

North Kent Embroiderers

This month we were delighted to welcome Diana Springall to talk to our group. Diana lives locally and still works as a designer and maker in her home studio. She was born and grew up in India and has travelled widely since then with her pieces exhibited all over the world. Diana has been chairman of both The Embroiderers' Guild and The Society of Designer-Craftsmen. She explained how as a child she had so much freedom as she didn't attend school until the age of nine



when her family returned to the UK from India. Her mother embroidered but it was a wonderful art teacher who inspired her to follow her dream of a career art. During her time at Goldsmiths in the late 50's, embroidery was regarded as being of equal value to painting, illustration and sculpture and thus her life in Textile Art began.



Diana's story is a fascinating one, with widely varied commissioned works for the Japanese Bank, a Jewish synagogue etc. Her travels have influenced her greatly and her passion for embroidery has led her over the last forty years to develop The Diana Springall Collection <https://dianaspringallcollection.co.uk/> showcasing the works of many well known textile artists including Jean Littlejohn, Alice Kettle and Audrey Walker.

Diana's time with us was both entertaining and inspiring. It was an honour and a privilege to hear her talk.

During the meeting, we also discussed the idea of adding another strand to our banner. This time it will be to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Some of our members will be busy planning new ideas to make into stitched squares for another hanging.

If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, *Karen* (All links and photographs used with permission.)

