



MNS

MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS SHEET JUNE 2017

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

How are your birds coming along? Flying off the fabric towards me, I hope. Has your imagination been active and please do not shout "NO" – we want to be inundated with flocks of colourful, exotic species and calm gentle ones, a showcase of all your beautiful expertise. Remember it can be one, two or three dimensional and in any suitable technique of your choice. It is not a competition but a celebration.

I have had my wrists slapped by a fellow committee member. I continually refer to gauze and canvas as having holes per inch (hpi) when evidently it should be threads per inch (tpi) – along with the comment "what can you do with a row of holes". My apologies and I will try to do better in the future.

Spring Miniatura was fun and interesting for the five committee members, plus one husband, on duty. We were all exhausted on the Saturday evening but regardless of losing an hour's sleep due to the clocks going forward, we were all alert on Sunday. We met many members for a chat and several visitors, not necessarily members, came specifically with queries and to ask advice; it is very gratifying to know that we have such a good reputation. Eleven new members were enrolled and we welcome them to the Society and trust they will enjoy participating in our activities. The presentation of some of the prizes for the table cover competition took place amongst much hilarity as usual. It's always good to put a face to a name and congratulations to all the entrants for such a high standard of work.

The website is up and running and we are very proud of it – I think you will be too. Alicia has worked hard and long on this project and deserves our thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Alicia would also appreciate your comments and any information that can be included on the site.

The Spring has been lovely can we hope for a summer as good?

Best Wishes,

Teresa

COIN NETTING

A visitor to the society table at Miniatura, not sure as to whether she was a member, asked if we knew what coin netting was; a pattern she wished to use gave coin netting as an alternative fabric. We had heard of it but we couldn't give an accurate description.

Ann Ford has checked her sample book (she keeps a piece of every fabric she has used, with notes). It was used for a table runner centrepiece with full size Hardanger. It is 22/24 tpi and very stiff. Ann suggests that it is not suitable for miniature work although, with 22/24 tpi it could be used for a rug.

Teresa Norton

EDINBURGH WORKSHOP

We had a very good workshop on Monday 3 April at my house for eight people. As a group we had decided that as our numbers had decreased slightly we would try having the workshops on a weekday and in a house rather than paying for a school. It was successful.

Mary Roberts, who was tutoring us, had prepared kits for us to make a crazy patchwork cushion. We all did very well, one or two finishing their cushion, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the class.

We have planned two more workshops, bookbinding and beadwork, and a summer outing.

Anne Mackinnon

THE NEW MNS WEBSITE (WWW.MNSOCIETY.ORG.UK)

First, I would like to thank Teresa for welcoming me onto the MNS committee in March's Newsletter and say a big "Thank you" to her, Pat Wootten, Carolyn Postgate and Ann Ford for the warm welcome I received when I joined them in Birmingham for Spring Miniatura. I very much enjoyed the weekend helping to represent the Society on the MNS stand. It is always interesting to meet and talk to people who show an interest in miniature needlework and it brought back fond memories of attending Miniatura back in the late 1990s when I was there trading as "A & G Sledge (Miniatures)".

Having offered to take over from Carolyn in keeping the website up to date, I have had a great deal of fun learning the new skills needed to set up a new website for the Miniature Needlework Society and it was exciting being able to "unveil" the new site to Teresa, Pat and Ann at Miniatura. **It is now live!** And I hope as many of you as possible will take a look at it. It is similar to the old site but with updated content. And that is where I hope you will all help me. If I am to keep it up-to-date and interesting, with the aim of getting more people involved in our hobby and hopefully becoming members, then I would really appreciate any contributions that could be included on the Easy Projects, News or Events pages. If you know of a workshop or fair that could be included, please let me know. If you have an easy project that you would be willing to share (they must be your own patterns or items not copyright of anyone else) then please contact either myself or Carolyn. Obviously, photos of finished items would be needed along with clear instructions but if this is something you find difficult don't let that put you off as I'm sure help will be available. I'm also sure there is a wealth of experience and ideas out there that other members (and non-members) would love to learn about so don't hide your talent!

And what about Facebook? Are you a member of the MNS Facebook group yet? It is a closed group so only members of the Miniature Needlework Society can join and post items. If you are an MNS member not already in the Facebook group, you just need to send a request and we will be delighted to welcome you. (We ask non-members who show an interest in joining to become members before we accept them.) It is a brilliant place to see what other members are working on or have completed and to get inspiration to try something new. It would be wonderful to use it to its full potential as a way for members to communicate: ask questions, share hints and tips, let other members know where specialist needlework supplies can be found, or comment on any fairs or interesting workshops attended. Maybe you have a query about a specific technique or the best type of material or thread to use for a particular project you are about to embark on? This could be the place to try to find the answer.

We need to try to increase membership of the MNS if it is to carry on. The fewer members we have, the more of a struggle it is for the Society to provide the Newsletters and workshops that are our way of encouraging more people to have a go at miniature needlework and to learn new methods and techniques in miniature. We need to use both the website and Facebook to help encourage more people to join and realise that doing needlework in miniature is not as difficult as they often believe.

Alicia Sledge

COTON WORKSHOPS

Our first two-day workshop in February was great fun - 8 members came for one or two days, some staying overnight in Coton B&Bs. Supper at the local pub in the village was much enjoyed. The group is so enthusiastic about improving their lace and tatting skills with tutor Jenny Furlong, that we held another workshop in April, and will be putting on another two-day workshop in October.

Carolyn Postgate

Anne Marks-Maran finishes off a piece of lace which has taken many years to complete



MARCH 1997–MARCH 2017: TWENTY YEARS

Here is a reminder of our project to celebrate twenty years of the Miniature Needlework Society. This project, first organised by Sue Bakker in 1997 is being used again, with her permission. Then, it captivated the interest of members, who produced many different interpretations. Now we hope this project (it is not a competition) will stretch your imagination and show what talents our members have.

Entries may be sent to: Teresa Norton 19 Cedar Hall, Frenchay, South Glos BS16 1NH by the middle of September 2017. If you are attending Autumn 2017 Miniatura, then bring it to the Society table where we will be happy to receive it and meet up with you. We would like to retain the entries until after the Spring 2018 Miniatura to display on MNS tables at fairs.



For a larger charted design of the bird, and some suggestions on how to plan your project, please see pages 2 and 3 in the September 2016 Newsletter, Number 41.

2017 AUTUMN WORKSHOPS

FRENCHAY, BRISTOL Saturday 19 August 10am – 4pm

Venue: 19 Cedar Hall, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1NH
Technique: Beadwork Demonstrator: Teresa Norton
Organiser: Teresa Norton, 19 Cedar Hall, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1NH
tel: 0117 9574531 email: norton.ta@hotmail.com

Please book with Teresa Norton by 1 August

EDINBURGH: Monday 4 September 10am – 4pm

Venue: Hazel Wight's house, Riverlaw, North Lane, Norham TD15 2LG
Technique: Bookbinding Demonstrator: Judith Gordon
Organiser: Anne Mackinnon, 6 Newbattle Road, Dalkeith EH22 3DB
tel: 0131 663 1459 email: anne@appinlodge.co.uk

To book please send SAE to Anne Mackinnon by 20 August. Payment (£10-£15) will be collected at the workshop, but PLEASE let Anne know as we need to have numbers for the equipment.

COTON, CAMBRIDGE: Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 October 10am – 4pm

Venue: Coton Village Hall, 56 High Street, Coton, Cambridge CB23 7PL
Technique: Tatting and/or Bobbin Lace Demonstrator: Jenny Furlong
Organiser: Carolyn Postgate, 5 Whitwell Way, Coton, Cambridge CB23 7PW
tel: 01954 211033 email: carolyn@clara.co.uk

Please book with Carolyn Postgate by 9 October. Accommodation is available at B&Bs in Coton. Saturday night supper at The Plough, Coton. Fee for each day £20.

EASINGWOLD, YORK: Thursday 26 October 10am – 4pm

Venue: 3 Thornton Close, Easingwold, York YO61 3JL
Technique: Bead handbags Demonstrator: Judith Gordon
Organiser: Judith Gordon, 3 Thornton Close, Easingwold, York YO61 3JL
tel: 01347 821437 email: judith.h.gordon@btinternet.com

Please book with Judith Gordon by 9 October

MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

Balance Sheet

	2015	2016
ASSETS		
CASH AT BANK		
Community Account	1,234	702
Business Premium Account	<u>5,505</u>	<u>5,508</u>
	6,739	6,210
LIABILITIES		
Capital Account b/f	7,890	6,739
Shortfall/Excess Income for year	<u>-1,151</u>	<u>-529</u>
	<u>6,739</u>	<u>6,210</u>

Income & Expenditure Account

	2015	2016
INCOME RECEIVED AND ACCRUED		
Subscriptions	3,274	3,447
Advertising	190	475
Donations	45	15
Workshops	453	833
Bank Interest	3	3
Newsletters	66	46
Booklets	1,157	835
Sundries	<u>57</u>	<u>778</u>
	5,245	6,432
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletters	1,928	1,300
Membership administration	1,780	1,672
Workshops	432	640
Postage & Stationery	28	3
Insurance	248	270
Booklets	272	517
Advertising	245	120
Exhibitions (inc travel)	1,323	1,963
Sundries	<u>140</u>	<u>476</u>
	6,396	6,961
Shortfall/Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>-1,151</u>	<u>-529</u>