



THE SIXTY TWO GROUP OF TEXTILE ARTISTS

NEWSLETTER

April 2014
Issue # 38

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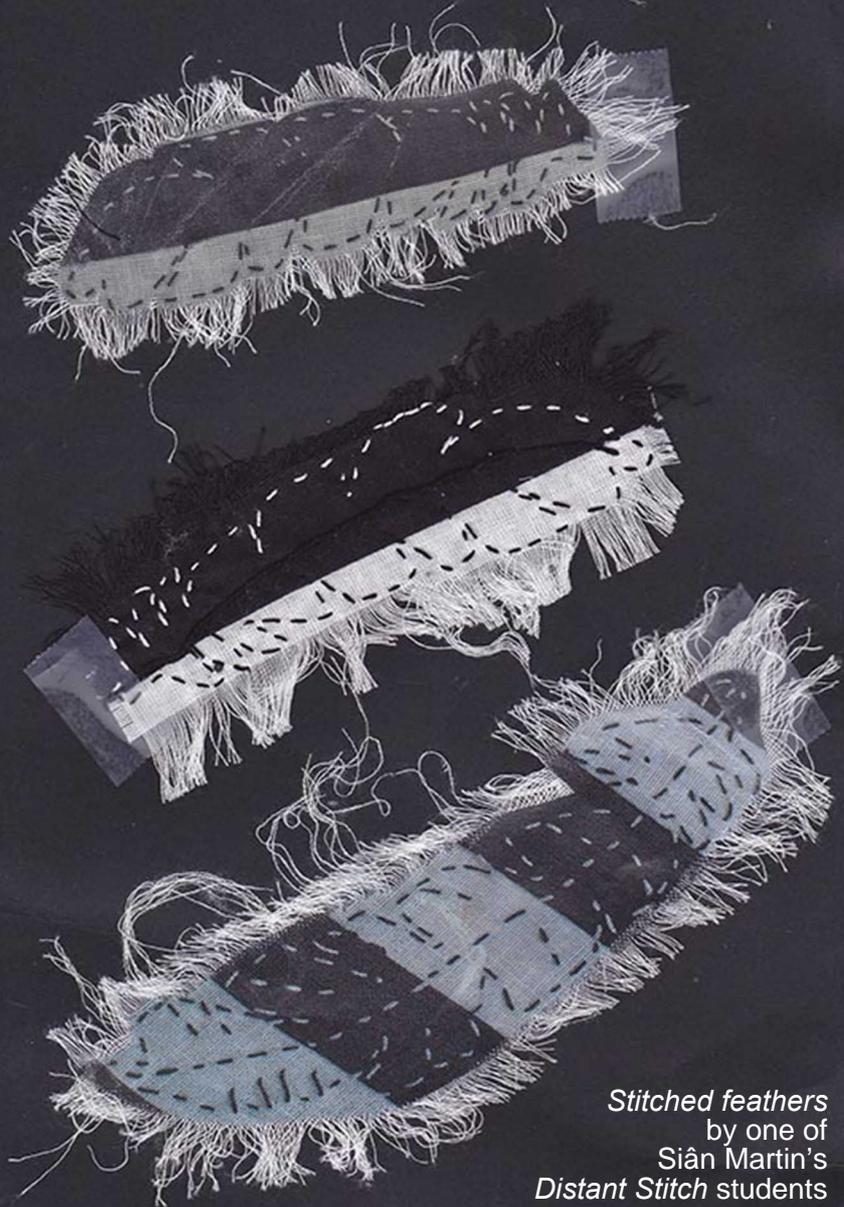
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Stitched feathers
by one of
Siân Martin's
Distant Stitch students

THE SIXTY TWO GROUP OF TEXTILE ARTISTS

www.62group.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

It is great to see a bit of Spring sunshine as I am writing this and I know, here in Grimsby, we have been very lucky with the weather and have not encountered any of the flooding and dreadful storms that some members have experienced.

We are now well under way with plans for our Ebb & Flow exhibition at Grimsby Minster and the Fishing Heritage Centre. Fourteen members made it through the bad weather to Grimsby for the Member's Research Day on the 15th February. There is more about the Member's Day later in the newsletter.

Each venue has its own unique logistical requirements and so it was difficult to put together the exhibition guidelines to include everything in detail. I have tried to clarify everything in my update in this newsletter.

One thing I couldn't put into the guidelines was that the venues have been successful in getting substantial Arts Council funding to support our exhibition. The funding will pay for several things, including photography, a printed full-colour catalogue and an extensive education programme.

Lucy Brown, our Education officer will be having a meeting with the Grimsby team in April and will have more information about opportunities for members to get involved in delivering the education programme very soon. I hope as many members as possible will want to get involved and send work for the exhibition and I am looking forward to seeing what you all come up with.

The committee have also been working hard to update the website and to progress our social networking output. Each quarter we will be compiling and sending out a Public Newsletter to those people who have signed up on our website. This will keep the recipients up-to-date with where the group as a whole, and individual members, will be showing their work, running workshops and giving talks and any other events we feel will be of interest.

Committee members have made visits to the Upfront Gallery near Penrith and the Macclesfield Silk Museum to look at the venues and confirm details for our exhibitions in 2015 and 2016. We are currently looking at venues in the South of England for future exhibitions. Imogen Aust has agreed to be our new exhibitions co-ordinator and we will be appointing a different local co-ordinator for each exhibition to help Imogen in liaising with the venues and generally keeping an eye on things.

Finally the date of the next AGM will be Saturday December 6th 2014 at St Ann's Church, Dean St, London. Please put it in your calendar now.

All the best,

Sue

ATTACHMENTS WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

There are 3 attachments with this Newsletter:

Ebb and Flow Guidelines (2 pages)
Ebb and Flow Sending-in Form and Statement (3 pages)
Ebb and Flow Checklist (1 page)

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

Imogen Aust has a new email address: iaust@dmu.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

UPDATE FOR EBB AND FLOW EXHIBITION

1. Clarification of Guidelines

Sending-in

All work should be sent to the Fishing Heritage Centre where we will be doing the selection. Selection Day is on Saturday 16th August.

Photography

David Ramkalawon from Goldsmiths College will be travelling to Grimsby to take the photographs for the catalogue soon after our Selection Day. These photographs will be at no extra cost to members but will be available both for our archive and to individual members if they would like a copy. If your work is under glass then it would help if you could provide your own professional photographs of the work for the catalogue as we will be unable to take work out of frames to photograph it. I will let you know when/where to send these images at a later date.

Catalogue

The printed catalogue and an online catalogue, which will be paid for by the venues from their Arts Council funding will be professionally designed and the layout will be completed and approved by the 62 Group prior to selection and will be ready to drop information and images into once we know what work will go into the exhibition.

2. Hanging and Installation

The Minster

The methods of hanging work in the Minster will vary depending on the site chosen. There are not many places where we can screw to the existing batons. This is possible in the High Altar area and also the spaces between the windows. In the High Altar area there are 3 batons, 170cm wide at approximately 300cm high. Photos on the 62 Group blog.

The spaces between the windows have 3 batons, 240cm wide placed 160cm from the floor. Framed work or 2D hangings for these areas should be mirror plated or be able to be screwed /pinned directly into the baton. Photos on the 62 Group blog. Other areas can be used to display work such as the pillars which can be used to tie work around or suspend work from but walls etc cannot be drilled into. Members should supply the wherewithal to display work in these areas. Lightweight work can be suspended from the ceiling at various points. The Minster can also accommodate large-scale 3D work.

Any queries re: hanging work at the Minster should be sent to:
Lee Beckett email: lee.beckett@grimsbyminster.co.uk

The Fishing Heritage Centre

This is a white-walled gallery space and 2D work can be hung using mirror plates or any system which uses screws/pins directly into the wall. Small 3D work can be displayed in glass cabinets but there is not much floor space in this gallery.

Any queries re: cabinets required etc. should be sent to: Louise Bowen email: louise.walker@nelincs.gov.uk

3. Collection and Return of Work

Work should be collected from the venue at which it has been shown. A list will be issued once the exhibition has been hung at both venues.

Fishing Heritage Centre

Collect in person: Monday 3rd November between 10am and 4pm. If collecting work in person please telephone 01472 323560 on arrival because the Centre is closed to the general public on a Monday.

Courier Collection: Tuesday 4th November or Wednesday 5th November 2014 between 10am to 4pm.

Grimsby Minster

Collect in person: Monday 3rd November between 10am and 4pm.

Please contact Lee Beckett : tel 07711 812401 on arrival if the Minster is not open.

Courier Collection: Tuesday 4th November 2014 between 10am and 4 pm.

Phone numbers for couriers: Lee's mobile 07711 812401 or Minster office: 01472 358610

I hope I have covered everything but if you have any general query about this exhibition please email: suestone@womanwithafish.com

MEMBERS' RESEARCH DAY 15 FEBRUARY 2014

Report from Sue Stone

In spite of the bad weather 14 members from various parts of the country made it to Grimsby for the Research Day on 15th February.

We started at Grimsby Minster where Lee Beckett gave us an informative tour and answered any questions that members put to him. Lots of photographs were taken and members were both enthusiastic and slightly overwhelmed by the size and scale of the exhibiting space. It would be lovely to see one or two large-scale pieces in the Minster. Lee is confident that he can find methods of suspending work from the roof at certain points, as long as the work is light in weight and there are also some decent sized floor areas for larger 3D work.

