

## North Kent Embroiderers' Guild



Hello everyone, two of our members are writing this month's article. Here is Jill with her lockdown experiences.....

As a new member of the Embroiderers Guild I would like to say thank you for the warm welcome I have received at meetings and more recently in the Zoom calls. Who would have predicted this time last year that day to day living would have changed so much, but it has presented both opportunities and challenges (one of them being writing something for the newsletter). I would like to say that I have achieved a lot but despite everything, time seems to go by so quickly, but there are a few things I have discovered:

- I have completed some projects that would have stayed in the cupboard so I now have bags, cushions, an apron, sewing machine cover and peg bag, all fully decorated, and even managed 6 advent calendars from panels acquired over the years which were well received by the family
- despite the number of face masks made for friends and family there does not seem to be a dent in the fabric stock
- modern technology does have its benefits once you have got past getting it to work. You can see people as well as talking but it does not replace meeting in person although you may be in contact more frequently than normal
- taking a daily walk means most days you see someone for a friendly chat, you also appreciate local amenities and I hope the local tearoom will reopen for the cakes and also meeting up with people both planned and unplanned
- knowing that I have enough projects of all sorts and don't need any more but it does not mean I will not be tempted by the "have to haves" I will just have to be a more discerning shopper, particularly if quilt and sewing shows return.

Whilst I have plenty to keep me occupied (which includes mastering the overlocker that has finally found its way out of the box, revisiting lace making and reading two books lent to me before lockdown) I am looking forward to the time when "social distancing" will be a thing of the past but I wonder what it will be called perhaps "social mingling" who knows. Anyway looking forward to meeting up in person with everyone hopefully in the not too distant future.

From Sue B- Cas Holmes A Life in Stitch

A number of us accepted Worthing EG's kind invitation to join their talk by Cas Holmes. Cas is a textile artist. She had a Romany grandmother who inspired her to use and recycle the stuff around her. She will happily use up what she has to hand, such as food colouring, coffee grounds or earth from the garden to paint and colour her fabrics. It was great to see her use of old pieces of curtain fabric, lace and even an heirloom handkerchief which had been donated to her. Somehow she manages to incorporate the history and story of the fabric into her work. Her inspiration comes from her environment.

She described how her compositions evolve from the creation of marks stained, scratched, painted, and drawn to create a background for what she called stitch sketching, where she captures images of wild flowers, the landscape and even the pylons which form a backdrop to our countryside. Her stitch sketching was like looking at a pen and ink drawing, with some of them very intricate and others mere stitched outlines. One particularly memorable piece was taken from a sketch she made of everyday household crockery items she saw grouped together on a houseboat. Her workshop was certainly an inspiration.

If you are interested in joining us, then please look at our website

<https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/> or email us at: [info@northkentembroiders.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiders.co.uk) or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen