

Boole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 226

4 January 2020



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A Happy New Year to everyone we hope you all had a peaceful time over Christmas and the New Year? Sadly we start January's news with the loss of Sheila Herridge; there is a commemorative piece by Liz Pass & Pat Jenkins in the newsletter.

Today's speaker is Kirsty Perks from our charity Forest Holme Hospice and our supplier is Claire's Lace. The display, in deference to our charity is 'The Forest'. We have a trip to Exeter Museum planned in May for which you can put your name down for and today's meeting will be your final opportunity to purchase one of the charity bobbins.

Finally may we say a big thank you to those of you who completed the questionnaire about future subjects for speakers – it was very helpful.

Ruth Oldridge and Penny Stevenson

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT TODAY'S MEETING

- The speaker today is Kirsty Perks from Forest Holme Hospice our 2019-20 charity
- The supplier is Claire's Lace
- Pam will have forms for future Sales Table items
- Linda B and Carol will be serving the refreshments
- Linda K will have the Charity Bobbins...your final opportunity to purchase
- Ruth will have the sign up sheet for the Exeter Museum trip in May
- 'The Forest' is the theme of the display.

SALES TABLE

We will not be having our Sales Table today as we have Claire's Lace coming as our supplier. However I will have Sales Table Forms available at the meeting in case anyone is thinking of having a post Christmas/New Year sort out of any unwanted lace items. The forms, along with the items can then be ready to be sold at our next meeting on Saturday 7 March. This will be the only Sales Table until September as we have a supplier attending the May meeting, followed by the AGM in July.

Pam Brown

PBLC TRIP TO EXETER MUSEUM

We are planning a trip to Exeter Museum on Wednesday 13 May to view their display of Trolley lace with a guided tour of that display by Carole McFadzean, who you may remember gave us a very interesting talk at our Lace Day last year.

The cost of the trip is £22.50 inclusive of fare, coach parking and guided tour.

You can add your name to the list to show your interest but at this stage payment is not required.

The Committee

BERYL MAW

One of our long standing members Beryl Maw, who won the John Bull Trophy with her parasol, has recently moved to an Oxfordshire care home to be nearer to her family. It was quite a sudden decision after her eye operations and I only found out two days before she moved. The Committee has sent her a New Home card on behalf of PBLC and she has kindly allowed me to pass on her address should anyone wish to write to her or send a card. Please let me know if you do, so that I can give you her address.

Penny Stevenson

DEMONSTRATIONS 2019



Have A Go Pillow



The Display at Scaplens Court

As I write this it is nearly the end of the year and looking back over the last 12 months I think I can say that we have had a very busy and successful year with 19 days of demonstrations at ten different venues with an army of 38 demonstrators. My sincere thanks go to you all for all your commitment and hard work. Thanks too, must go to all of you have loaned pieces of your lace for the displays which have enhanced our demonstrations.

The penultimate demonstration of the year took place at the Blandford Fashion Museum, which was an extremely busy day for the museum as well as Sue Baker

and Angela Taylor who demonstrated. On the following day Pat Jenkins, Carol Kennedy, Maureen Walsby and myself demonstrated at Scaplens Court. It was a very successful day with children and adults very interested in the Have a Go Pillow and the display of Christmas lace. We also displayed some beautiful lace made by the late Mary Gibbons.

At the moment I have no firm dates for 2020 but will let you know as soon as I have them.

Once again thank you to everyone who demonstrated and loaned lace, making our demonstrations so very successful in 2019.

Linda King

DECEMBER PILLOW PARTY



The December Pillow Party was reinstated this year and took place on Saturday 7 December. It was a festive occasion with 14 members making lace and tucking in to Christmas goodies which were delightful...the gingerbread cake on the left of the photograph was particularly magnificent and may have to become a December Pillow Party tradition.

It was lovely to have this pre-Christmas gathering again. Thank you to all who attended. We hope to see you at the February party.

The Committee

EBB AND FLOW LIVES ON

It was lovely to receive this article written by Stacey Nicholson. Stacey had been a long time student in various groups run by the late Dorothy Watson. She continues to attend the self-help group which meets at The Stocks Inn on a Monday afternoon. It is a particularly timely piece as there is information in this newsletter detailing a bobbin lace design course being organised by Jane Atkinson and Pierre Fouché in June 2020.

Photo 1



I am a very novice lacemaker, but I have been wanting to design my own pieces for some time. After a couple of attempts – results best described as 'interesting!!' I went to two Ebb and Flow workshops in the Autumn 2018, with Pierre Fouché and Jane Atkinson which gave me the courage, and the toolkit, to make a start.

My theme is the way invertebrates underpin our ecology and these two small test pieces are experiments to see how a design based on tree bark would translate into the stitches in my mind (which to be perfectly honest were of a somewhat limited repertoire!)

The invertebrate of choice is of course the spider. The only design rule is that they have to have eight legs. These samples were worked on an 8mm grid. The plan is to transcribe the pattern onto a 12mm grid for a larger hanging. Photo 1 makes the point, but is basically two sets of trails joined together which I felt was cheating so I will go with the Photo 2 trail and ground approach.

It has been a wonderful experience which I've thoroughly enjoyed and learned so much. I feel very excited at the prospect of continuing to work with Jane and Pierre in June.

Stacey Nicholson

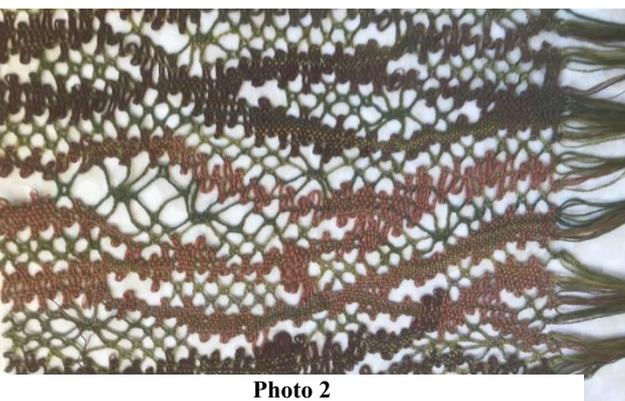


Photo 2

FARNHAM VILLAGE STREET FAIR 2019

In the middle of dark, cold winter it is lovely to read about an activity that took place in August 2019. It reminds us of those long, light and sunny days still to come. Thank you Liz for brightening our short winter days.



Farnham Village Street Fair

One of the biggest worries for organisers of outdoor events is the British weather. Will it be so hot that visitors will flock to the beach? Will the whole day be a washout with torrential rain; will parked cars sink to their axles in mud or will howling gales blow away the marquee and direction signs? Fortunately for the organising team of Farnham Street Fair on August 10 2019 none of these occurred. However it had been touch and go as the preceding

days were lashed by extremely strong winds. As the date drew nearer I was expecting a phone call cancelling the event but optimistically packed everything necessary for an interesting lace demonstration. There was just one problem left...I couldn't find anyone to go with me. There were weddings, foreign holidays, family visits and other reasons. I'm not worried about demonstrating on my own, but company is always welcome on the journey and to share the conversation with visitors as well as chatting during the lulls.

So it was that Maureen Walsby and I set off. The weather was sunny but still very windy. I was worried about falling trees along the country roads but as we drove further from Poole the wind lessened and on reaching Farnham there was only a strong breeze. All the stall holders were setting up. The village Allotment Society had fresh produce for sale; there were delicious home-made cakes; afternoon teas; plants for sale and bric-a-brac to name just a few. Some enthusiasts had bought their vintage cars to display, while others showed off their Porsches and similar! There were tombolas and raffles along with music and Morris Dancing everything you would expect from a village fair.

Maureen and I set up the display in St Laurence's Church. We were not alone. There was a lady who made exquisite pictures with machine embroidery and another lady had loaned numerous quilts to be displayed for the occasion.

The afternoon was busy. Many visitors had never seen bobbin lace before and were keen to ask questions. Some purchased pieces of lace which I had inherited from PBLC members who had passed away with the result that St Laurence's Church was £30 the richer. The afternoon passed rapidly and soon it was time to pack up. I'm looking forward to next year. Who wants to come with me?

Liz Pass

DONATION TO BEATSCAD IN MEMORY OF JEAN LANE

Geoff Lane reports that BeatSCAD (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection) were really pleased to receive PBLC's donation of £50 in memory of Jean Lane. Both Geoff and Beat SCAD wish to thank all at PBLC for this donation.

Jean Organ

SHEILA HERRIDGE - OBITUARY



Sheila Herridge Demonstrating with Pat Jenkins

Many of you will have heard of the recent death of Sheila Herridge. Sheila was a long time member of PBLC and was already active in 1982. She is mentioned in Newsletter 3 when Claire Jenner reported on PBLC's trip to the Royal School of Needlework.

When she first became a student of Dorothy Brown, Sheila was working at Fourways, a day centre for people who had suffered strokes. For occupational therapy, Sheila organised craft activities of all kinds and was always looking for new ideas. Sheila was a very talented lady and introduced many people to a variety of crafts and skills. Her standard of work was of the highest, not only in bobbin lace, but also calligraphy, embroidery, needlelace and the work she produced was always beautifully presented, showing her creativity. She did not hide her light under a bushel and regularly entered PBLC's annual competition as well as the Dorset Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Always an active member, Sheila became part of the PBLC committee, eventually becoming editor. It was during this time that she completed City and Guilds Embroidery Part 1 in 1987. It was in the same year that she entered a competition run by "The Lady" magazine, sending photographs and a description of an embroidered box that she had made. This was selected for the final judging in London and Sheila received a cantilever sewing box complete with contents. As a result of this success Sheila organised several box making workshops. Not content with this, she also began to design her own lace and once again her talent had come to the fore.

Over the years, Sheila's lace won many certificates and trophies, including PBLC design, Rose bowl and DACA's Champion of Champions. If you wanted someone to demonstrate at any event, Sheila was the one. Along with other members of PBLC, Sheila was plaiting and twisting in Bayeux, Merley House, Stapehill Abbey, Lewis Manning, Dorset Arts and Crafts and, more recently, Walford Mill when Jane Atkinson held her exhibition, Ebb and Flow.

She wrote articles for the newsletter, demonstrated, attended workshops, went on organised trips and threw herself into anything asked of her, including organising the tea rota for meetings. This elegant lady, modest and humorous, who was always willing to take part and share her talents, will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to her children, Nicholas and Melanie, and her sister in Australia.

Pat Jenkins and Liz Pass

SHEILA HERRIDGE'S ARTICLE FROM 2015

We had a look in the archives and found this piece written by Sheila Herridge so you can all have another read....

PET SHOPS, GUNSMITHS AND LACEMAKING...REMINISCENCES OF MAKING LACE IN THE 1980s

There seems to be an epidemic of nostalgia about the origins of the revival of lacemaking in our area. I don't go back to the very beginning but to classes run by Adult Education and the never-tiring patience of Dorothy Brown. I can only interpret my own personal journey which will enlighten you to the fact that 'we had to really want to make lace' because the introduction and getting started was hardly a simple task!

My inspiration for lace wasn't even fired at this point. I was still caught up in macramé which was all the rage at the time. There is hardly anyone of my age or thereabouts who wouldn't have had a trailing tradescantia suspended from the ceiling hanging in a macramé creation!! My husband spent many hours poking holes in the ceiling from the loft with me shouting directions 'Left a bit', 'Back a bit'. By the time a suitable place was found the ceiling resembled a peg board and the air had turned a distinct shade of blue. I, along with half the population, made belts, covers for flowerpots, bags and I even covered a huge glass flagon. It was while measuring out my string, which necessitated multiple trips to the end of the garden and back that my thoughts turned to lacemaking. Small scale thread conveniently wound onto bobbins. How hard could that be?

Back to my words 'you had to really want to make lace'. Firstly, the pillow, now that was no easy task. We were told to find some kind soul to cut a circle of plywood. Then make a trip to a local pet shop to buy a bale of straw. Luckily at this point I was barred from setting foot inside the house for once the binding string was cut the straw seemed to explode into sufficient straw to feed two elephants for a week! I didn't need much straw to stuff the pillow but the pieces of straw had to be cut into one inch pieces to allow the pins to lodge securely.

A cover was prepared with the required opening through which to stuff the straw. It needed the strength of Hercules to get the packing hard enough to support the pins - funny how the men are always absent when some muscle is needed! As we made our lace various creepy-crawlies appeared on our pillows popping up through the pin holes. There were several unscientific remedies around to cure this problem - fly spray administered inside a plastic bag or leaving the pillow in the freezer for a few days, however I can't recall if they were successful or not.

The source of brass wire for our spangles required a trip to Jack Smith Sport and Gun Merchant at Park Gates. We obtained rabbit snares much to the surprise at the counter. Why was it that seemingly elegant ladies suddenly had a blood lust for poor rabbits? The patterns, pricked from someone's used one and often a little worse for wear needed lines re-drawn on a new pricking copied from the old pattern. Mistakes with this operation were frequent but we didn't know this until our lace failed to work out correctly. Rarely was there a photograph of the finished piece so only by completing the first pattern repeat did we have something to copy. Woe betide if the first piece was wrong waiting for the next week's class to rectify errors. It was Pam Nottingham's book of lace patterns that became our Bible with just fragments of patterns to copy as photocopiers were a thing of the future. What a blessing when lace patterns arrived in abundance.

Lacemaking has been my salvation in a way, occupying the boring bits of my life and many hours sitting beside my husband when he was ill. Over the years I have accumulated some wonderful friends without whom my life would be much the poorer. Thank you all so much.

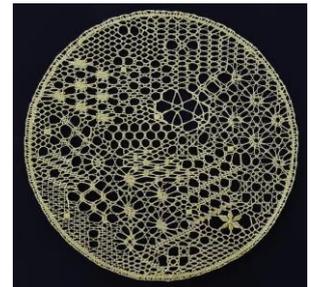
Sheila Herridge

NEXT MEETING

Our next gathering will be the February Pillow Party on **Saturday 1 February**. All are welcome to come along to St. George's from 1.30 to 3.30 for an afternoon of lacemaking, refreshment and chat. The next meeting takes place on **Saturday 7 March** when Penny Muddell will give a talk on The Straw Hat Industry. Doors open at 2pm. The display is 'Lace for the Head'.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

- Saturday 15 February** **Short Course: Story of Lace**
1:30 to 4:30 at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, EX4 3RX. Fee £30
- Saturday 22 February** **Short Course: Unflappable (1920s Fashion)**
1:30 to 4:30 at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, EX4 3RX. Fee £30
- Saturday 21 March** **Short Course: Introduction to Devon Lace**
1:30 to 4:30 at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen Street, Exeter, EX4 3RX. Fee £30
- Saturday 4 April** **South Oxfordshire Lace Day**
10am to 4pm at Benson Parish Hall, OX10 6LZ. £4.40 entry.
- Sat 25 - Sun 26 April** **Brockenhurst Needlework Fiesta**
Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 3.30pm.
Brockenhurst Village Hall, Hants SO42 7RY. Entry £3
- Saturday 6 June** **Poole Lace Day**
10.30am to 4pm. St George's Hall. Tickets £5/£5.50
- Sat 13 – Sun 14 June** **'Painting' with Expressive Ground Stitches**
A bobbin lace design course with Pierre Fouché at Mudeford Guide HQ, 108 Stanpit, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 3ND



EDITORIAL

Well it's that time of year when probably a lot of lace gets made. There are still five months for you to make or locate your entry for this year's PBLC competition entitled 'Twenties' and lots of opportunities today to get supplies for this, or indeed any other project you have in mind, from our supplier Claire's Lace. The finished entries need to be given in at the first evening meeting of the year on Friday 1 May. Remember that if you enter the PBLC competition, PBLC will pay for the entrance fee and arrange transportation of your entry to the DACA exhibition in August. Another reminder – our Lace Day competition is entitled 'Floral', these entries too can be submitted to DACA should the individual agree and live in Dorset.

It was lovely to have Liz's article about the Farnham Street Fair to bring us a reminder of the summer, as well as Stacey's piece telling of her experiences of designing lace with Pierre Fouché, especially as we have details of Jane and Pierre's upcoming course in June. It's exciting to have a PBLC trip/outing to look forward to as well.

I am sure that Sheila would be happy to know that PBLC continues to promote so much in the way of lacemaking and camaraderie. Having been a long time member Sheila always supported the Circle so enthusiastically and happily. When I first took over as editor of the newsletter Sheila wrote the most wonderful article about how people purchased lace supplies in the 1980's..it was quite hilarious. Thank you Sheila...a beautiful lacemaker - RIP

So lots to keep us occupied as the year progresses. Copy date for the March newsletter is **Monday 17 February**. Please get anything to me by the usual means. Meanwhile Happy New Year greetings to all.

Linda Burn