

North Kent Embroiderers

Hello Everyone,

In October we thoroughly enjoyed a talk by Dr Susan Kay-Williams CEO of the Royal School of Needlework <https://royal-needlework.org.uk/> Her talk was about the development of blackwork which is a form of embroidery usually worked in black thread on a white background, but Susan also gave us a lot of background information about the RSN. She told us how their studio was honoured to have been commissioned to produce nine pieces of embroidery for the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. These were the King's Robe of State, the Queen's Robe of Estate, the Anointing Screen, the Stole Royal and Girdle, the Chairs of Estate and the Throne Chairs. The RSN teaches all its students to work in the same way so that in times of pressure one embroiderer can take over from another and stitch in exactly the same way. The back of work is always finished neatly!



The history of Blackwork goes back to medieval times when both men and women did embroidery. Catherine of Aragon embroidered King Henry VIII's under linens but men would have worked on his over garments. In Elizabethan times, black and white were 'power colours' and blackwork on clothing was extremely popular as a result. By the 1950's the RSN linked blackwork with goldwork to produce stunning images and more recently, blackwork has become less about pattern and more about using the technique to produce light and shade on pictorial pieces.

We have also been working hard to make stars for a charity Christmas tree project. As you can see from the picture, we have been working to a colour scheme of red, silver and gold in the hope that we can create a beautiful festive display.

Our latest postcard challenge was called 'Fruit and Vegetables'. We had a good display of these which were eagerly swapped among our members who had taken part.



If you would like 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://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk
or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen

