



# Chainstitch

Otago Embroiderers' Guild Inc

May 2020

## A message from our president, Mary Flaherty

It is now seven weeks since we went into lockdown. Covid-19 has had a resounding effect on the world, its countries, its regions, its communities and to individuals. 'Stay safe and stay at home' has had a huge impact on each and everyone's normal activities and has provided us time to think and change many of our ways of doing even the simplest of tasks. Kevin and I have resorted to online shopping and like many of you wash our hands many times during the day and use sanitizer. At the beginning of lockdown a merino firm from Queenstown was making and sending merino masks free to anyone who wanted them and we were lucky enough to get one each. Like many of you we have our family living overseas and it will be sometime before we see them. So Whatsapp has been a very useful medium for us to keep in touch.

Even my teaching has had to adapt to new ways of learning. Last Saturday I had senior university students sit twelve Licentiate Teaching papers online and this Saturday will have two more Licentiate papers being sat. Seven weeks ago I started to teach online using Skype and Whatsapp and have really found it worked very well for theory exams. Both Trinity Guildhall and Speech New Zealand have had to adapt their examination schedules this year. Some students will sit exams using Zoom at the next examination session.

I have been greatly moved by the many acts of kindness shown to people in our community. This includes members of our Guild. I would like to acknowledge Jeanette Trotman who has been making face masks for our essential workers at the hospice/hospitals/rest homes and has been assisted by other members from our Guild.

I also want to acknowledge members of the Guild committee for the extra effort they have made to make you all feel involved and connected. Shelley has prepared a reading/viewing list of interesting articles connected to embroidery and these have been emailed to you all each week. I have really enjoyed reading or viewing them. Jane has started an OEG private group on Facebook. At present there are almost 40 members who share their embroidery with one another and keep in contact. I resisted joining for a while as I am not interested in Facebook but eventually joined and can see how beneficial this medium is at this time for everyone. Di has kept us up to date with all communication coming in and going out. Sue has provided us with little embroideries to do especially over the Easter period and Aimee has continued her great work with Chainstitch. Other committee members have supported different members of the Guild. It is wonderful to hear our general members are keeping in contact with those on their own. Caring for one another is special at this time.

At this stage I am not sure when we will meet again. Social distancing is going to be required in Alert Level 2 and Alert Level 1. Our wonderful programme on 'Colour' for this year may extend into next year. We are still hoping our Exhibition will go ahead at the end of the year. So please

keep embroidering your entries. In fact, because my needle and thread come out each day I am surprised at how I am starting to move through some of my pieces I have had for some time.

Look after yourselves, stay safe and follow advice from our wonderful team of leaders. We are very fortunate to live in this beautiful country where wise leadership has certainly shown us all, that people are more important than money during this tough journey.



Kitty O'Meara's prose poem "And the people stayed home" has struck a chord with all those effected by the Covid-19.

### **And the People Stayed Home**

*And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*

## **COMMITTEE DETAILS**

President	Mary Flaherty
Vice President	Sue Lucas
Immediate	
Past President	Brenda Burton
Secretary	Di Daly
Treasurer	Jane Carroll
Chainstitch	Aimee Richardson
Catering	Christine Cook
Library	Barbara Blake
Hostess	Colleen Bradley
Programme	Sue Lucas, and Jane Siddall
Treasure Chest	Pam Wilson
Website	Shelley Scoular

## OEG CONTACT INFORMATION

Secretary email: [otago.guild@gmail.com](mailto:otago.guild@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.oeg.org.nz](http://www.oeg.org.nz)  
Guild postal address: Otago Embroiderers' Guild,  
PO Box 5732,  
Dunedin, 9058

## MEETING AND MAY DAY CANCELLATIONS

All guild meetings, project meetings, and committee meetings are cancelled until further notice. May Day is also cancelled. It is the responsibility of each and every one to reduce the incidence of Covid-19 in our community. Be kind to one another, look after yourselves and call any of your committee if you feel alone and just want a chat.

The ANZEG 2020 Conference in Masterton has also been cancelled.

## LOCKDOWN NOTICES AND CHALLENGES

### Threads Magazine

Threads magazine has been either posted or popped in members' letterboxes (thank you to a couple of helpful fairies). If you haven't received a copy please email me on [jane@saltnz.org](mailto:jane@saltnz.org) - it could be that your address is not correct in our database!

I have spent quite a bit of time updating the database and correcting addresses / emails / phone numbers etc - if you have changed anything, like not having a landline anymore or moved, could you please email me with your updated information.

### Guild Library

There are three books / magazines ready to be put into the Guild Library. Inspirations No 105 has some beautiful projects ranging from silk embroidery to bead work to blackwork and lots of others. My favourite article was written by Ansie van de Walt about a lady called Widad Kavar who grew up in Bethlehem and studied in Ramallah. Widad has been collecting and recording the history of textiles that she buys from the owners and has written a book called Threads of Identity.

Stitch magazine has the details of and exhibition on May Morris - the youngest daughter of William Morris. May's work is often overlooked but was extraordinary. Information can be found at [www.dovecotstudios.com](http://www.dovecotstudios.com). On Friday nights on TV1 has been the Repair Shop. Sara Dennis is profiled and discusses how Sara went from a Nurse to a RSN tutor and the work she has done on TV, for series such as Game of Thrones, commissions and teaching.

The Au Ver a Soie 200 Years of History is a stunning book of history and projects that have been designed by embroiderers such as Jane Nicholas, Jenny Adin-Christie, Mary Corbet, Nicola Jarvis, Trish Burr and many others. I have hidden the book from my (very keen fly fishing) husband as there is an amazing section on using silk to make fishing flies. He already raids my beads, metallic threads so it would be a disaster for him to get into my silk threads!!! Although written in French this book also has sections in English.

Jane.



The new additions to the library are pictured above.

## Facebook Group

Remember to check out the OEG Facebook Page! This is a closed group which means that only OEG members can see the posts and comments. It has been set up to help us keep in contact with other OEG members, show what we are working on / finishes, and ask questions/ seek help etc. If you wish to be part of the group search for OEG Private Group and ask to join. As it is a private group you will be asked a question and need to be approved.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2020

You can now pay subs for 2020. If you have not yet paid, please do so as soon as you are able to. The committee has decided to keep the subscription fee at \$55 given that we are not able to have meetings as usual. The different membership options and prices are described below:

- Full annual membership: \$60 (reduced to \$55 if paid by 31 March 2020)
- Country Membership: \$45 (\$40 if paid by 31 March 2020)
- Associate Membership: \$30. This category is for members of other guilds. Please state the name of your Guild on form.
- Student membership: \$20 if aged between 13-18 years; \$2 per session if aged between 5-12 years.

### Payment methods:

- Cheque: made out to 'Otago Embroiderers' Guild'
  - Please hand to Jane at a Guild meeting; in an envelope with your name on the outside
  - Or you can post your cheque to:
 

The Treasurer  
Otago Embroiderers' Guild  
PO Box 5732, Dunedin 9058.
- Online: into bank account 03 1732 0001345 00
 

Payee: Otago Embroiderers' Guild  
Particular: YOUR NAME  
Code: subs  
Reference: membership type (e.g. full, country, associate, student)

## NOTICES

- **For sale:** I have a floor standing slate frame for working tapestries or similar projects. Size 43cm / 36 cm (17 inches / 14 inches). It's looking for a home! If you could use it, please ring Shirley Hudson on 4535 041 and I will get it to you when the lockdown is over.
- **Web Embroidery List:** Keep an eye on your emails! Shelley Scoular has been making a list of websites that are related to embroidery. She is regularly sending out a few websites to check out. Thanks for all of your hard work in finding these Shelley. Feel free to send through any of your personal favourites and Shelley can add them to her list.

## OEG EXHIBITION 2020 PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

### *The Power of Poetry*

Embroider a line or lines from a published poet and then embroider your interpretation to represent the imagery in the lines. The piece must be titled – An extract from (title of the poem) by (poet). This can be presented in different ways to fit within a 5-inch (13cm) by 8-inch (20cm) radius. It can be much smaller provided it fits within the measurements provided. It could be a plaque, or a needle case, or a small box or a little book. That is entirely your choice.

For example, an extract from 'Hunger' by Laurence Binyon

“I am Hunger”

Embroider examples of physical, mental or spiritual hunger. Or, an extract from 'To Autumn' by John Keats

“Seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness  
Close bosom friend of the maturing sun”

Embroider images of autumn literally or figuratively.

Children's poetry, humorous poetry and NZ poetry are wonderful sources of inspiration.