



MNS

MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS SHEET DECEMBER 2016

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Did the beautiful colours of this autumn affect the way you looked at your colour palette of threads? Suddenly all the pinks and blues looked pale in comparison with the rich gold, bronze and crimson all around us. A walk was a delight of brilliance.

Another 'delight of brilliance' were the entries to the table cover competition. Only fourteen but such a high standard. When the judge saw the entries laid out she fetched herself a chair! She just looked and looked and eventually she slowly moved one away, another long pause, occasionally turning one or two over to examine the back, before moving another one away. It was my opinion that she would be left with three to make the final choice, but she pondered long and hard over five. The decision was finally made and she was very complimentary about the exquisite work she had judged. I will be letting the winners know in January, the rest of you will have to wait until the March Newsletter.

The Newsletter will be entering its 21st year in March 2017 and I have been going through the early editions to get inspired for something a little bit different to celebrate this fact. I hope many of you will participate but you will have to wait (again) until the March Newsletter for the details.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Teresa

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

COTON, CAMBRIDGE: Friday 17 & Saturday 18 February 10am – 4pm

Venue: Coton Village Hall, 56 High Street, Coton, Cambridge CB23 7PL
Technique: Tatting and/or Bobbin Lace 2-day workshop Demonstrator: Jenny Furlong
Organiser: Carolyn Postgate, 5 Whitwell Way, Coton CB23 7PW tel: 01954 211033
email: carolyn@clara.co.uk **Please book with Carolyn Postgate by 1 February.**
Details of B&B accommodation in Coton will be sent to participants on booking.

FRENCHAY, BRISTOL Saturday 25 February 10am – 4pm

Venue: 19 Cedar Hall, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1NH
Technique: Florentine & Bargello 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 February**

EASINGWOLD, YORK: Thursday 30 March 10am – 4pm

Venue: 3 Thornton Close, Easingwold, York YO61 3JL
Technique: Assisi work 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 12 March.**

EDINBURGH: date and venue to be confirmed

Anne Mackinnon is planning a crazy patchwork workshop in late March or early April - please contact her if you are interested in more details later. tel: 0131 663 1459 email: anne@appinlodge.co.uk

MINUTES OF MNS ANNUAL MEETING 2016

held on 18 July 2016 at Bristol

1. Present and apologies: Teresa Norton (Chairman), Pat Wootten (Treasurer), Helen Thomas (Secretary), Carolyn Postgate and Ann Ford; Apologies: Ann Miall (Irish Rep)
2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved and signed
3. Matters arising: None
4. Treasurers Report: Half year figures and details of exhibition costs were scrutinised and accepted after discussion. New booklets – because of Warner’s purchase of booklets to give away in their magazine, the first year, 2014, showed a profit of £1265.00. In 2015 sales were still good because of four new booklets. This year will be helped by their sale to Forge Mill for the Sew Small exhibition. The exhibition showed a small profit of £75.59. We have a reasonable balance in the bank, the current account at June 30th was £2338 and the Savings account was £5505.00. Interest rates are minimal so the savings account hardly increases year on year. Insurance cover has increased slightly due to the tax increase from 6% to 9.5%. Online banking has been implemented and is working well for payments to suppliers and for expenses. Checking balances is more efficient. Pat was thanked for her in-depth report.
5. Membership Report: CIRCA reported a loss of 35 members over the last eighteen months. This is a cause for concern. CIRCA also reported that the present subscription does not cover ‘cost per member’. It was decided not to increase the subscription this year. It was agreed to send an email to recently lapsed members. Small kits will be made up to give away to new members.
6. Representative for Scotland Report: Edinburgh workshop – At our Autumn workshop members purchased filet lace booklets and netting to stitch through the winter and bring the finished samples to the Spring workshop. A good variety of pieces were produced and the work discussed. The next workshop is October 1st when Judith Gordon will teach Florentine. Glasgow workshop – A small group of members meet on occasional Wednesdays at the Unexpected Artists Gallery. It is very informal and we each take work we wish to complete. A three-shelf case was purchased where we display members’ work and advertise the Miniature Needlework Society. The Scottish Dolls House Fair was held in the MacRobert Pavilion, Ingliston on 10th April. The next fair is 6th November and a 1 hour workshop will be held for visitors.
7. Representative for Ireland Report: Two workshops were held in August 2015, a 1/12th scale bobbin lace table runner, taken by Mavis Thompson and a cabochon-style beaded mirror taught by Caroline McFarland, also in 1/12th scale. Both workshops proved very popular and were oversubscribed. In the Spring, MGM Fairs travelled to Belfast with a varied selection of stall holders. Unfortunately “Flog it” was also in town and a large craft fair in the Titanic Quarter, resulting in low visitor numbers. Gail very kindly provided MNS with a table, which was manned by Mary Potter, Shirley Culbert and Ann Miall with items supplied by members on display. This August there will be a bobbin lace workshop for café curtains and also a crazy patchwork workshop. Four members sent work to the Sew Small Exhibition.
8. Resignations and Nominations: There were none.
9. Future of MNS(I): It was wondered if anyone would be interested in training for a position.
10. Web Site, Facebook and Newsletter: A webmaster is still needed. Carolyn does not have the time amongst all her other activities to keep the web site up to date. Facebook will remain a closed site and after a general discussion it was decided to allow former Members to retain access as it would be onerous to remove them. The Newsletter will be kept to 24 pages to keep the cost down.
11. Sew Small Exhibition Report: The exhibition took place from 12 March to 24 April at the Forge Mill Needle Museum, Redditch. The museum staff were extremely welcoming, and were very helpful in setting up the exhibition and in publicity. Carolyn spent Monday to Friday of the week before the exhibition setting up – sorting out the exhibits and deciding which showcases to use for which items. Debra Kirby’s experience in window-dressing was invaluable on the first two days, particularly with the large showcase, in which the main exhibit was the dolls’ house donated by Barbara’s Mouldings,

which she had built and painted, and later bought from the Society. Pat Wootten, Rosemary Jeynes, Helen Thomas, Rhoda Adamson, Muriel and Andy Hopwood all came for a day to help, and at the end of the week the exhibition looked excellent and very professional. In the end there were over 300 exhibits sent in by around 30 members, covering all techniques, an amazing achievement. Many thanks are due to all members who sent items and helped.

12. AOB: Permission to shred paperwork prior to 2010 was given. Miniatura workshop classes: Autumn 2016 - Beadwork Star; Spring 2017 - Assisi Work; Autumn 2017 - Florentine

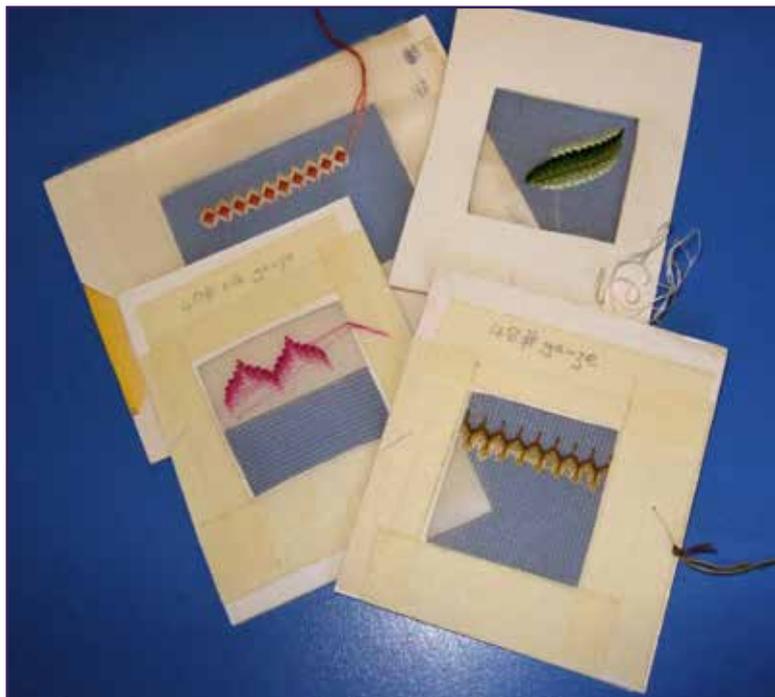
13. Date of Next Annual Meeting: 17th July 2017 at Bristol

The meeting ended at 4pm and Teresa was thanked for her hospitality.