We then moved on to the Fishing Heritage Centre where NELC had provided a buffet lunch for us. After lunch Heather Belcher, our Exhibitions Officer, talked to the group about the theme of the exhibition *Ebb and Flow* and Louise Bowen, the Collections Officer, gave us an introduction to the museum's collection.

Collection and represents the best pieces from the museum's collection. It includes archeology, costume, paintings and social history. The exhibition runs until 21 April 2014. Members had the opportunity to look round the exhibition and take photographs of the space we are to use. This is the mezzanine floor of the gallery which is a white-walled gallery space, a big contrast to the Minster.

This space is suited to 2D work of all sizes but there are some glass cabinets available for use for small 3D works. There will be a heritage exhibition on the ground floor of the gallery whilst our show is on in the Unlocking the Collection series funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will be a textile and costume exhibition of items from the Joan Sleigh Collection.

After looking at the temporary exhibition we looked around the permanent exhibit which tells the story of the Grimsby Fishing Industry during its heyday in the 1950s, when Grimsby was the largest and busiest fishing port in the world and was known as 'The Klondyke of the East Coast'. The exhibit gives a real feel for the conditions that the fishermen had to endure at sea.

The group then split into two parties to go either to the collections store or on a tour around the 1950s trawler the *Ross Tiger*.

I went with the group to the collections store where we were shown items from the costume collection by Louise Bowen, the Collections Officer, the painting collection by Alf Ludlam and the social history collection by volunteer Martin Turner.

Heather Belcher went with the other group onto the *Ross Tiger*, and she reports:

We were guided around the *Ross Tiger* which sits in the dock alongside the Fishing Heritage Centre, by an ex-trawler man who had actually worked on her. He offered us vivid stories of life at sea, the constant dangers they faced and the bonds that developed between them as a result of having to rely on one another for their safety. The trawler is much as it was when it went to sea and the tour took us through the bridge, galley, sleeping quarters and showed us how the fish were stored. Particularly interesting was the explanation of how the trawler nets operated and the samples of netting techniques that were displayed on the deck of the trawler.

Siân Martin has posted lots of photographs on our blog which may help other members who couldn't get to the Member's Day to get a feel for the Grimsby venues.

REQUEST FOR HELP FROM ALL MEMBERS

Your help is needed with all of the the following:

1: Ebb and Flow exhibition

a: The selection panel is in place but if anyone can help with unpacking/packing on Selection Day, Saturday 16 August, please email: suestone@womanwithafish.com

b: We also need help with hanging the exhibition at both the Fishing Heritage Centre and Grimsby Minster. Actual dates to be confirmed, but it will be during the last week in August, or first week September, over the 2 venues.

c: Help will be needed to take down and repack on Monday 3 November at both venues.

If anyone can help with either of these please email: suestone@womanwithafish.com

2: New Members Selection

Helen Banzhaf will be helping Rachael Howard, our New Members' Officer, this year.

She will be organising the selection panels and hosting the selection days at her home in South London.

Helen is looking for volunteers for both the 1st and 2nd selection panels. The dates are:

1st selection Saturday **5 July 2014**

2nd selection Saturday **1 November 2014**

If you can help by volunteering for either of these panels please let Helen know ASAP.

Helen's email address is: h.banzhaf@hotmail.com

3: Social Networking

a: Facebook/Twitter

Michelle Stephens is working hard on our behalf to keep us up-to-date with our social networking. Our Facebook page is steadily growing in popularity but we need to keep it constantly refreshed by adding new content. This needs to be different and more immediate than our website information.

Michelle would like to add a *Member of the Month* profile. At present she has no new material for this and has requested that we ask members to send her new images of work, i.e. images other than those on our website so that it keeps the page looking refreshed and current. If you would like to be a featured artist in *Member of the Month* then please send a new image to Michelle Stephens: michelle_stephens@hotmail.co.uk

Please send the following information with your image.

Artist's name/title/dimensions/materials/photo credit.

Michelle has also requested that you send her links to your exhibitions and events so we can post them to Facebook and Twitter and let everyone know what you are doing.

Can members who are on Facebook please invite their friends to LIKE our Facebook page to increase our Likes.

NB: You do not need to be a member of Facebook or Twitter to send us these images and links. The group would like to promote all member's work so please send your links to Michelle. Michelle's email address is:

michelle_stephens@hotmail.co.uk

b: Website

Joanna Kinnersley-Taylor will be getting in touch to ask you to update your CV and images on your website page. Please help her to keep the website up-to-date by sending her your information as soon after you receive your email as possible. If you have any technical problems supplying the information please let Joanna know and she will do her best to assist you.

c: Public Newsletter

We are starting a quarterly public newsletter which will contain news of our forthcoming exhibitions and events and also details of individual member's news and events. The content will be extracted from our Members' Newsletter so please keep sending to Jan Miller your information with accurate web links to be included. If you would like to see what we are sending out to the general public please sign up to receive the public newsletter on our website homepage.

Thank you for helping!

DATES OF FUTURE EXHIBITIONS	
<i>Ebb & Flow</i> - Grimsby Minster and Fishing Heritage Centre Grimsby (see forms attached to newsletter for more details)	9 September to 2 November 2014 PV Saturday 13 September
Upfront Gallery Unthank, nr Penrith, Cumbria	17 March 2015 to mid May (dates to be confirmed) PV 21 March 2015
Silk Museum Macclesfield	June to August 2016 (exact dates TBC)

WHERE TO SEND YOUR INFORMATION TO WHOM AND FOR WHAT	
To contact all members please send an email to:	Ann Goddard anng220@hotmail.com
Website Member's News and Events Updating of Member's pages and CVs	Joanna Kinnersley-Taylor joanna@joannakinnerslytaylor.com
Social Networking: Links/images for Facebook and Twitter etc	Michelle Stephens michelle_stephens@hotmail.co.uk
Member's Newsletter Member's News and Events NB: Some of these will be included in our new Public Newsletter	Jan Miller miller.jan44@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Catherine Dormor

Based in Cambridge, England, I am an artist, researcher and lecturer. I was awarded a PhD by creative practice and thesis in 2012 by University of the Arts London and Norwich University of the Arts. My work involves textile, both as concept and as medium, and incorporates photography, video and installation but is always preoccupied with textile techniques, behaviours and processes. My current research considers the potential for textile, textile structure and textile processes to be drawn upon as models for philosophical thinking. This research has both practice-based and theoretical outcomes, which intertwine and inform each other. I have always been passionate about promoting textile as a valid medium of and for practice-research within a broader art context.

As a practicing artist, I have exhibited internationally and locally and have work in private collections. I currently teach both Undergraduates and Postgraduates at Middlesex University within the Art & Design School. I have published a number of articles, papers and reviews in a variety of publications. I currently have a book contract with Bloomsbury that considers how textile-based processes and behaviours are drawn upon by philosophers, suggesting ways in which practice-based knowledge can extend and enrich such thinking. This is due for publication in 2015. Originally studying mathematics at university, I became interested in textiles through ecclesiastical embroidery and have been commissioned to produce work for a number of churches and individuals across the UK.

Dr Catherine Dormor

www.catherinedormor.co.uk



Catherine Dormor: *Seaming*

62 GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday 1 March 2014 at 11am, National Theatre, London

1. Apologies: Imogen Aust, Heather Belcher, Rachael Howard, Siân Martin, Fiona Rutherford.

Present: Sue Stone (Chair), Lucy Brown, Penny Burnfield, Julia Burrowes, Caren Garfen, Ann Goddard, Jan Miller, Marilyn Rathbone.

2. Minutes from last meeting (23/11/2013)

- As there were no matters arising the Minutes were agreed.

3. Committee Jobs

- Senior members of the committee were chosen. Julia Burrowes will remain a senior member until Heather Belcher takes over as Treasurer. Heather will then become a senior member. Fiona Rutherford will be the third senior member.
- Exhibitions Officer: Heather Belcher will be stepping down from this role. After a discussion it was decided that going forward the role would be shared between an Exhibitions Coordinator who would oversee all exhibitions, with help from a member local to each exhibition.
- Submission Forms. Sue Stone has agreed to continue to prepare these for the Grimsby show. Marilyn Rathbone has offered to take over for future exhibitions.
- Caren Garfen has agreed to become the Archives Officer.

4. Exhibitions

2014

Koyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Penny reported on the exhibition.

- It took Atsuko, Jae, Jan & Penny 4 days to set up the exhibition.
- Screens were used to provide extra hanging space as there was only one gallery wall suitable for hanging work.
- The plinths provided, needed covering in paper, which was time consuming.
- The high ceiling made suspending work difficult.
- The boxes worked well.
- Atsuko stewarded every day. She reported that visitors consisted of 104 men & 710 women.
- Jae's lecture went well.
- Carriage worked out at just under £7.5K
- Thanks were given to Atsuko, Jae, Jan and Penny.
- As a special thank you to Atsuko for all her hard work & persistence in ensuring the exhibition went ahead, it was agreed to waive her subs for two years.

Grimsby Minster & FHC

- The Arts Council bid which was applied for by the Minster and FHC was successful so the venues have approx £10K for the exhibition.
- Education events will be a priority and Lucy has already been thinking about this. Sue will liaise with her.
- The catalogue will be going ahead. June Hill has agreed to write the Foreword.
- Sue will consult with Grimsby on how best to use June Hill's expertise.

Members' Research day- 15 February

Sue reported on the day:

- 14 members made it through the bad weather to get to Grimsby.
- In the Minster members were able to take photographs and measurements for site-specific work.
- The methods of hanging work in the Minster will vary depending on the site chosen. There are not many places where we can screw to the existing batons. This is possible in the High Altar area and also the spaces between the windows. The measurements for these are 3 x 2.4m width placed 160cm from the floor (between the windows) and in the High Altar 3 x 1.7m wide approx 3m high.
- Framed work or 2D hangings for these areas should be mirror plated.
- Other areas can be used such as the pillars and spaces in-between which can be used to tie work around or suspend work from but walls etc cannot be drilled into.
- Jae Maries and June Hill suggested that we seek proposals for site-specific work to avoid more than one person making work for the same area.
- After lunch in the FHC there were short talks by Heather Belcher, our exhibitions officer and Louise Bowen, the collections officer.
- Members were able to look at the gallery space and the temporary and permanent exhibitions before splitting into 2 groups with one group going to the collections store and another going on the *Ross Tiger* tour.
- 2D Work for FHC should be mirror plated.
- A selection of photographs from the day will be available on our blog as soon as Sian has received them all.

Selection Date: Saturday 16th August

- The selection panel will be Sue Stone (senior member), Hilary Bower, Hannah Lamb (new member), Alf Ludlam (representing the FHC and Minster), June Hill (Sue will confirm June's availability)
- Paperwork - Julia Burrows and/or Heather Belcher.
- Mary-Anne Morrison has offered to help with unpacking & packing. Penny may also be able to help.

Catalogue

- Lee Becket from the FHC holds the funding for the design of the catalogue.
- We will ask for quotes from various graphic designers.
- The layout can be prepared in advance ready for photos to be dropped into place after the selection.
- Fiona Rutherford will oversee everything.

Photography

- This will take place on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st August.
- David Ramkalawon from Goldsmiths will photograph the work.

2015

Upfront Gallery, Cumbria

- Upfront is a privately owned gallery with a puppet theatre, vegetarian cafe and gift shop. It is set in countryside several miles from the nearest village and is popular with local visitors and tourists.
- Heather has been to see the gallery and had a meeting with John & Elaine Parkinson, owners of the gallery.

- We have been offered 3 areas: a large new space with traditional white walls. It has very good natural light with floor to ceiling windows along one side of the space. It opens out into the reception and shop area, so feels large and spacious and work can be viewed from long distances. Another area includes the café itself and the other space on offer leads upstairs from the café and is two smaller more intimate rooms with sofas and good wall space (white screens fixed to the white painted brickwork). This is a place where people can walk through and/or sit on comfy chairs and relax with a coffee.
- The length of the exhibition would be approx 6 weeks. The dates offered straddle the Easter holidays.
- The gallery would not be able to pay for postage of any work or pay the £500 fee. It was agreed to waive the fee as they can offer us:
 - a fully stewarded exhibition
 - they will put up and take down the work.
 - they can provide refreshments for the PV
 - store work before and after the exhibition
 - they have an Education room for workshops
 - they can print and display labels
 - they have a shop that can deal with sales (they take 35% commission)
 - the gallery is open 6 days a week 10am - 4.30pm - closed Mondays

For images of the gallery see website

www.up-front.com

Macclesfield Silk Museum

- Sue has visited the museum and had a meeting with Annabel Wills, the curator.
- Possible dates are May-Sept 2015 or June, July, August 2016. It was decided to go for the 2016 date.
- The dates tie in with the Barnaby Festival (a contemporary arts event) which takes place in June each year and attracts a lot of visitors to the town.
- They would like a 6 to 8 week selling exhibition, commission is 35% on sales.
- They would prefer the exhibition not to be part of a tour.
- The exhibition would be open-themed as they do not want it to respond to the museum.
- They would be happy to sell books, postcards etc.
- The museum are willing to pay a £500 exhibition rights payment and have insurance and security in place in the form of CCTV which is monitored from the café/shop downstairs.
- The temporary exhibitions gallery is of a modest size with moveable neutral coloured screens. There are plenty of glass and perspex cabinets available of various sizes.
- There is approximately 25.5 metres of wall space so we would need to restrict width of work.
- They make a record of all their exhibitions in the form of photos and documentation and are willing to share this with the group for our archives.
- They would not have funding for a printed catalogue but liked the idea of producing an online catalogue similar to the preview of the Radical Thread book.
- They would provide a PV and go halves on the cost of wine for this.
- They are keen to have Education events, talks and workshops. They charge about £75 per person for a one-day workshop and they are usually full.
- We would be able to deliver work to and do selection at the museum and they are not ruling out paying towards the return of our work to members but this would be dependant on what funding they have in place at the time.

