



Poole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 233

6 March 2021

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Well it's hard to believe we are already a quarter of the way through the year but at last we are now having the lighter evenings. We have lots to tell you about in this edition; sadly, the decision to cancel 'Lace Day' 2021 along with the Annual Competition. You will find more detailed information below.

We also have some very interesting articles from members Pam Brown and Ann Vernon, both ladies have been very busy during lockdown, sharing what they have been up to and making. There is a joint article from Margaret Eaglestone and Liz Pass telling us all about their individual collections of lace figurines and a brief history. And finally we have the mystery object kindly provided by Liz Pass.

Ruth Oldridge

POOLE LACE DAY 2021

The hopes of last Autumn for Poole Lace Day 2021 have been dashed by the severity of the second wave of COVID-19 with all its devastation and restrictions. Sadly, the PBLC Committee have taken the decision to cancel Poole Lace Day 2021. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Poole Lace Day in 2022 on **Saturday 18th June 2022**. This date is later than usual to accommodate the celebrations of HM The Queen's Platinum Anniversary planned for the Bank Holiday over the first weekend in June and the meeting of Christchurch Lacemakers on the second weekend. We also hope to welcome Sandi Woods back as our guest speaker in 2022 and to hold a Milanese lace workshop.

The Committee

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION

It will probably be no great surprise that we have had to move the annual competition again and with that in mind, can the previous winners please hold onto their trophies for a little longer? It is possible that the AGM may yet go ahead in some form or other but we cannot guarantee this. Even though the lifting of restrictions may allow the receiving and collating of your work, finding a judge willing to take on the task in time for the AGM will prove difficult. So that all your hard work of the last two years (!!) is not in vain we will move the theme, 'Twenties', to the following year, 2022.

However, 2022 is our Ruby Anniversary and the corresponding annual competition was to have reflected this. So that we are not constantly rearranging things we are proposing that the theme of 'Ruby' will now be the theme for the competition at Lace Day 2022.

So ladies, get your thinking caps on and do PBLC proud let's have a bumper amount of entries! Who knows if DACA is back up and running we could surprise them with our prowess?

The Committee

LOCKDOWN LACE

Thank you to Anne Vernon who sent me some photos of items made and finished during lockdown, they are a Tablecloth, Coasters and Christmas decorations. The Tablecloth, Anne explained, had been on her pillow for a good 10 years; she had worked on it between other projects and was both sorry to finish it, as it was a good standby, but also glad to see the back of it.



Christmas Decorations



Coasters



The Finished Tablecloth

MORE LOCKDOWN LACE PROJECTS

Thank you to Pam Brown, who has also been very busy as you can see by the photos below.

It would be lovely to hear about what you have all been making over these last few months. It doesn't have to be all Lace related as I am sure we have been doing many sorts of different things.



Bunting

I have tried to do some Lace – a Remembrance Poppy and a Christmas Tree for a card, both patterns bought at the last Havant Lace Fair held in 2019. That seems such a long time ago now. I finished on-going Lace that I had on 2 pillows, my first piece of Milanese Lace that was started at Sandford and a piece of bunting that was on my demonstration pillow. So, my pillows are now ready and waiting for a new idea – Sammy Snake maybe, the next Milanese pattern from Pat Read's "Introduction to Milanese" from the Lace Guild, another bunting piece or I do have some fan sticks that belonged to my Mum that I would love to use.



Poppy

I must admit to not doing all the Lace I had intended to do for Christmas – I think I really need to start about now

- so I made some beaded ornaments instead. A crazy Patchwork Lap Quilt was completed for Mother-in-Law just in time for Christmas and I am now sewing Bobbin Bags for the Sales Table when our meetings return. As well as the inevitable face masks, I am getting much quicker at those!

Here are a few pictures, but not the Milanese Lace. There is a huge error in the middle that I gave up trying to correct as I had gone backwards and forwards so many times, I was in danger of threads breaking. As Liz would tell us, you will do it better next time! Oh I do hope so!

Pam Brown



Beaded Ornament



Patchwork Lap Quilt



Beaded Ornament

FIGURINES AND PLATES

Well it all started on Christmas Day 2016 when David gave me my very own Dorothy. You may wonder why I say 'very own', but I had one before but unfortunately it was not mine to keep. In 2015 I won the Royal Doulton Figurine 'Dorothy' at the Dorset Arts and Crafts Association Exhibition, but sadly to keep for just one year. The figurine was donated to DACA by PBLC for the Bobbin Lace trophy in 1990.

Each Royal Doulton figurine has a unique number; Dorothy's is HN3098, the prefix HN stands for Harry Nixon who was the Head of the Royal Doulton Painting department. The figurine was produced for a short period, 1987 to 1990, and the designer was Pauline Parsons. The figurine is beautiful and I can understand why it is part of the series 'Classic Pretty Ladies'. Dorothy sits with lace on her lap with a little black cat not able to resist playing with the trail of lace.



Royal Doulton Dorothy

And so it became a tradition and my collection began, as at each subsequent Christmas David has given me either a plate or figurine of a lacemaker.



**Royal Doulton Old Country Crafts
The Lacemaker**

For Christmas 2017 it was another piece of Royal Doulton but this time a plate of a lacemaker which was the fifth in a series of twelve 'Old Country Crafts' painted by Susan Neale and first made in 1991. Not sure how many were made but each plate in the series was limited to a maximum of 150 firing days. Susan Neale wrote on the back of the plate 'The craft of lacemaking is fascinating to watch and I was charmed to see these youngsters so eager to learn their grandmother's skills'. Fascinating to see that again, as well as the girls, a black cat was interested in lace.