FLORENTINE CANVAS WORKSHOPS

This year I committed myself to being the tutor at both the Edinburgh Group and the Easingwold Group. We met in Easingwold on 22nd September 2016 and in Edinburgh a short while later on 1st October 2106.

I had prepared detailed notes and examples for 5 designs, one straight forward design (moving in one direction only), one complex design (working in four sections resulting in a 4 pointed star) and three other designs which included Hungarian Point (a version taught to me many years ago by Sue Bakker). I also offered members a choice of silk gauze (either 40# or 48#) or 26 count cotton canvas which could be used to create a carpet.



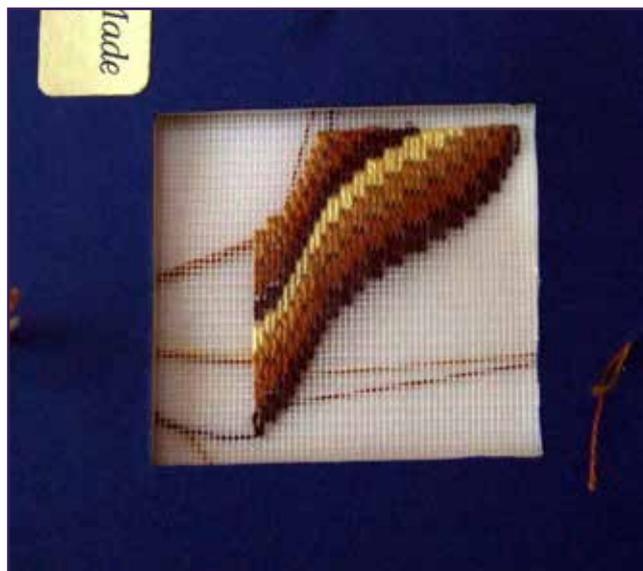
There were 6 of us in each group; we spent some time looking at examples and then each person chose their design and medium. Then it was heads down and a very quiet group as everyone concentrated on accurately embroidering the foundation row of their chosen design.

Once the designs were laid down the atmosphere

was more relaxed and we had very enjoyable sessions.

Here are a few of the photographs which show the variety of designs embroidered by our members.

Judith H Gordon



COTON WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

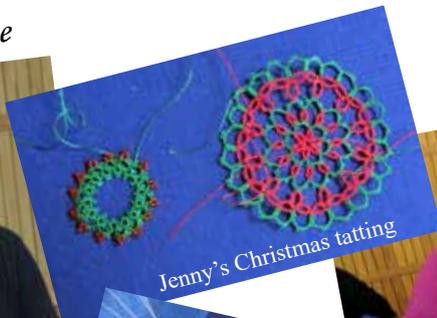
Two workshops in Coton in October were closely followed by an extra one in November – we are all so keen to learn lace and tatting from Jenny Furlong! So much so, we will be holding a 2-day workshop on Friday 17 & Saturday 18 February 2017. Coton has a great pub for our evening meal, and a nice B&B up the hill, so we should have a relaxing Friday evening after a day of hard work. Do come if you can. Here are some pictures from the autumn sessions.

Carolyn Postgate

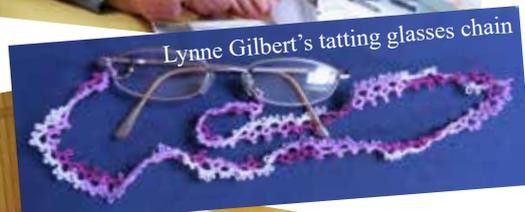
Jenny Furlong and Lynne Gilbert discussing tatting patterns



Jenny's Christmas tatting



Lynne Gilbert's tatting glasses chain



Lindsey Gedge working on her lace mat



Carolyn Postgate making lace for an apron



MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Income & Expenditure Account

	2016	2015
INCOME RECEIVED AND ACCRUED		
Subscriptions	2,355	2,037
Advertising	158	128
Donations	0	0
Workshops	378	303
Newsletters	29	32
Booklets	532	760
Bank Interest	1	1
Sundries	656	48
	4,109	3,309
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletters	633	1,160
Membership fees	995	1,155
Workshops	250	332
Office expenses	3	31
Insurance	20	20
Booklets	517	248
Advertising	0	0
Exhibitions (inc travel)	1,214	830
Sundries	366	140
	3,998	3,916
Shortfall/Excess Income over Expenditure	111	-607