South Hill Park, Berkshire

- Anne Jackson suggested this venue at the AGM.
- Heather will visit and make enquiries about the possibility of exhibiting at the end of 2016 or during 2017.

5. Publicity Role - Redefine

- The publicity role has expanded and is now too much for one person to cope with. Fiona has identified 3 key areas the role can be divided into: Exhibitions & Publications, Website, and Social Media.
- Fiona will continue to be responsible for the publicity for exhibitions, books & catalogues with the website being looked after by Joanna Kinnersly-Taylor & social media by Michelle Stephens.
- Another member is required to help monitor the website.

Fiona has defined the responsibilities for each area:

Publicity Officer - Fiona Rutherford

Exhibitions

- Write Press Release
- Provide images and background information on members work
- Place and design adverts for magazines/online
- Provide promotional information and images for magazines/online sites
- Provide images and information for Group Website
- Create a promotional e-flyer for membership
- Liaise with gallery on design and print of exhibition leaflets/banners/postcards/posters

Books and Catalogues

- Liaise with designers/printers
- Promote sales through magazine/online adverts and through gallery shops

Website Officer - Joanna Kinnersly Taylor

- Update members images
- Update Exhibitions and Education news
- Update regularly with Members' News
- Deal with maintenance problems and liaise with Inigo our website servers
- Monitor Sales and Mailing List
- Liaise with Publicity Officer

Facebook Officer- Michelle Stephens

- Regular current posts on members' work and sharing of exhibitions and events in contemporary textiles
- Video links
- Twitter link
- Mailchimp
- Sending out public 62 Group Newsletter

Website updating

- Joanna has made the appropriate updates, former members pages have now been removed.
- It was decided to ask members to update their page at least once a year - new images, CVs updated and new text if appropriate. This would refresh the website at no cost. It would need to be done in batches so as not to overload Joanna at any one time.

- Four members are still not represented on the site. Sue will contact these members & offer help if needed
- It was suggested that we highlight Honorary Exhibiting, Non-Exhibiting members and Friends. If agreed, links could be added to any of their websites. This would add extra interest to the website and was considered to be a good idea.
- Social Networking buttons need to be added to the site.

Mailchimp and Public Newsletter

- Michelle Stephens has agreed to set up the Mailchimp account and input the database of 200+ names which have been collected through the website. Once Mailchimp is set up the 'sign up' on the website will go directly to Mailchimp and be added automatically.
- Sue suggested we send out 4 public newsletters a year. They could include a short intro from the chair with news of future exhibitions etc and members' news, a couple of images, links back to FB/twitter etc for further details.

Social Networking

- Michelle has sent information and lots of ideas on how we can get the most out of social networking.
- The more we can bounce between Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and the website the better. This will create more hits and increase the popularity of our website as it will show more hits on google search and analytics.
- Michelle suggests that the language should differ between the different platforms. Twitter and Facebook are a lot more relaxed but our website and LinkedIn would need to stay professional.
- She recommends we organise what information goes out on the different platforms as we don't want to duplicate everything.

Facebook

- Michelle & Sue are both administrators for our Facebook page. Since posting news of member's exhibitions the likes have gone up from about 170 to 534. It is a good way of publicising exhibitions as a lot of the posts have been shared thus reaching a larger audience.
- Michelle would like to introduce a Member of the Month profile. For this she would need new images so it is current and different from the website.
- We will put a call out in the Newsletter for images from members who would be interested in participating.

Twitter

- This is now set up but not active
- Twitter can be used for more immediate posts such as exhibition openings and breaking news.
- It was agreed to go ahead with Twitter.

LinkedIn

- This is now set up but not active.
- LinkedIn could be a closed group i.e. a forum just for members to talk to each other and somewhere where they could air their views about the group, and share ideas about how we should move forward. It might make members who are not on the committee feel more involved.

YouTube

- Michelle also has ideas about using YouTube.
- She says: It would be great to get short videos of each member making online. These can be posted on the platforms for people to click onto. This will create a video option to the realm also so that it's not just still image and text all the time.
- She also suggests the possibility of uploading recordings of people talking about their work.

6. Newsletter

- The copy deadline is always the last day of the month before the month it goes out. The next deadline is 31 March for the April NL. Jan will send round an email to remind members.
- The submission forms for Grimsby will go out with the April newsletter.

7. New Members

- Rachael Howard and Joanna Kinnersly Taylor have updated the New Members application form. It has been altered to include materials and techniques on the digital image list, and sending in slides has been removed as an option.
- The New Members advert will appear in Mar/April issues of AN, Crafts and Selvedge magazines.
- Deadline for New Member submissions is 4 June 2014.
- The 1st stage selection will be on Sat 5 July.
- The 2nd stage selection will be on Sat 1 Nov
- Both selections will take place at Helen Banzhaf's home in London. Helen is helping Rachael with New Members just for this year and it seemed most practical to have both selections at Helen's home.
- If anybody would like to be on the selection panel for either date please let Rachael know.

