



Poole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 228

1 May 2020

EDITORIAL

As I write this Editorial we are nearly into Summer, but what a strange time it is for everyone. Following Government guidance we have had to sadly cancel all of our meetings, including the Exeter Museum Day trip and Lace Day at the beginning of June. We will be reviewing future meetings and will keep you informed in the weeks ahead. At this time of going to press a decision to hold the AGM has not been decided, we will take our lead from the Government as to whether meetings and gatherings will be allowed.

Sadly we heard of the loss of one of our long standing members Beryl Maw at the beginning of March. Beryl's funeral had to be held behind closed doors, but the family are planning to hold a memorial service in Beaminster when lockdown is lifted. We will let you know details as and when we receive them.

We hope you are all in good health and if there is anything you want or that we can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact either Penny or me.

Thank you to Linda King who has contacted all the venues at which we were due to demonstrate. They are all very keen to have us back ASAP when they eventually reopen.

In this May Newsletter we have some interesting articles for you to read. Stay safe and carry on making lace.

Ruth Oldridge

SCRAPBOOKS

Ann Bray has very kindly taken on the upkeep of the scrapbooks and has requested that members send her any photos and or articles PBLC related (including courses etc. that members have attended).

LACE GROUPS STAY IN TOUCH DURING LOCKDOWN

I am writing this on Thursday April 16 when it is widely expected that the lockdown will continue for another three weeks. Since we've been in this rather bizarre situation it has been great to see how the local lacemaking community has worked hard at staying in touch. There have been lots of regular phone calls to old friends as well as texting.

Christchurch Lace Society has kept up a steady flow of communication through their facebook page, thanks especially to Jane and Barbara for all of their posts. Liz has got her Thursday group writing a kind of weekly diary email of things that they have been up to. Several members of that group have done some wonderful craft work and sharing photographs of what they've achieved during the first three weeks...I have yet to share my handiwork – two white knitted dishcloths!!!

The Wednesday group who meet at Ferndown Village Hall have managed to take part in two Zoom meetings which have allowed us to have group meetings, they have been great fun. Special thanks to Claire (from Claire's Lace), her husband and daughters who helped to get us up and running on this weekly get together. Finally, this morning I was able to join a Zoom meeting with Pompey Parry and members of her Thursday lace days...this involved lacemakers from Oxford, the Isle of Wight, Bristol, York, the New Forest and Dorset.

The most important thing is to enjoy staying connected.

Linda Burn

PBLC TRIP

The Exeter Museum Day trip has been cancelled. There are no plans to reorganize this trip.

Ruth Oldridge

LOCKDOWN DOLPHIN

Because I had completed my last lace project, the boat worked in Rosaline lace, I decided that it would be a good plan to take on the PBLC Dolphin project and so I arranged to do that. Of course then came the lockdown instruction. I had arranged to pick up the pillow from Barbara Jackson's house on Monday March 23. It turned out to be quite a difficult journey, not because of the lockdown situation but because Barbara's road was closed due to a delivery tanker. Luckily I was able to walk the last part of the journey. From a safe distance Barbara gave me the dolphin and explained what she had done.

Once home I set up my pillow in a sunny corner of the room and every morning, straight after my breakfast I work on this lovely pattern. Up to today (Thursday April 16) I have completed four dolphins and I am really enjoying working on it, you could almost call it a 'lockdown lifesaver'. This is a real first for me as I rarely do any lace work without guidance and I never leave my work out but I have done both with this. Leaving it there ready in the sunny corner ready to be worked has made it part of my daily routine.



Shirley's Contribution to the PBLC Dolphin Project

I am the sixth person after Eve to work on the project (Lily, Jenny H, Pat, Jenny L, Barbara) making seven contributors in all. I have to say a huge thank you to Eve for the beautiful pillow, pattern and instructions. The thread is particularly lovely to work with and tensions beautifully. Many thanks.

Shirley Pearce

A PUZZLE

They say that the older you get, the clearer your memories of years ago. I don't know about that as I have a memory like a sieve and a brain full of useless information. So I was surprised recently when I suddenly thought about plimsolls (daps, pumps, runners or whatever you call them.) I seem to recall that on the soles there were little rectangles or diamonds of red rubber which you could pull off if you tried hard enough. I don't know what they were for, probably the size or makers name.

Another day I remembered one of my Dad's many puzzles. He wrote

YYURYYUBICURYY4ME.

Neither my sister nor I could unravel this conundrum then. It was so obvious when he revealed what it said. This memory has reminded me of an antique bone lace bobbin which was inscribed

XURXUBICURXX4ME.

Any suggestions?

Liz Pass

LOCKDOWN SPANISH STYLE

Our usual Spring break in Spain began as normal on Sunday March 1 when we flew from Bournemouth, after the wettest February on record, to Malaga Airport. We realised something was different as soon as we arrived. It was unusually quiet and there were no queues at the car hire companies. In our naivety we presumed it was because it was a Sunday afternoon. At this point our knowledge of the coronavirus had been what was happening in China, some isolated cases here in the UK and the beginnings of travel restrictions in Northern Italy. However as our first few days went by we could see that things were different in Spain. Neither of our two Danish friends was coming for their normal holiday; our Spanish neighbour had decamped to his house in Algeciras and was working from home and several older members of my small church community and Zumba group had decided to stop coming to gatherings. Nevertheless, the weather during those first two weeks was utterly gorgeous and we continued pretty much as normal. I had taken a lace pattern for an initial bookmark with me as I wanted to complete it for a friend's 70th birthday so in the glorious morning light I got started on that.



Linda's Lockdown Lace

Although I ran in a race (which had an entry of about 2000 runners) on Sunday March 8, by Thursday March 12 all sports facilities were closed and large gatherings were banned. On Friday 13 (what a date!) our neighbour texted that the Spanish Prime Minister had issued what they call a 'state of alarm' and he advised me to go to the supermarket and buy enough food to last a month. I tried very hard not to panic. Our apartment is a small holiday home; we would struggle to store enough food for a week let alone a month! But I did go to the supermarket and buy some food and it was a good job that I did because on the evening of Saturday March 14 the lockdown started with immediate effect. Restaurants, bars, beaches, shops, (apart from food shops, pharmacies and for some reason hairdressers!) and boardwalks were all closed. On Sunday we just stayed in the flat...I got a lot of lace done that day! And so that first week continued. We did go out each day for an illicit walk over nearby sand dunes-cum-forest land. On Saturday March 14 Brian had to return the hire car as the company was closing its rental service. He was very worried about driving without an official pass to drive but luckily all was well and public transport was still running so he was able to get home safely and without incident.

It was now becoming clear that things were not getting any easier in Spain and the UK Government was urging people to return, lockdown seemed inevitable. And so we started to look in earnest for flights home. We had already booked two early return flights but both had been cancelled. Luckily we were able to book a BA flight leaving Malaga on Wednesday March 25. It was a stomach churning trip to the

airport hoping that the flight wouldn't be cancelled. Both Malaga and Gatwick airports were ghostowns, eerily quiet.

We were very happy that our son was able to pick us up at Gatwick (getting down to Bournemouth on National Express was going to take nine hours as they had cut down many of their services.)...And the rest as they say is history. Naturally we are pleased to be back home with plenty to keep us busy in the house and garden. I've not done any lace at the moment but hope to start on some soon – when the weather changes!

Linda Burn

CHANGE TO COMPETITION

As this is the May newsletter that is normally issued at the May meeting, it seems a good opportunity to restate the decisions that have been made regarding this year's PBLC annual competition. This information went out originally in a letter sent out by Penny on March 19 2020.

The theme of this year's competition 'Twenties' has been postponed until next year 2020/2021. The theme 'Movement' that had been planned for 2020/2021 will be bought back at a later time as the 2021/2022 year will reflect our Ruby Anniversary year.

Anyone with any questions about this should contact me through email.

Linda Burn

BERYL MAW 18TH DECEMBER 1925 - 8TH MARCH 2020

I first met Beryl Maw at a Poole Bobbin Lace meeting back in the early 1990's at the Lighthouse, when the meetings were held there. Beryl was always willing to pass on her valuable knowledge regarding any type of lace.

I remember fondly a pillow party held in Broadstone on a Saturday from 10 – 4pm. I attended with my friend Wendy, with whom I made lace at Dorothy Watson's classes. We were both engrossed in our lace. I can't remember what we were making but I do remember that we were both using white thread. Beryl was having a look around the room at what people were making and I remember her stopping at Wendy's pillow stating that her tension was good but did she want to make 'green lace'? We both looked confused! Beryl continued to say "Well my dear if you will hold your brass pins in your mouth then the thread will have a green tinge and also you could swallow them!" Needless to say the pins stayed in the pin cushion after that.

As some of you will remember at the meeting in January 2006 at St. Marys Catholic Church I had a new edition to show off!! Aaron attended his first lace meeting, became a member and having been born on the 20th December 2005 was the youngest member to date. Beryl was at the meeting and came and spoke to my husband Sean and myself and welcomed Aaron. "When was he born?" she asked and we told her the date and she said "Two days after my 80th Birthday. I will never forget that." and true to her word she never did. Whenever I saw Beryl she always asked after Aaron and how he was growing and getting on. Whenever they saw each other they would have a good chat. As you all know Aaron has done a few fund raising projects for lace charities. When we supported Forest Holme Hospice a few years ago Aaron decided to make 'Pom-Pom Pals' these were pom-poms with feet and eyes and he sold quite a few! Beryl was one of the first to buy one at the meeting but after a short while she returned to see Aaron and very quietly and kindly said "I think you need to rethink your glue as my one of the eyes on my pom-pom has fallen off!" Beryl then gave him some ideas of different glues that would work better.

I was also lucky enough to be on the Committee at PBLC with Beryl and when she finished her term the whole of the Committee were invited to her lovely bungalow in Beaminster for Afternoon Tea in her magical garden which inspired her pattern book 'A Snowy Spring Day In My Garden'. I regret that I haven't yet made any of her patterns but it is still on my 'to do list'.

Aaron and I, along with Penny Stevenson, had intended to meet up with Beryl in the Spring Half Term this year but unfortunately she decided very quickly to move away, so we planned to visit at Easter but alas time was not on our side and so Beryl was unable to see my 14 year old 'gentle giant' again which I know they both would have loved.

Rest in peace Beryl, we both miss you. All our love xx.

Jayne and Aaron Frampton

A SNOWY SPRING DAY IN MY GARDEN

Here is a letter sent to Dorothy Brown by Beryl Maw explaining the origins of her book.

'A Snowy Spring Day in my Garden'

Some years ago my husband George used to feed a tame robin with seed on the garden bench. Then came his suggestion to make the bird in Binche lace. My good friend Yvonne White drew the bird and daffodil. Later, I drew the snowdrops. Anne-Marie Verbeke-Billiet has been most generous with her help and expertise particularly with the technical drawings. My very real thanks to her, Yvonne and other friends who offered advice to make the project become a reality.

The robin is a small British bird (Erithacus rubecula) 14cm. It is friendly and found in most parts of the country. Its distinguishing feature is its red breast!

The large mat was made first. As the background is half stitch snowflake, I decided to introduce cloth stitch ones to show that it was "snowing". The robin stands on a snow covered flowerbed. I then made the six variations.

The proceeds from the sale of this package will be donated to the Macmillan Cancer Relief Charity No 261017. This charity helps people who are living with cancer and is best known for its nurses, who provide practical and emotional support to patients, as well as their family and carers.

I would like to dedicate this work to the memory of dear George, without whose love and encouragement this project would never have been started. Sadly, he did not see the work finished.

I hope you will enjoy these patterns.

Happy lace making!

Beryl.

The lace is all made with 140/2 Egyptian cotton. The number of bobbins varies. The most is 180+/-.

*To Dorothy,
Best wishes,
Beryl. 24 June '04*

April 2004

MYSTERY OBJECT



Liz's Mystery Object

Since first finding this object I've discovered that it was made in 1924 by a firm called A. Shrimpton of Redditch. The first Shrimpton to make needles was recorded in 1735 and lived in Crendon. The firm flourished and only ceased trading in 2006. Shrimpton even had a depot in the USA for many years.

