



## Poole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 256  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **EDITORIAL**

May I wish you all a slightly belated Happy New Year. I know the weather isn't too good, and the days seem long and dark with little sign of spring. It's too cold to do gardening, too early in the year for spring cleaning, and the days too short for outings and visits, but I think this is a really good time of year to get to grips with some of those UFO's – Un Finished Objects. Is this your New Year's Resolution? I'm still catching up with the back log from last year and trying to stop myself from starting anything new until one or two other projects are completed. What about you?

### **TODAY'S MEETING**

The Pillow Party will be from 10.30am to 1.30pm in the large hall, followed by the regular PBLC meeting. 2.00pm – 4.00. Our Speaker is coming from our chosen charity, the Blandford Fashion Museum.

### **LACE CHALLENGE – HEARTS**

Don't forget to bring your heart to the January meeting. It can be in any lace, any colour, any size, individually or many. So, it could be a brooch, a card, an edging or anything you can think of with a lace heart in it! There will be 4 prizes of Chocolate Oranges as before. This time the groups will be:-

1. An individual heart. 2. More than one heart. 3. Your own design and 4. Your ticket number 'raffle'. The winners will be chosen by our Charity Speaker for the January meeting. Why not have a go?

*Jenny L.*

### **NOVEMBER MEETING**



Claire Richards was our speaker at the November meeting. She told us all about raffia and its properties which make it suitable for lightweight articles such as sun hats and bags. She explained that the best raffia comes from Madagascar, harvested from the enormous leaves of the raffia palm. The dried leaves are split into strands up to 1.5 metres long and then plaited. A technique has been developed to add new strands as the plait lengthens. (The four-strand plait is very reminiscent of bobbin lace plaiting.) The

plaited strip is then sewn to make various items.

## DEMONSTRATIONS



Once again members of PBLC demonstrated at Fleetsbridge Tesco, just before Halloween.

Eve is engrossed in her work, but could Marilyn and Sue be cooking up something?



## VISIT TO BLANDFORD FASHION MUSEUM

Sue, Carol and I had a lovely day demonstrating lace at the Blandford Fashion Museum. It was their last day before closing for the winter, when the staff and volunteers have chance to take down the current exhibitions, check repack items and to prepare new exhibits. There's a lot of hard work involved with that.



We had lots of interest in our work. One lady sat with me for a long time, watching and learning how lace is made. In the afternoon there was a massive raffle where all the prizes were donated by local businesses. Unfortunately, we didn't win this year; maybe next year. We're looking forward to next spring, seeing the new exhibits and demonstrating too.

*Barbara Jackson*

SEVERAL CRAFT FAIRS were held during November and December, in various locations, with PBLC members demonstrating. These all provoked great interest. One 'have-a-go' youngster so impressed her dad with the

speed which she picked up the basic stitch, that he filmed her working, then sent it to Grandma in Hungary. Neither dad nor daughter had ever seen bobbin lace before.

*Liz Pass*

### **DECEMBER PILLOW PARTY**

Once again a keen group of members gathered in the small hall at St. George's, working on a variety of projects. As the last pillow party before Christmas a mini party was held, with delicious snacks provided by members of the committee – we even had a Christmas tree – and two raffles! The people who had hired the large hall invited some of us to sample one of their party foods, which proved to be a special version of rice pudding, flavoured with jaggery, an unrefined brown lump sugar. If you are free in February, why not join us.

### **CHARITY BOBBINS**

**Last Call.** If you haven't ordered your Blandford Fashion Museum bobbin your last opportunity to do so will be at our meeting on Saturday 4th January 2025. The wood bobbin is £6.00, and the bone bobbin is £10.50. Please see Jenny Harris to order and pay. Thank you.

### **COMPETITIONS 2025**

The **Lace Day Competition** will be for a piece of lace to fit into a 4" square. Your lace can be any shape.

The **Annual Competition** is for a piece of lace to wear. It doesn't have to be massive like a dress! It can be something much smaller – say, a piece of jewellery. What can you come up with?

### **DACA 25**

I hope you've remembered to look out any umbrella patterns for the next DACA entry. Please bring them to the meeting or pass on to any committee member. Size is not important as the magic of the computer and printer can turn any size into something suitable.

