



MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

NEWS SHEET DECEMBER 2017

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Birds – What a delightful surprise, fun birds, unusual birds and of course exquisite birds. Such a variety of techniques, you never fail to amaze me with your talent. They were much admired by all our visitors at the Autumn Miniatura and will be on display again at the Spring Miniatura before they fly home.

I rarely comment on the contents of our Newsletters, as they are three months old when I write my next letter to you. I do, of course, thank and congratulate Carolyn for the professional expertise which she brings into play when assembling these, but the September issue has been raised above even her high standard. The enthusiasm from ALL the contributors is infectious. I have made a fair isle pullover. I want an update regularly on the house reclamation. I would love a horse and rider, they are exquisite. I'm looking for a three-cornered chair – the list goes on! Congratulations and thank you to every one of the members who had their work included in this issue.

Do not forget to apply for an entry form for the 2018 competition. 'A Traditional Nursery Rhyme'. The title or the verse may be used as inspiration. I will not nag you yet, but will just say that winter is upon us and, with a good light, it is the best time of the year to sit comfortably with our needlework.

Miniatura will be celebrating 70 shows with the Spring Show; they promise us something celebratory but can you think of how to celebrate a seventieth anniversary? I think it is platinum for a marriage. We would love to receive items that you think would be appropriate for this celebration to display at this event. Send them to me (address on inside front cover) or bring them with you to Miniatura.

The workshop to be held on the Saturday and Sunday of the Spring Miniatura will be Kumihimo Braiding. All materials will be supplied for a cost of £3.50. The Florentine Rug workshop held in the Autumn was oversubscribed and the two groups were very enthusiastic and pleased with the results.

Have you all inspected the new web site? Alicia would love to have your comments and suggestions. Have you visited an unusual dolls house collection that other members would enjoy? Have you made an item that you are pleased with and would be willing for a photo to be included on the site? Tell us anything at all that like-minded enthusiasts would appreciate hearing about.

With best wishes for Christmas and wishing you all a healthy and peaceful 2018.

Teresa

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

FRENCHAY, BRISTOL: Saturday 24 February 10am – 4pm

Technique: Kumihimo Round Flat Braiding Demonstrator: Pat Wootten
Venue/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 12 April 10am – 4pm: more details in the March Newsletter

Technique: Knitted bead handbags Demonstrator: Alison Sunman

BERWICK-on-TWEED: Monday 16 April 10am – 4pm: more details in the March Newsletter

Technique: Bookbinding Part 2 Demonstrator: Judith Gordon

COTON, CAMBRIDGE: dates for 2-day workshop to be announced in the March Newsletter

Technique: Bobbin Lace/Tatting/Braiding Demonstrator: Jenny Furlong

MINUTES OF MNS ANNUAL MEETING 2017

held on 17 July 2017 at Bristol

Present: Teresa Norton (Chairman), Pat Wootten (Treasurer), Carolyn Postgate and Ann Ford

1. Apologies: Alicia Sledge, Helen Thomas and Ann Miall

2. Minutes of last meeting were approved and signed

3. Matters arising: none

4. Treasurers Report:

Since 2010 we have used £4428 from our reserves. We were concerned that the Society would close as committee members were already difficult to recruit and membership was static. This half year, subs are much lower than the previous half year. In an effort to cut Miniatura exhibition costs, it was decided that only the person responsible for setting up the exhibition and therefore bringing the bulky objects required, should be paid expenses by the Society. The other five workers paid all their own expenses. Hence the improvement in the exhibition costs this Spring.

We have a current account balance at 30 June 2017 of £1135 and savings of £5508. Apart from subs and exhibitions we have similar income and expenditure to the last half year. We hope this year to have a small surplus instead of the losses incurred since 2011. The report was accepted unanimously.

5. Members Report from CIRCA:

Three members had rejoined following an email to lapsed members which would be repeated this year. The drop in membership for 2017 has been offset by new and enthusiastic members which is rewarding. CIRCA is running smoothly and our thanks must go to Catherine for so ably organising this very important area of the Society.

6. Representative for Scotland Report:

The Glasgow and Edinburgh workshops continue, although venues have been changed. Numbers are just ticking over and new, younger members would be welcome. The various workshops run by Judith Gordon are very popular. The committee agreed that her enthusiasm and continued work within the Society is an encouragement to them all – thank you. Ann's husband Adrian has made small tables to display the competition table covers at Houghton Hall. The Society owes a very big thank you to Adrian for this and to them both for all the time and effort they put into keeping the Society's permanent exhibition up to date and in good order.

7. Representative for Northern Ireland Report:

The workshops held in 2016 for a Bobbin Lace Table Runner and a Cabochon Beaded Mirror were well attended. The workshops this year will run from 7–11 August: a Beaded Lamp designed by Caroline McFarland and a Bobbin Lace Shawl designed by Mavis Thompson.

8. Newsletter Report:

Carolyn reported that she gets a good response from members when she requests articles and projects, all agreed that this in turn encourages the committee in their tasks. The members list that was not issued this year to save costs will be circulated with the March 2018 Newsletter, its purpose being to enable members to contact each other.

9. Website and Facebook Report:

The MNS Facebook page currently has 70 members. Alicia has pinned a post at the top of the page letting people know that it is a closed group with a link to the website so that people can join. She reports: I am still learning about Facebook myself but I have discovered that, if anyone has a document or file they want to share with the rest of the members, it can be done on Facebook by uploading a file via 'add file' in a post – this will be saved in a 'Files' folder in the list on the left hand side and anyone should be able to download these files and save them to read or use when convenient. I have had a play and added the 20th Anniversary Project as an event and have downloaded a copy of the pages from the Newsletter and News Sheet to 'Files'. I would still like to see people adding more interesting information that they may come across, eg – a shop with a particular good selection of needlework bits and pieces, or any places of

interest visited – internet links would be useful. I hope this might encourage everyone to be a little more active within the group. I will try and add workshops under the Events section as well.

The new MNS website went live after March Miniatura and seemed to be received well. It has a new page for easy projects – so far only one (rag rug) – and it would be good to have some more easy projects to add to it. I have also included a note on the home page about the free kit available for when people join. I will be always looking for new items to put on the events page or pictures that can be used to update the website from time to time, so anything would be gratefully received. I would be grateful if people would please check the links page occasionally, when they are visiting the site and have a moment and let me know if there are any links that are no longer accurate, or anything new that could be added.

Teresa reported that she had two projects in hand to send to Alicia, a beaded bell pull and knitted lace edging. Alicia was thanked for all the work she has put into re-launching the website.

10. Subscription Increase:

This has been under discussion since January when costs for 2016 were reported. In addition we are expecting an increase in postage, printing and overheads generally. It was unanimously decided to increase the yearly subscription to £20 for UK members and £25 for overseas members. The low exchange rate due to Brexit should favour our overseas members. This increase will take place from 1st January 2018.

11. Alteration to Rules:

Firstly it was agreed that this item did not alter the rules of the Society but needed to address a past resolution regarding claims to expenses.

- Miniatura. The person in charge of the accoutrements for setting up the Society's table should continue to have their expenses paid. Other members would not.
- Houghton Hall. All expenses to be paid.
- Petrol to be charged at 30p per mile and accommodation at £99 per night maximum. Exceptions to this, at the discretion of the Chairman and Treasurer.

12. Workshops:

Confirming the proposal put to the committee on 26 January 2017 and subsequently agreed unanimously. If a day workshop is held in a hall the fee will be increased to £20 for members and £25 for non-members. The tutor, if not one of the participants, to be paid £50 plus £10 towards travel costs, if required. If held in a private home, then the cost of materials and tutor should be divided between the participants.

13. Resignations:

Debra Kirby resigned last year and we thank her for being instrumental in setting up Facebook and her help with the Redditch exhibition.

Helen Thomas has acted as minutes secretary and has had to resign due to ill health. She will be undergoing a serious operation and we send her our best wishes for this and our thanks for her time on committee and we shall miss her.

Ann Miall has resigned from the committee; she feels that distance prevents her from being as active as she would like but she has agreed to remain as representative for Ireland. For this we thank her.

14. 2018 Competition:

After much discussion it was decided that the subject for the 2018 competition would be A Traditional Nursery Rhyme. The content of the verse would be the inspiration, in any suitable technique. Title to be stated with the entry. Members would be asked to apply for entry forms by post or email.

15. A.O.B.

Carolyn brought the proposed 20th Starter Booklet, subject 'Braiding' or 'Kumihimo' Braid. This was approved and will be promoted at the Autumn Miniatura.

The search for a supplier of filet lace netting or an equivalent is ongoing.

16. Date of next meeting: 14 July 2018.

The meeting concluded at 4pm with thanks to Teresa for her hospitality.

MNS WORKSHOPS

Frenchay, Bristol – November: Braiding

Our little group had not attempted braiding, Kumihimo or otherwise, before. Pat Wootten brought all the materials needed and very clearly explained the process, frequently telling us that once we had the knack it was very easy: did we believe her? We all struggled to begin with, being put right by Pat in turn. At one point, I was very methodically undoing what I had already done!! Suffice to say that by lunchtime we were all experts and eager to try a different braid at our next workshop.

Teresa Norton

There have been **too many other workshops** to include here! Reports & photos will be published in the March Newsletter.

- Frenchay, Bristol – August: Beadwork
- Easingwold, York – October: Bead Handbags
- Coton, Cambridge – October weekend: Bobbin Lace, Tatting and Braiding

These workshops are all fun, sociable occasions – do go to one if you can.

Norham, Scotland – September: Book making

It was a very small group but great fun and very productive. Judith Gordon was an excellent tutor and we all produced beautiful miniature leather-bound books with blank pages. In the spring we are going to advance to printed books which are sewn - not just glued!! Really exciting!



Then in October we held a **beading workshop** at my house in Dalkeith. Again a smallish group with one new member and Maureen Runciman was a very patient and helpful teacher. We made handbags and a feather boa and one member was working on a beaded dress. Two very enjoyable days.

Anne Mackinnon

MINIATURE NEEDLEWORK SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Income & Expenditure Account

	2016	2017	
INCOME RECEIVED AND ACCRUED			
Subscriptions	2,355	1,695	
Advertising	158	159	
Donations	0	0	
Workshops	378	348	
Newsletters	29	42	
Booklets	532	394	
Bank Interest	1	0	
Sundries	656	70	
	4,109	2,708	
EXPENDITURE			
Newsletters	633	651	
Membership fees	995	885	
Workshops	250	282	
Office expenses	3	0	
Insurance	20	20	
Booklets	517	2	
Advertising	0	0	
Exhibitions (inc travel)	1,214	219	
Sundries	366	215	
	3,998	2,274	
Shortfall/Excess Income over Expenditure	111	434	