



# Poole Bobbin Lace Circle

NEWSLETTER 229

3 July 2020

## **EDITORIAL**

If nothing else this period of lockdown has given me the time to look through the last six years of newsletters. In the July 11 2014 edition Eve, outgoing editor, wrote 'I retire after six years on the committee...one year as demonstration secretary and five as chairman and editor. I am looking forward to being able to concentrate on designing more of my own lace and also to making more of the Binche lace that I love.' I cannot believe that it has been six years since that was written. Judging by Eve's contributions to the newsletters including this one I think Eve has achieved her hopes. I would like to thank everyone who has made contributions over the last six years. The newsletter has always been a vital part of Poole Bobbin Lace Circle's way of keeping in touch with its members and that is more true today, in these unprecedented and unusual times, than ever. I have learned much from the articles that have been written, photographs included (especially since the newsletter went electronic) and information disseminated.

Things continue far from normal even as we begin to come out of lockdown but this edition has some interesting pieces detailing people's activities during the enforced stay at home period. I was happy to read that Pierre Fouche's lace design course had been able to go ahead albeit on line. The means of keeping in touch that I wrote about in the last edition are continuing, indeed they seem to be flourishing. Now added to the Christchurch Lace Society's Facebook page, Zoom meetings with various groups and group emails I heard that some members of the Stratton Lace Group took part in a virtual day. This sounds amazing...maybe an article about how that worked for the September issue.....

But I will leave that to Ruth who will take over fully as Editor after this issue. Every good wish to her as she continues to document the work of PBLC. My sincere thanks to Margaret Eaglestone who was so patient with me six years ago; thanks too to Jean Organ for formatting the newsletter over the last two years and to Lily for printing the hard copy and thanks once again for all the support you, the members, have given me over the last six years. Hopefully it won't be too long before we will be able to return to our regular meetings and greet each other in the flesh.

*Linda Burn*

## **AGM**

The July meeting has been cancelled in accordance with Government directives. The PBLC AGM will be conducted by the PBLC Committee at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020; no other members will attend. The AGM will take place at Upton Park, Poole. The Chairman's Report, Balance Sheet, Voting Form and Agenda will be issued to members via email (or post for those without an email address). Members are requested to complete and return the Voting Form to Penny by email or post before Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.

*The Committee*

## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2020/21**

Next year's Programme of Events has still to be finalised, please bear with us at this difficult and unusual time. We will endeavour to complete the programme in the not too distant future so that it will be available for distribution at our next meeting.

*The Committee*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Please find attached to this newsletter the members renewal application form. In the light of the current situation and the cancellation of several meetings it has been decided that the fee for 2020/2021 will be waived. In addition the insurance levy has also been waived due to the uncertainty of demonstrations taking place. However we will still be purchasing the insurance from the Lace Guild so that members will be covered when demonstrations do resume.

If you wish to renew your membership please print off and complete the attached form and return it to me, Penny Stevenson, at the address shown on the form, by **Friday 4th September 2020**. There is no requirement for a SAE as the programme for 2020/2021 has yet to be finalised.

Please **do** return your forms as they are part of your GDPR rights and maintain up-to-date membership information, including Lace Guild membership to calculate the insurance costs.

*Penny Stevenson*

## **GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)**

PBLC has taken the following steps to ensure that it is GDPR compliant. The Committee has agreed that this GDPR information below will be published annually in the July Newsletter at the time that members renew their subscription.

Each year when membership is renewed, PBLC collects the following data for each member – name, address, email address, telephone number and Lace Guild membership number.

The membership renewal forms containing this data are held by the Membership Secretary and the data is transferred to a spreadsheet to which only current members of the Committee have access. They hold this data on their computers which are password protected.

The data is renewed annually and kept only for the duration of membership.

The data will only be used for the purposes of PBLC and its Committee and will not be used for any other purpose or disclosed to any third party for any reason. For example it is used only to inform members of events, last minute changes to the programme, sending out the Newsletter to those who have requested it by email and for emergency uses.

When members are emailed PBLC uses the BCC facility so that no one has access to anyone else's email address.

Each year, on the membership renewal form, members are asked to sign to consent to PBLC holding their data on a database.

If at any time a member wishes to withdraw his/her consent for PBLC to hold data then the current Membership Secretary should be contacted.

**In Addition** – Please remember that if the Committee members agree to their personal details being on the new Programme Card then these must not, under any circumstances, be given to a third party. Anyone may contact PBLC via the website 'Contacts' page using the generic email address provided.

*PBLC Committee*

## **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020**

This year Linda Burn is retiring from the Committee after six years as Editor of the newsletter and three years as Competition Secretary. I am sure you will join us in thanking her for all her efforts during that time. We will be presenting Linda with her commemorative bobbins at the first meeting after lockdown.

In 2022 we will be losing another three members (including your joint Chairmen) but, like Linda, they all carry out more than one role on the Committee so it will be akin to losing five or six members. We realise that you are thinking 2022 is a long time in the future but it will soon come round. Ideally we would like to recruit new members the year before as it would give them time to settle in before such a large departure of members.

