

North Kent Embroiderers



Crewelwork was the subject of our last meeting. Christine Seymour-Godwin came to talk to us about this form of embroidery which dates back at least as far as the Bayeux Tapestry, and possibly even to Egyptian times. Kashmir in India developed its own form of the technique in the 15th Century and owing to trade links with the UK this form of stitching, also known as Jacobean work, reached a peak here in the 17th century.



The embroidery is traditionally done using “crewel” wool on linen ‘twill’ weave fabric which is made from the flax plant. The imagery often depicts Jacobean style designs of exotic birds, animals, fruits such as pomegranates and flowers. Christine showed us some examples of her own crewelwork embroidery done in the traditional style (above left), together with a more modern take on the technique (above right). As Christine is leading a workshop for our group next year, we asked her to teach us the older way of producing this kind of embroidery as a starting point for our crewelwork journeys.



We were lucky enough, recently, to have had Christine to deliver a ‘needleweaving’ workshop to our group. Although she knew they might not be finished, Christine asked us to bring along the ‘work in progress’ for all to see and as an opportunity to ask for help or



advice. It was lovely to see a good number of these pieces and such a surprise to see how different they all were! You can see two examples here. Watch this space to see how things develop.

Hopefully, by the time you read this you will have heard about the Gravesham Fringe Festival – May 30th until June 7th and you may even have been able to see some of our work on display!

If you or someone you know would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website: <https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/> or email us at: info@northkentembroiders.co.uk or contact our Chairman,

Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, *Karen*

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