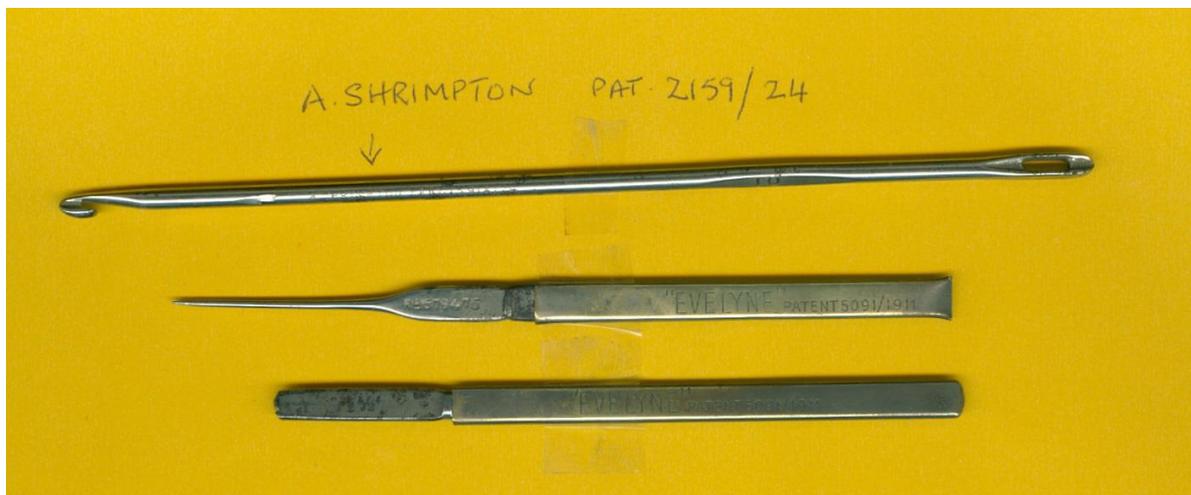
This company made all kinds of needles – from fine sewing needles; enormous ones for sail makers and curved ones for surgeons as well as fish hooks. Crochet hooks were made in the same way as needles and then a piece was cut out of the eye to leave a hook. Shrimpton's crochet hooks were marketed under various names, including Eclipse and Evelyne. These cost 1 penny in 1911.

The mystery object from the last newsletter can be used in two similar ways but with very different results. The first way is to hook rugs (the Locker hook); the second to make a fabric which looks exactly like knitting (the Knook).

The best way to see the results is to look up the following websites.

The Locker hook can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ybm2zb6n> and the Knook at

<https://tinyurl.com/ycno8a3d> .



Examples of A. Shrimpton's products

Liz Pass

THE MARY QUANT EXHIBITION AT THE V & A (CONT'D)

More photos from Pam's visit.



**Raised Needlelace collar from Vienna about 1880.
Designed by Josef Storckl**



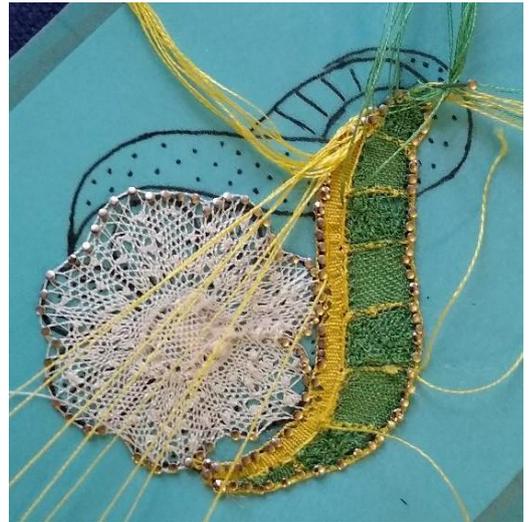
**Wedding Veil 1850-60
From Brussels. Needle and Bobbin Lace**



**Fan with painted silk gauze and bobbin lace leaf with Mother of Pearl Sticks and guards
From France. Painted by Ronot-Tutin 1890-1900**

WITHOF LACE CLASS - BRISTOL 15TH – 16TH FEB 2020

Lucie Meersseman and I set out early on Saturday morning for Bristol with storm Dennis nipping at our heels (but luckily never quite catching up!) We arrived in good time after a relatively easy journey and started setting up our pillows and generally easing ourselves into the day's work ahead. Some of the ladies attending were local but others had come from further afield - Cornwall, Hampshire, Dorset (of course) and Scotland. Lucie, as well as being a very accomplished Continental lacemaker, had attended several of Yvonne's courses but my first taste of Withof had been the previous year's course – and that was the last time I had looked at my pillow until now! Lucie was racing ahead with her piece which Yvonne had designed for her based on a picture of a ring.



Lucie at her pillow

At the time I had thought the scroll design looked a fairly straightforward piece to try out – how wrong I was and to make matters worse not only had I forgotten how to carry out some of the techniques but more immediately most of the bobbins had become entangled! So while I waited for Yvonne to visit each pupil in turn I set to tidying my pillow.

Lucie's Withof Lace

Eventually my turn came and Yvonne soon got me on the right path and with my new glasses things literally became a lot clearer – I even managed to do several of the 'roll ups' at the first attempt! It was a very busy day's work but there was plenty of banter and chatter to keep us from flagging, along with some very nice homemade cakes (and you all know how much I like a piece of cake!!).



Yvonne with another Lacemaker

That evening most of the group went for a meal to a local Indian restaurant, Storm Dennis was still trying to do his worst but the lovely meal kept our spirits high – not to mention the glass of wine! Then it was off to the Premier Inn for a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast in the morning. The next day was still very blowy but by the afternoon it had settled down enough to make the journey home quite enjoyable, even with a slight detour via the scenic route when we took a wrong turning! I can thoroughly recommend attending a lace course for widening your horizons even if, like me, you're not the greatest lace maker the experience is well worth it.

Penny Stevenson

IDRIJA LACE PROJECT

The Idrija Lace School has devised a project for a global lace event; the details below are taken from an email sent to me by Jean Organ. I have shortened it and taken out the various translations but I have tried to keep the essence of the original.

Penny Stevenson

Project: Stay Home – Make Lace

Author: Dado Andder

Partners: Municipality Idrija, Lace School Idrija, Idrija Tourism Board

Since the announcement of the pandemic caused by the coronavirus COVID-19, the attention has turned to daily monitoring of the virus's prevalence, changes in ordinances, laws and bans, which makes us all restless. There is also a lack of cultural component; physical contacts during pandemic can endanger our health. However, we humans are social beings, we need connections, and we need culture.

We want to show that despite everything we can take a step forward towards connections, communication and culture. During this emergency situation, we invite all lacemakers, designers of lace patterns, as well as creators of graphic representations of lace to create products themed "Corona lace" to express feelings in times of isolation.

Size, colour and lacemaking technique are left to your choice. Lacemaking patterns can be re-drawn and templates can be used or customized.

The purpose of this initiative is to send a positive signal to all places where lace originates. In the past, lace has already "saved" family communities, and today interlacing of threads has this opportunity again.

We invite you to virtually connect and introduce yourself with lace. During the pandemic, your products will be regularly posted online and on the internet site, and in the future, we will prepare an exhibition.

We are sending you this invitation from Idrija, home to bobbin lacemaking heritage.

Let's express the feelings of beautiful and difficult moments of life through lace.

PARTICIPATION METHOD

Send the product – a lace or papirc (pattern template drawn on paper) – with your information as a photo to

email branka.m-peternel@visit-idrija.si

or physically to the address Idrija Tourism Board, Mestni trg 2, 5280 Idrija, Slovenia.

We will publish the photos in a virtual exhibition and all received laces will be exhibited at the Idrija Lace Festival.

Add your information and title of the lace to the product or photo of the appropriate resolution you will send.

DEADLINE FOR DELIVERY OF THE PRODUCTS: 25 May 2020



FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstrations will only be undertaken subject to relaxation of Government restrictions and, therefore, dates are to be confirmed (TBC). If in doubt, please contact Linda King.

Date	Location	Details
Thursday 20th June and Friday 21st June (TBC)	Wimborne Model Town	11am to approx. 3.30pm
Monday - July 6, August 3, September 7 and October 5 (TBC)	Hardy's Cottage Visitor Centre, Higher Bockhampton, Dorchester DT2 8QJ	10.30 am to 3.30 pm
Friday July 31 to Tuesday August 4 (TBC)	DACA, Purbeck School, Wareham	Cancelled

NEXT MEETING

The May meeting and Lace Day have been cancelled in accordance with Government directives. The next scheduled meeting is the AGM on Friday 3rd July at St George's Church Hall; however, this will only take place subject to Government Guidelines.

COPY DATE

Items for the July edition of the Newsletter should be with Linda or Ruth by Monday 15th June.

The Editor