEC. Similarly, all the Members' Challenge entries will be on display at the same venues.

To finish on a note for your diaries, the 2020 Guild AGM will be held on Saturday 25th April at the Priory Rooms close to New Street Station in Birmingham. You can book your place now and full details of voting, whether you are present or do so by proxy, will be published well ahead of meeting and this will include the shortlist of possible alternative names and taglines for the Guild.

Thank you.

Muriel Campbell – Chair of the Board of Trustees

### **Treasurer's report**

**See attached sheet**

### **Summer School 2019 report & update on 2020**

Summer School Report for AGM Sept 2019

2019 Summer School at the end of May was successful. The hand stitching tutor, Jenny Adin Christie, was widely praised by her group of students who felt they had learned new skills and some managed to complete the project whilst at Summer School, always a bonus not to have another unfinished project. A few students in the mixed media group felt the tutor, Wendy Cotterill, may not have provided a relevant kit list but it was generally enjoyed. Overall another good weekend.

2020 Summer School is booked for 5-7th June 2020, tutors are Sara Dennis doing a whitework course and Angie Hughes doing a printing and stitch course. Booking is now open although applications will not be processed until after 1st December and I plan to let everyone know by Friday December 6th the outcome of their application. There are booking forms available today. As usual we will try to give everyone their first choice course but if either course is overbooked we will operate a 'lucky dip' to allocate places.

For any who feel Summer School is expensive I would point out the charges are calculated based on Waddow Hall costs and tutor costs only, we do not aim to make a profit from the event.

We are looking at tutors for 2021 Summer School so any suggestions or recommendations please let me know

## **Regional Day 2020**

### **Election of Officers & Committee.**

Chair. Sue Chisnall-Sumner. Proposed Hilary Creswell

Seconded Vicky Williams

Secretary. Beverley Elliott. Proposed Meg Starkey

Seconded Mary Seaman

Treasurer. Marguerita McBride. Proposed Caroline Percy

Seconded Victoria Riley

### **AOB**

Questions from Sue Widden (Lancaster), Barbara Ryall (Bolton), Kathryn Leighton (Macclesfield) Anita Yearsley (Kendal) about the lack of a printed version of Contact magazine. Terry's response was that there will be a printed version once a year with the next one being 'The Best of 2019' which will be published in January 2020.

### **Amy Williams Award.**

Angela Oswald Chelford Branch

### **25yr badges**

Diane Christensen Lytham Branch, Pat Barry North Wales Branch, Lois Kirtley Lancaster Branch

### **Broderers Cup Winner.**

Pat Blincoe (Rochdale Branch)

### **Closing Remarks**

I would thank you all for attending this year's AGM.

Lunch will be served in the Restaurant, but please try to stagger your timings, as you will need time to place your votes for the Rosebowl Competition and look at all the exhibitions, which can be seen in the Concorde Room. That room is located at the far end of the Restaurant.

Please bear in mind that the room will be closed for judging from 1.30pm.

I have been assured by the Hotel staff that the food will be hot & plentiful, despite the time you decide to sit down to eat. So, they will not run out. Please take your tickets, which show your food choices, with you to avoid confusion.

Please find time to visit our great stalls, buy your raffle tickets, and look at the displays and information. I know you are all raring to go to spend your money.

Also, remember to cast your vote for the Broderers Cup which can be found in the main hall, pick up information on the NWR Chair Challenge and Summer School

Booking forms- Please note there are limited numbers of forms, but they can also be found on the NWR website, and your branch.

### Date & place of next AGM

Saturday 24th October 2020 at Barton Village Hall.

<b>AGM and Regional day September 28<sup>th</sup> 2019. <u>Accounts</u></b>				
<b>Income</b>		<b>Outgoings</b>		
Ticket sales 87 x £29	2523.00	Deposit for venue	200.00	
<b>Donation from Madeira</b>	100.00	Balance of payment for venue	2,000.00	Includes all lunches, teas and coffees during the day.
Traders Sales Tables 10 x £15	150.00	Fee to speaker	282.00	
Raffle	237.00	Ticket printing + Flowers	40.90 + 8.00	
EG sales table	208.00	Prizes and awards inc. YE	121.46	
		<b>Amy Williams Award Special Donation to NWR EG</b>	50.00	<b>Restricted</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3218.00</b>		<b>2702.36</b>	
<b>Final Balance</b>				<b>+515.64</b>
Without Raffle + EG Sales table + Madeira donation and Amy Williams award	This is only to indicate that without these incomes making a profit on the day would be challenging. <b>We are very appreciative of the Madeira donation and the Amy Williams award plus the efforts of Rochdale and Glossop Branches re the raffle and sales table.</b>			-29.36

**Additional Comments re the finances.** There was a mixed reception re the idea of an increase in the levy payment although there were significant positive responses from a good many members. The Levy will be increased from Sept. 2020.

Although invited to do so, only two members visited the AGM Table at lunch time for a chat re the finances and other EG matters and no one expressed any interest at all in seeing the accounts in spite of the table being manned until just before the end of lunch!