

North Kent Embroiderers' Guild

As we are still not able to meet as a group apart from on Zoom, one of our founder members has kindly written a few words about how the NKEG came to be and what we are all about. This is what Veronica says:

"I wonder what you remember from April 1987? Was it the auction of the jewellery of the late Duchess of Windsor which was sold for £31,000,000 - six times the expected value, or that Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-1, to win the Football League Cup?

For some people, 18 April 1987 was the start of a journey, a journey into the world of embroidery!! Some of you reading this article may remember Betty Cave Brown; it was her love of embroidery and enthusiasm, that encouraged some of us to join her at St Andrews Centre for the inaugural meeting of North Kent Embroiderers' Guild.

Two well known embroiderers were at that meeting, Marjorie Self and Jenny Miskin. The latter was responsible for participating in embroidering the Jubilee Cope, a stole and a mitre which was designed by Beryl Dean, a foremost textile designer of her generation and a leading exponent of modernist design in ecclesiastical embroidery. The set was originally presented to the Diocese of London to commemorate The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and was worn at the special Thanksgiving Service that year.

Most ladies present at that meeting though, were like me, just ordinary people, wanting to learn more about embroidery and that has been the mantra of the Guild ever since. Members are friendly and share their knowledge so willingly.

We have done various projects for the community over the years, a wall hanging in St Andrews Centre, the Pocahontas hanging in St George's Church, Gravesend, and a panel in the Ellenor Hospice are just a few that come to mind!!

We continue to have speakers most months, but also we have classes where we learn new techniques such as Goldwork, Hardanger (a form of Norwegian embroidery), Beadwork, Felting, Christmas projects, exhibitions such as the one at Leeds Castle to celebrate Capability Brown, plus the hearts to remember those who died in WW1 as well as small projects like making monthly postcards relating to a certain theme.

We meet on the third Saturday of each month at 1.00pm in the Community Room in Asda, Gravesend, and you can look at our website for more details - <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> but remember we all began as beginners, even Marjorie Self and Jenny Miskin so please do come along and see what we get up to!"

If you are interested in joining us when things get back to normal, then please look at our website or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk

Happy stitching, *Karen*