As we have said before we are very friendly and don't bite (except the biscuits at Committee meetings!) and with more members joining the Committee regularly we can avoid similar scenarios. So **PLEASE** consider joining the Committee this year as without new members it will be difficult to plan the future for PBLC.

*The Committee*

## **PUZZLE CORNER**

I told you in the last newsletter about one of my Dad's puzzles – YYURYYUBICURYY4ME – which turned out to be "Too wise you are, too wise you be, I see you are too wise for me." The lace bobbin which was inscribed – XURXUBICURXX4ME – therefore translates as "Cross you are, cross you be, I see you are too cross for me." I always understood that inscribed bobbins were often given to sweethearts by their admirers. I guess this was one romance which ended before it had begun, a bit like being dumped by e-mail these days!

A similar puzzle is quoted by T.L. Huetson in the book "Lace and Bobbins" -

XURANDXUBANDXXURTOME

The author suggests that this meant "Cross you are and cross you be and too cross you are to me." Was this a peace offering? I'm not sure and I don't suppose we will ever know.

Here's a new photographic mystery for you. What do you think it is? It's about four inches long, just over half an inch wide and probably made of bone.



Liz Pass

## DOLPHINS ARE NOW SWIMMING

My lace pillow cover is now completed; lockdown gave me the missing time needed. It is a quilted cover made Bargello style.

I used eight different fabrics in pale to dark blues. As I wrote in the PBLC March Newsletter I fortunately had quite a few blues in my fabric stash and bought two more from Seahorse Quilting in Canford Heath. The intention to create a design which would resemble the sea and sky. I cut these into two and half-inch wide strips that were then seamed together with the fabrics changing from light to dark, this was then joined together into a tube. The next stage was to cut across the tube in varying widths to give strips of one and a quarter inches to two and a half inches wide, which allowed for seams. A seam was then unpicked to open out the tube staggering the first fabric of the strip. These new strips were then joined together. Having completed the patchwork, the backing and thin wadding were added and tacked together.



Dolphin Lace Trim



Completed Dolphin Pillow Cover

I wanted to quilt it in a wave pattern and this I achieved with the help of a flexible ruler and tailors chalk to mark the stitching line. At this point it nearly got thrown out because the thread kept snapping as I machine quilted it, very frustrating! Lots of time was spent unpicking the incomplete rows. I then added a solid dark blue backing that was folded over to the front and hand stitched with mitred corners. The lace dolphins were hand sewn with a slipstitch onto the front. As there are no stitches on the back it will not catch on the pins in the lace work on the pillow. I am very happy with the finished cover. I will bring the cover to the first meeting of PBLC, hopefully at the end of the summer.

*Eve Morton*

## **PAINTING WITH EXPRESSIVE GROUND STITCHES**

This was the title of a course for lacemakers that was proposed to take place on the weekend of 13th and 14th June 2020. I first heard about it last year and thought it sounded interesting although I hadn't the faintest idea what it could be about. I got the information and let the organiser, Jane Atkinson, know that I was interested. I've been to several courses organised by Jane over the years and was sure that everything would go smoothly. But then – coronavirus struck and lockdown started. What was going to happen?

The tutor, Pierre Fouché, was already booked to run the same course in America. All interested parties were consulted about the possibility of using the wonders of the internet and the idea was met with enthusiasm. Pierre and the Americans went ahead, Pierre at home in South Africa, USA lacemaker's venues on the East Coast and in Chicago. This proved to be a successful solution, so we were all delighted when it was proposed to repeat the course in Britain.

Instead of two whole days, the course was split into four days, each class lasting four hours including breaks. It was at this point that I got dragged into the twenty first century. A Zoom group was set up for sixteen of us; we had a short introductory session teaching us the essentials of Zoom and we were ready to begin. We armed ourselves with stationery, pencils, felt pens, coloured pencils and tracing paper. Pierre sent us a some e-mail attachments with workshop notes and isometric graph paper, which is constructed of equilateral triangles. The workshop notes I viewed on the iPad and the graph paper printed out ready for the big day.

We used the graph paper to draw diagrams of many different stitches: rose ground, snowflake - large and small, honeycomb, mayflower and grounds such as Mechlin, triangular and others. We had an excellent teacher who demonstrated each stitch patiently and clearly. He encouraged us to practise little clusters of stitches on an A2 sheet. As the days went on the sheet gradually filled with a whole variety of motifs, until there wasn't much room left.

Then came the time to isolate a section in order to create a piece of lace. We cut a hole in some white paper; circle, rectangle, square or hexagon, and began to move the mask to show a suitable area to work in lace. I found several areas that I liked and chose to scan each one in order to compare them. Now there is only one thing left to do. I'll need to change the working diagram into a pricking, wind some bobbins and set to work (after I've finished the piece that I started several years ago for one of PBLC's annual competitions.)

What did I learn?

- not to be afraid of something new
- to draw working diagrams on isometric paper (I found this much easier than using squared graph paper or torchon dots)
- the utter calm that descends on the brain when it changes from left to right side activity
- everyone can create a design that is unique
- there are some excellent teachers in the lace world – Pierre is one
- I have something else in my lace vocabulary to draw on when needed

Thank you Jane. Thank you Pierre.

