

North Kent Embroiderers' Guild



Today our talk was provided by the fabulous 'Hand & Lock' <https://handembroidery.com/>. This company has been in existence since 1767 and they have over 250 years' experience of embellishing, embroidering and monogramming garments for the royal family, the military, the church and fashion houses including Christian Dior, Hermes, Burberry and Louis Vuitton. Alastair

Macleod the chairman (himself from a family of tailors) spoke to us about the history of the business which he acquired in 2001.

Much of Hand & Lock's work involves 'goldwork' which is the art of embroidery using metal threads. Goldwork uses threads that are made from imitation gold, silver or copper which can be combined to make beautiful pieces which reflect the light and gleam and dazzle. In the past the technique was traditionally used on military and



ceremonial uniforms, but now has many wider uses in embellishment.

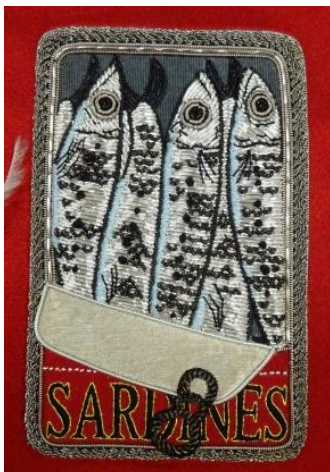


Juliet their Head Embroiderer told us how Hand & Lock had produced the gold work for the sumptuous Gieves & Hawkes tailcoat designed for Michael Jackson's Bad tour. It remains one of the finest examples of Hand & Lock hand embroidery.

Despite much of the work sticking firmly to traditional methods, Esme who designs for the company told us how she produces designs on the computer using Adobe Illustrator. Other concessions to the passing of time



include raising the height of the wooden work tables as people are now taller!



This really was a very interesting and inspiring afternoon, but we do have others, so if you are interested in joining us then please look at our website for full information or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

Happy stitching, Karen

(All links and photographs used with permission)