



Hi all, I hope you all had a good Christmas despite the restrictions. I think people decided to put up additional outdoor lights as there were some really stunning displays around my neighbourhood. New Year celebrations are now even more restricted, but hopefully the new tiers will allow us to have a brighter future.

We have now updated the NWR website which gives it a slightly different look. However, as I have to log in to enter items on the blog, I seem to have locked myself out, probably due to lockdown brain!!! Please have a look at your website and see what you think- **you will not need to log in to view the website, however if you do have problems please let me know.** The website remains as before-<https://nwregionembroiderers.org/>.

I intend to get the website upto date, and if you have not yet advised me of any changes to venues, officers etc please let me know asap.

I have not yet arranged for 2020/2021 branch programmes to be added as virtually all branches are not physically meeting and have had to adapt their programmes to Zoom meetings etc. However, when everything goes back to a reasonable normal level I will be asking for all programmes in Word format.

As mentioned before, I am hoping to tackle and update the NWR tutor/speaker list, so when we do get back to normality we have all the tools to hand.

Ruth Moyes has joined us on the Regional Committee, and we are continuing to hold Zoom committee meetings.

However, I am still looking for new recruits to the committee. The job is not onerous, with only 4 meetings a year at my house in Leyland (pretty central to all branches!!) the meetings are always productive and lively and normally run from 10.30am to around 3.00pm. We provide on tap tea/coffee and biscuits, plus a lovely **cake**. Please consider joining us as we really need your help.

I am still holding onto badges and certificates for 25yr/50yr service, and I am hoping to present those at the next appropriate event/s. However, please let me

know of any further requests as I can still apply for the certificates and badges from HO.

Hopefully, my Regional Chair challenge on **‘Positivity’** is being worked on by your members, but due to the dreaded virus and branches being unable to meet, displaying of the completed branch folding books or hangings will be postponed until 2021. Again, I will be contacting you all later regarding this.

I have now received confirmation from Preston and Bolton branches that they have completed their projects. Both reports with photos are on the NWR website, however I thought I would include both photos on this newsletter as they are so totally unique as each of the branches have come up with their own slant on ‘Positivity’.

**Preston**

**Slavick Library**

**Bunting**



**Branch**

**Display**

**Bolton Branch**

**Floral Collage**

**Hanging**



Well done both

Branches

If any other branches have completed their Positivity challenges, please let me know and I can include the details on the website. We desperately need a positive outlook at present- little did I know how pertinent the subject would be!!!

I sent out details of another project '**Loving Earth**' which has the approval of the Guild and is again very apt for these times. Climate Change has been held on a back burner to some extent, but it is an extremely important matter and we must tackle it now. I intend to do a couple of pieces based on melting Glaciers and deforestation. If you have decided to be involved either individually or as a branch I would be very interested to know. It is entirely **free** to enter.

As reported in my November newsletter, a live Regional Day 2021 has unfortunately been cancelled and ticket monies returned. However, Merseyside have advised me that they are a good way into setting up a virtual meeting- details will follow. Please keep that date available – **24<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Let us hope that the proposed Open Day **Oct 2021** and Regional Day for **2022** ,hosted by Glossop branch, will be viable, but again we will let you know, fingers definitely crossed.

As far as we are aware Summer School will still be held on **25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. I have already sent out booking forms, and they are also available for download on the NWR website. Please contact me if you have not received or do not have access to a booking form, and I will send one. Hilary Cresswell is our Summer School Co-ordinator and she assures me that some forms & deposits have been received but numbers remain low. Please consider booking as if we do not have sufficient numbers of students the event will have to be cancelled, even if safeguarding issues are in place. This would be a great shame as we may then have problems booking future events at Waddow Hall, which could mean the future for NWR Summer School looks bleak.

However, I can assure you that in the event of Covid preventing Summer School from going ahead we will refund any deposits paid. Hopefully with vaccinations we may be okay, but it will then be down to Waddow to give the go ahead. You still have up to 15<sup>th</sup> January to send your booking forms and deposits. We are going to review the situation in March, so please book now to ensure subject to Covid restrictions Summer School continues.

We have booked two great tutors- CarolAnn J Allen '**Eco Dyeing**' and Helen Barnes '**Indian Stitches**'. In addition, there will be no increase in course costs- **a great bargain**.

Please continue to let me know how your branch is coping during this strange time, I would love to add info to the NWR website and if you know of any events/exhibitions etc it would be of great interest to our members.

Please note that articles must be in Word format and if applicable jpeg photos only.

The Guild are still working very hard to keep all their members informed and interested, with Contact Magazine and E books. Please encourage your members to read these and send in any articles they wish to see included.

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**Any magazine is only as good as the material received.**

The Guild Members Challenge for 2020/2021 is 'Exquisite Containers' so this would be a great theme for future branch meetings- come on NWR members lets show the rest of the Regions how great the NWR is.

Hopefully members are still renewing their Guild memberships which this year is to be paid direct to the Guild. On a personal point once I received notification from HO, I just followed the instructions and I found it to be a very easy process. Branch subs will obviously not be collected until branches can meet as normal, and the arrangements for this will be down to each branch.

The Regional Committee are holding Zoom meeting in January and we will be discussing how the Regional Levies are to be paid to Marguerita our Regional Finance Officer- She will let Branch Treasurers know.

As most Charities and businesses are failing to generate enough revenue to run them it is most important that you retain your enthusiasm for the Guild and renew your membership when prompted. Without your continued support our unique charity which provides education opportunities to all, along with caring for and preserving our extensive and priceless collection could fold. This would be a great loss to loyal members, students and the public.

Please keep in touch with me, with any good news, queries and ideas- your input is always valued.

Sue -NWR Chair