*Liz Pass*

## THE UPSIDES OF LOCKDOWN

I hope that you have found plenty to occupy yourselves over this period of lockdown and the downsides of this situation have been outweighed by the upsides. I have certainly discovered this and I hope you have too. New unwanted circumstances have brought new opportunities.

Firstly the garden – with so much free time we all have wonderful gardens, the weather has helped, of course. We had the most wonderful display of bearded irises and peonies earlier in the year and now the agapanthus, begonias and lilies are in bud and about to open. David has had plenty of time to mend the fences damaged by the wind and rain earlier in the year, replace all the log roll around the flower beds, cut the hedges and put up new trelliswork as well as help me with the gardening.

I subscribe to Garden Answers every month and with each issue comes a packet of seeds, which I normally pile up and never use, well, not anymore! So here was a new opportunity, especially as Garden Centres were closed at the start of lockdown. I planted the seeds – all flowers, both annual and perennial. Personally I prefer to take cuttings; I'm a bit like Carol Klein. I loathe the pricking out stage for seedlings – but I made an effort and gave it a go! I'm very pleased I did – I have some very healthy sweet peas, lupins, leucanthenums, verbena and nigella. I've got the bug now and I wait eagerly for the next edition of Garden Answers to see what will come.



Around the Pond



Compilation of Spring Flowers

I wonder if, like me, you have plenty of UFOs. Well I had one that has been waiting for me to complete for the last 30 years – but not anymore! Back in the 1980s I embarked on a mammoth crochet project - to make a bedcover for our double bed. I had a pattern for a single bedspread made out of large crocheted squares which I aimed to adapt for a double bed. The single bedcover was made up of 104 of these squares plus a fairly large edging. Needless to say I did not complete the project; I realised that it would have taken far too much thread and would have been very costly. I made just 29 squares but had some thread left over. So with the 29 squares and 3 more I have just made, I have crocheted together four on each side, so eight altogether for one cover and created four cushion covers.



Crochet Cushion Covers

I also had some lace UFOs – three place mats edged in lace awaiting a fourth one. That has now been completed and I have even started on lace edging for the serviettes. I like more than one lace project on the go simultaneously and I have completed two mats in Bobowa lace. In a recent 'Lace' magazine there was an article about this lace from Bobowa in Poland. I thought it was really stunning so had a go at creating my own.

At the start of lockdown I was at the beginning of a weaving project which I have also completed. Guess what – more place mats but this time with matching coasters! It was going to be my entry for DACA this year, but I am not going to keep them for 2021 as we want to use them before that. The design is in double weave, so one side is the negative of the other. My preference is for the predominately green side.



**Bobowa Lace**



**Woven Place Mats**

At the January West Country Embroiderers meeting at Wareham, where the challenge was to create a piece of Deerfield Embroidery. Deerfield Embroidery is a form of blue-on-white work associated with the town of Deerfield in western Massachusetts. I don't always complete the projects each month so I have a stack of UFOs, but not this time. I incorporated it into a card for our neighbour who was 90 at the beginning of June.

Over the last three months I have achieved much and although lockdown was very restrictive and there were downs the ups have certainly compensated, I do hope that has been true for you.

*Margaret Eaglestone*



**Deerfield Embroidery**

## **CHARITY FOR 2020/2021**

It was decided that, due to Covid-19, Forest Holme Hospice our charity for 2019/20 should be carried over for 2020/21 and an interim donation be made to them. This decision was made as we were unable to raise any further monies due to the cancellation of meetings and Lace Day. The sum of £500 was sent to Kirsty Perks who has sent her sincere thanks to all at PBLC on receipt of this interim donation.

*The Committee*

## **DECEMBER PILLOW PARTY 2020 – CHANGE OF VENUE**

The December Pillow Party, planned for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December, cannot be held at St George's this year due to a prior booking. We have found another venue that will give us the space and parking required, it also has a kitchen and, along with the usual facilities, there is a disabled toilet. The venue is Sandford Community Hall, Keyworth Drive, Sandford BH20 7BD. The hall is about the same size as the small hall at St George's with an annexe room that could be available if needed. There is a large hatch to the kitchen, good lighting with plenty of tables and chairs. The Sandford group currently use it for their self-help meetings. It has some parking in the front and more around the back of the hall. More information and directions nearer the time.

*The Committee*

## **DEMONSTRATIONS**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions all PBLC demonstrations have been cancelled until further notice. As soon as we are advised of any updates of venues reopening we will send an email to all members giving them the opportunity to volunteer.

*The Committee*

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September at St George's Church Hall; however, this will only take place subject to Government Guidelines.

## **SALES TABLE**

In view of Government advice (now that some charity shops are reopening) that received goods should not be handled for 72 hours there will be no sales table activity for the foreseeable future. However if this advice changes we will adapt accordingly.

*The Committee*

## **EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS**

At the present time all exhibitions and events have been cancelled.

## **COPY DATE**

Items for the September edition of the Newsletter should be with Ruth by Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

*The Editor*