8. AOB

- Radical Thread - we are still receiving orders but still have a lot of copies left. We will promote it through Facebook and TextileArtist.org
- Finances - Julia reported that we currently have £13751 in the bank which will go down to £11924 when the last of the Japan shipping costs have been paid.

9. Date of next meeting: 28 June 2014

MEMBERS' NEWS

Siân Martin

Stitched feathers that flew around the world

Fellow members of the 62 Group might be interested in this project I have been drawn into by fellow Textile Study Group member, Bobby Britnell. She and her husband have set up the charity *Hands up for Uganda*. This aims to empower the people of Kisaabwa, by giving them hope of a self-supporting and sustainable future. Fred Ssetyaba, who comes from the village of Kisaabwa, is the Project Manager and the driving force behind this charity in Uganda and has extensive community insight, knowledge and commitment to the project.

"Kisaabwa, in Southern Uganda, is a very poor rural community lacking in many facilities that we in the western world take for granted. However the community, with our help, are determined to make a difference." They are prepared to work collectively and contribute their time, energy and skills in shaping their future. This is the Kisaabwa Project and their motto is 'We shape our destiny by contributing to it'. Bobby Britnell had the inspired idea to link the bark cloth that this community produce as a raw material with the textile world in the UK. She initiated a collaboration between Janet Middleton a maker of handmade shoes. UK textile artists were invited to 'decorate' a piece of bark cloth in any way and send it to Janet who would turn it into a pair of shoes. These would not be wearable shoes but ART SHOES, so we were encouraged not to 'hold back' from being inventive.

Responding to Bobby Britnell's inspired idea to decorate a piece of bark cloth, I thought it would be an inspired way to engage my Distant Stitch students by making a collaborative pair of shoes. Online courses have students from all corners of the earth and Distant Stitch is no exception and this proved to be an excellent way of allowing students to make a small stitched piece that would come together onto one surface. Ideas of the god Mercury, flying around the globe, seemed a good metaphor to unite us all, so I invited them to contribute a small stitched feather.

This was orchestrated through Facebook; Distant Stitch students have their own 'private' student forum where they can share ideas and give supportive messages to each other. My Facebook invitation was to send me a stitched feather was greeted with enthusiasm. Students posted their diverse stitched creations on Facebook to show us before sending them off across the world to my studio in Somerset. I would post an image of the little feathery gathering I have received each week - which raised the excitement level and sent many compliments by Facebook to their makers.

Our piece of bark cloth was now looking at if it was too small to fit some many beauties especially as many students had enthusiastically forgotten my requested maximum size of 5cms! A chat with Janet Middleton, the shoe maker, decided that she would send me a shoe template shape so I could compose the feathers strategically on the surface to ensure that all would be included within the shoe surface. A difficult task and several of the larger ones were not attached and the very imaginative Janet said she would find a way of using these feathers to 'spring' off the surface of the shoe. I suggested that perhaps she could think of the feathered shoes worn by Mercury and place these 'extras' as if they sprung from the heel. I wanted to involve Jacqui, the Distant Stitch web technician, whose many skills involve computerised machine stitching. So a grand Pfaff computerised machine was borrowed specially for the occasion, from Bredon's, a local sewing machine shop. Jacqui set it up to stitch a scanned line drawing of one of the feathers.

We used this as a repeat pattern that would attach as many feathers as possible to the surface, arranging groups within Janet's template area to make two feather-rich areas for a pair of shoe fronts. The machine stitched sweetly through all the different stitched surfaces, although I can't say that we were confident enough to disappear for coffee and biscuits while it was stitching!

The bark cloth and extra large feathers were sent off to Janet who then worked her magic, not to be seen for several weeks when she posted them on her Facebook page. Janet had used the template are for one pair and then a further seven shoes from those on the surrounding bark cloth surface and the 'extras'. As you can imagine, lots of excitement on the Distant Stitch Facebook page as Janet showed a few beautiful shoes on her Facebook page and plans were made to visit the Creative Stitches show at the NEC in March and/or London.

What a stunning exhibition they all made on the *Bark Cloth to Art Shoes* stand - Bobby and Janet must have worked so hard! The repeating pattern of the rows of pairs of shoes made a strong visual impact and created quite a stir amongst the visitors. As well as those by Distant Stitchers, there were contributions by some 62 Group members and the Fine Cell group as well as other well-known embroiderers - too many to name here. Those Distant Stitch students who could, came to admire and 'find' their feather and many photos were taken of them standing proudly besides a pair of be-feathered shoes. The Facebook photos continue as the students enjoy the culminating stages of the event and the thrill of meeting up with each other and me 'face to face', often for the first time.

The Bark Cloth to Art Shoes stand also showed the wonderful bowls and grass rugs made by the people of Kisaabwa, Uganda as well as a superb collection of stitched panels, drawings and cushions by Bobby. I'm sure this is only the beginning of the next stage for this wonderful collection of bark cloth shoes and I expect we'll be hearing more from Bobby in the future. The project has certainly helped to bring together a large number of textile artists, Distant Stitch students and I hope has enabled Bobby to raise awareness of the needs of the people of Kisaabwa.

Read more about the charity on this link:

<http://www.handsupforuganda.org/>

blg for more images: www.stitchloop.blogspot.co.uk



Bark cloth shoes by one of Siân's *Distant Stitch* students

MEMBERS LISTING

Sumi Perera

Visit the venues or follow the links to current and forthcoming shows including work by Sumi Perera:

SKETCH 2013: Plymouth College of Art. 16th March-22nd April 2014
<http://www.rableydrawingcentre.com/sketch-2013.html>

London Original Print Fair: Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London 24th-27th April 2014
<http://londonprintfair.com/exhibitor/royal-society-of-painter-printmakers>

RE Original Prints: Bankside Gallery. London. 9th May-7th June 2014
<http://banksidegallery.com/viewexhibition.aspx?exhibitionid=1089>

Bridging Post-digital Technologies: Harry Wood Gallery, School of Art, State University, Arizona
<http://art.asu.edu/gallery/harrywood/>

Suzy Shackleton

Suzy is featured in *Cheshire Life*, April 2014. Photos accompanying the article are available at her Facebook link:

www.facebook.com/suzyshackletonartist

Michael Brennand-Wood

The Bluecoat Display Centre invited Michael Brennand-Wood to curate an exhibition and *Music Makers* is his response, he is also an exhibitor along with 35 other artists from the UK, Europe, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the USA.

The exhibition (21 March – 3 May) includes the work of 62 Group members Louise Baldwin, Rozanne Hawksley, Rachael Howard, Elizabeth Tarr and Audrey Walker.

<http://www.bluecoatdisplaycentre.com/exhibition/music-makers/>

Sue Stone

Sue will be showing work in the following exhibitions over the next few months:

SBD Art Fair: Temple Newsham, Leeds, West Yorkshire

A series of small studies will be shown at this new Art Fair on 12/13 April. It will be held within the walled garden at Temple Newsham, a Tudor-Jacobean mansion set in beautiful parkland.

Beside the Sea: Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton.

5 pieces from my *Life on the Coast* series have been selected for the *Beside the Sea* exhibition which will run from 12 April to 14 June, 2014.

Summer Exhibition: The Biscuit Factory, Newcastle

A number of works from my *Graffiti* series will be shown in the Summer exhibition at the Biscuit Factory which is the UK's largest art, craft & design gallery. The Biscuit Factory is set in the heart of Newcastle's cultural quarter. Exhibition opens on 6 June. *Scythia 10*: Kherson, Ukraine

The Universal Child and *I Listen to the Radio and Hear his Voice* have been selected for *Scythia 10* in the Ukraine. The exhibition runs from 18 June to 28 June, 2014

Contextile: Guimaraes, Portugal

My work has been selected for *Contextile* an exhibition of 55 works by 51 artists from 20 countries. Exhibition runs from 26 July to 11 October, 2014.



Sue Stone, *The Boys go to London Town*, detail

...AND THE FINAL TWO...

There is a show at Somerset House (2 – 26 April 2014) of Boro cloth. “A unique opportunity to view and exhibition or over 40 exquisite Japanese Boro’s.” All work is for sale!

<http://www.somersetshouse.org.uk/visual-arts/boro>

Matthew Harris has collaborated with a contemporary composer Howard Skempton in *Field Notes*. Their individual working practices inspired their final artwork. Visit the blog:

<http://fieldnotestour.co.uk/about/>

NEWSLETTER TEAM

As outlined by Sue in this Newsletter, it is hoped to launch in July the first public Newsletter, updated and sent out four times a year. Your activities and events will reach a new and wider audience. Please let us know what you are up to: news, views, items of interest, comments, coming in. Include any web links, so members may read the details behind your contribution..

Please send your copy to Jan Miller
miller.jan44@gmail.com

30th June is the deadline for the next newsletter

Please remember to send your photos to Siân for the blogspot
www.newsletterpics.blogspot.com
sian@distantstitch.co.uk

and your personal news for the website
joanna@joannakinnerstaylor.com
or via Ann Goddard
anngoddard@hotmail.co.uk

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