



Hi all, well in continues! - lockdown is with us again. I think it was inevitable as a second wave had been predicted from the start. I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well and coping with this horrendous pandemic. I became very productive at the beginning, making pieces of work for exhibition, personal use and presents, but recently I lost inspiration, but I am on the up now!!! We can only plod on, arranging events which will be possibly cancelled or postponed and trying to adapt to each new challenge.

I am currently attempting to update the NWR website and obtaining details from the branches in respect of any new officers for Regional records. **I have received quite a few replies, but I would urge any branch chairs who have not yet responded to contact me.** I understand that most branches are not physically meeting and therefore they do not have a set programme, but I would love to know how your branch is getting over this situation, maybe by holding virtual meetings, restricted gatherings etc.

I am hoping to tackle and update the NWR tutor/speaker list soon, so when we do get back to normality we have all the tools to hand.

We have a new recruit on our NWR Committee Ruth Moyes from Chelford branch!!! However as two of our members have rolled off, it would be wonderful if we have more volunteers. The job is not onerous, with only 4 meetings a year at my house in Leyland (pretty central to all branches!!) the meetings are always productive and lively and normally run from 10.30am to around 3.00pm. We provide on tap tea/coffee and biscuits, plus a lovely **cake**. Please consider joining us as we really need your help.

Currently we are holding Zoom meetings in which we cover the most important issues- despite the lack of cake!

I can now announce the winner for the 2020 Amy Williams award- **Miriam Forder from N Wales branch**. The Committee felt after reading her nomination that she was a very worthy winner. Apart from helping and inspiring fellow members, she is a talented textile artist, winning exhibitor and

teacher. Miriam has now received her certificate and winning cheque- well done.

I have received requests for 25yr/50yr service, and these will be presented at the next appropriate event/s. However, please let me know of any further requests as I can still apply for the certificates and badges.

Hopefully, my Regional Chair challenge on **'Positivity'** is being worked on by your members, but due to the dreaded virus and branches being unable to meet, displaying of the completed branch folding books or hangings will be postponed until 2021. Again, I will be contacting you all later regarding this.

I am going to send out another challenge later this month, which can be tackled on a branch or individual basis- all I will say at the moment it's an international project which deals with a really important issue which will affect everyone.

Regional Day 2021 has unfortunately been cancelled and ticket monies returned. However, Merseyside are endeavouring to set up a virtual meeting- more will follow on this----- I am not sure what format this will take and whether any competitions will be possible. But as soon as we obtain more detail we will let you know.

Let us hope that the proposed Open Day **Oct 2021** and Regional Day for **2022**, hosted by Glossop branch, will be viable, but again we will let you know, fingers definitely crossed.

As far as we are aware Summer School will still be held on **25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. I have already sent out booking forms, and they are also available for download on the NWR website. Please contact me if you have not received or do not have access to a booking form, and I will send one. Hilary Cresswell is our Summer School Co-ordinator and she assures me the forms & deposits are steadily coming in. You still have plenty of time to book a place.

We have booked two great tutors- CarolAnn J Allen **'Eco Dyeing'** and Helen Barnes **'Indian Stitches'**. In addition, there will be no increase in course costs- **a great bargain**.

Please let me know how your branch is coping during this strange time, I would love to add info to the NWR website and if you know of any events/exhibitions etc it would be of great interest to our members.

Please note that articles must be in Word format and if applicable jpeg photos only.

The Guild are working very hard to keep all members informed and interested, with Contact Magazine and E books. Please encourage your members to read these and send in any articles they wish to see included.

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**Any magazine is only as good as the material received.**

The Guild Members Challenge for 2020/2021 is 'Exquisite Containers' so this would be a great theme for future branch meetings- come on NWR members you are a talented bunch and it's an inspiring theme.

As you may have heard the Guild are collecting the annual subs £38.00 direct, and I have been assured that details on how to do this will be sent to every member before their renewal is due. I have always paid direct to my branch, but I was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to pay direct to the Guild on line, and I received a receipt of payment and confirmation of my Guild membership within minutes.

Please keep up your enthusiasm for the Guild and renew your membership when prompted. Without your continued support this unique charity which provides education opportunities to all, along with caring for and preserving our extensive and priceless collection could fold. This would be a great loss to loyal members, students and the public.

On a sad note Warrington branch have made the decision to close the branch. This is due to slowly declining membership and the viability to financially run the meetings. Their branch chair has asked the Region to retain a few of their group hangings, which we will display at the next Regional event!!!

I have also been advised that a longstanding member of the Guild -Sandra Kedzlie has passed away, and you can find a dedication to her service on the NWR website.

Please keep in touch with me, with any good news, queries and ideas- your input is always valued.

Sue -NWR Chair