When Christmas 2018 came it was another plate with a difference, this time a heavy French vintage pewter plate of the painting by Johannes Vermeer of the Lacemaker, in relief. There are no clues as to where it was made; the only marking on the reverse is an angel pewter mark. The Lacemaker is the smallest of Vermeer's paintings and is just 9 inches by 8 inches and hangs in the Louvre.



**Pewter Plate
The Lacemaker by Johannes Vermeer**



And so to Christmas 2019, that year David gave me another plate of a lacemaker, 'La Dentellière' this time French porcelain manufactured in Castelroux which is near the west coast of Brittany. It is one in the series of 'Vieux Métiers de France' – translated 'Old Trades of France'. In the bottom right there is a monogram of the artist Jean Lois Boncoeur, the B being inside a heart!!

**Castelroux Porselaine
'La Dentellière'**

Now coming right up to date, Christmas 2020, this time it was a silver plated figurine on pewter of a lacemaker which is from 'The Cries of London' series made in the Royal Hampshire Art Foundry.

But this is not the end of my story. I have just a modest collection so far and nothing as large as Liz Pass has. Liz has all of the above and more. I was telling her about the silver plated piece after Christmas and where it was made. Liz was not aware of this and started a search for the Royal Hampshire Art Foundry only to find not one but two more pewter lacemakers on EBay. Liz purchased the first and alerted me to the second which I immediately bought. This model is part of the 'Artisan' Series and is smaller than my silver/pewter piece. It has a pewter mark with a crown and RH in the centre and also a seahorse mark, for fine pewter. The crown with RH is the mark of the Royal Hampshire Art Foundry.



**Royal Hampshire Art Foundry
Silver Plated Lacemaker**



**Royal Hampshire Art Foundry
Pewter Lacemaker
'Artisan' Series**

I look forward to Christmas 2021 to see what David has managed to find, I am not sure how difficult it is becoming for him to find different pieces. This article about my collection is just a start which I hope will whet your appetite for more. Next, Liz will be writing about her collection and telling you all about the pieces that she has in addition to mine and there are quite a few!

Is there anyone else at PBLC who has their own collection and could continue this series of articles?

Margaret Eaglestone

FIGURINES AND PLATES (CONTINUED)

Margaret was correct when she said that the Royal Doulton figurine of a lace maker was donated by PBLC. Each year many lace entries were sent to the exhibition (in those days held at Puddletown). The standard was very high and no doubt the judge had a difficult task deciding who should be awarded the Portman Building Society Challenge Cup and for several years a group entry won this trophy. At the Poole Bobbin Lace Circle AGM in 1989, Dorothy Brown explained the reasons behind the suggestion that a new trophy should be purchased and donated to Dorset Arts and Crafts Association, and for the trophy to be awarded to an individual bobbin lacemaker. A show of hands indicated that members were in agreement and Edna Tucker suggested that the Royal Doulton Figurine would be most suitable. A vote took place and subsequently the figurine was purchased, together with a stand, glass dome and silver plaque for engraving. All this came to a total cost of £133.75. I presented the trophy at DACA's annual exhibition in 1990 and the first winner was PBLC member, Verena Vincent, for her torchon tablecloth.

Margaret and I each have one of these beautiful models and I know other PBLC members have one as well.

We both have two lacemaker plates from France. I bought my pewter Vermeer one in Wimborne Market, the source of many a treasure, and the painted one while on holiday in Cherbourg. The pewter plates are made by a company called Le Poitier d'Etain that has been making pewter objects for more than 100 years. Although the company registered a trade mark in the 1960s there are no marks on my plate but a lot of scratches and scrapes on the base, which indicate a hard life.



**Delft Pottery
Vermeer's Lacemaker**



**Cinque Ports Pottery of Rye
Line Drawing of English Lacemaker**

I have two blue and white lacemaker plates. One is Delft pottery, about six inches in diameter, with Vermeer's Lacemaker on it. The other, slightly smaller one comes from the Cinque Ports Pottery at the Monastery, Rye and features a line drawing of an English lacemaker. I can't remember where these two plates came from.



Enamelled Plate

My third French plate is actually a pizza tray, of diameter 11 ½ in, made of metal with a picture in the enamel. The lace pillow is most unusual, being a large padded hoop which she holds between her knees. This one I bought at the French Market in the days when it was held on Poole Quay before moving to the High Street.

I have one more pewter lacemaker than Margaret. She was a birthday present a few years ago, bought from a lace supplier whose name I've forgotten. It is one of a series called The Evergreen Collection. The detail is remarkable for a piece no more than three inches high. The sculptor signed the base, S P Darnley, in minute writing



**The Evergreen Collection
Pewter Lacemaker**

There's more to tell, but I'll save it for another time.

Liz Pass

MYSTERY OBJECTS

The mystery object for January was a gadget for darning gloves! Much daintier than a mushroom or a darning egg. I can't say that I've ever darned a glove in my life.



**Mystery Object for January
Gadget for Darning Gloves**



Mystery Objects for This Month

The new objects measure between 7 and 6 ¼ inches. I have others which are longer and some shorter ones too.

These were used in lacemaking. The one at the top is made of steel; the next one could be ivory. The other two, made of bone, are reminiscent of tongue depressors, one is marked 1/8, and the last one is marked 1/4. I have more in various widths.

Liz Pass

FORTHCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS

At this present time there are no events planned for 2021.

NEXT MEETING

The PBLC meeting on Saturday 7th May 2021, the Pillow Party on Saturday 3rd April 2021 and Lace Day on Saturday 5th June 2021 have all been cancelled. The next PBLC meeting will take place when Government restrictions have been lifted and it is safe for us to meet.

The Committee

COPY DATE

Items for the May edition of the Newsletter should be with Ruth Oldridge by 19th April.

The Editor