### **LACE DAY 2025**

The tickets for Lace Day on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 will go on sale at our meeting on Saturday 1st March.

Tickets cost £7.00, or £8.00 at the door, accompanied juniors £1. The speaker will be Judith Cordell – her topic, "Rosaline Perle Lace". There will be a workshop the following day; more details regarding the workshop will follow.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

*Continued from Newsletter 255 – Gill Barrett*

I was just starting to get to grips with Torchon, when Steve was posted up to Newcastle and I struggled to find a teacher up there. The local class was a bit too “schoolish” - we had to queue up with our pillows to speak to the teacher at the front of the class! I abandoned that one and just tried to do a bit more Torchon on my own but firstly, my newborn daughter and then another move, this time to Wiltshire, meant very little got done! I can recall coming home to visit Mum and Dad in Bournemouth and seeing something about a local lace group in the Evening Echo (yes, it WAS PBLC!). Sadly, way too far from Newcastle and Wiltshire too, once our son was born.

A few more years passed, and I managed to find another evening class locally with a lovely teacher called Sally. My Torchon improved considerably but I only ever dabbled in any other type, although I really enjoyed having a go at Milanese. Sadly, Sally decided to stop teaching, due to her other commitments so the pillows were put away again.....for about 15 years this time. Steve and I retired and decided to move back to Bournemouth. Fortunately, I've never been keen on parting with my “crafty stuff” so when I realised last autumn that Poole U3A ran a lacemaking class I was delighted. Carol told me about PBLC, and I decided that, in spite of still being at novice level after all this time, I really SHOULD bite the bullet and join a group!

So here I am, feeling my way back into this beautiful craft and often thinking I've forgotten more than I ever learned! However, I now realise it doesn't matter a jot as long as I'm enjoying the hobby (and still loving all those beautiful bobbins too!)

I look forward to getting to know you all well. Thank you again for making me so welcome.

*Gill Barrett (novice of 35 years standing 😊)*

### **PBLC's latest member.**

Hi. My name is **Sue Williams**, and I have recently joined Poole Lace Circle. I have sewn and knitted for as long as I can remember, mainly clothes for myself and my children, but it wasn't until I retired and joined the U3A that I discovered the world of crafting. Since then, I have tried many different crafts some more successful than others. For many years bead weaving was my main hobby, with my favourite form being bead embroidery and dimensional beadwork. I have also made several art dolls. Lace making was on the list for some time; the class is very difficult to get into! However, I was able to

join Di Pemberton's last September and am getting to grips with the process. I may never produce work as exquisite as that I've seen at the meetings, but I am enjoying the journey. I live in Canford Heath with my husband Bob and rescue cat Nelly. Regards  
*Sue Williams*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2025	<b>Pillow Party</b> 10.30am – 1.30pm. <b>PBLC</b> meeting 2pm – 4pm. Speaker – from Blandford Fashion Museum
Tues. 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	<b>Tuesday Lace</b> resumes on 7 <sup>th</sup> January
Sat. Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025 Advance warning	<b>All-day Pillow Party</b> Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025. Please note that PBLC will be joining with St George's Craft and Chat, 10am to 3pm. Entry £5. Tea and coffee available all day; scones, bacon buns, cakes for a small charge; cake stall; 'bring and buy' for unused craft items and raffle. See you there! <span style="float: right;"><i>Jenny L</i></span>
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar. 2025	<b>Pillow Party</b> 10.30am – 1.30pm. <b>PBLC</b> meeting 2pm – 4pm. Speaker – Joyce Meader Knitting for the troops from 1850 to today.
Sat. 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	<b>Lace Day</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	<b>Workshop</b> There will a workshop on Sunday June 8 <sup>th</sup> 2025 (following Lace Day) Tutor Judith Cordell on Rosaline Perle Lace. More details, costs etc to follow, but please book the date.

Our next full meeting is on **Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025**, see above, and will be a Pillow Party in the morning with the usual meeting at 2pm. If you would like to come along but need a lift, please let us know and we'll do our best to organise something for you.

*Committee*

## **NEWSLETTERS**

If you receive your newsletter by email but are unable to print it, you may ask for a hard copy to be collected at the meeting. Please speak to Carol, Membership Secretary.

## **COPY DATE**

Items for the March edition of the Newsletter should be with Liz Pass by **15th February 2025**.