

CETG ARCHIVE

Report

12th November 2018

Speaker: Jan Tregidgo

Talk: Creative Christmas Cards

Jan lives in Portsmouth on the South Coast. Her husband is from Cornwall, hence her unusual surname. She has been teaching at Missenden Abbey for decades so she is very familiar with Buckinghamshire.

Jan started her career as a primary school teacher. In 1979 she visited the Ideal Home Exhibition and saw a lady making bobbin lace which fascinated her. She took a beginner's course in bobbin lace at Missenden Abbey in 1980 and has been hooked ever since. Between 1983-85 she tried embroidery and became hooked on that too, following this by taking City & Guilds Parts 1 & 2 over four years. She now mixes both techniques in her work.

After retiring from primary school teaching, she started teaching textiles, including Christmas crafts, locally in Portsmouth.

Jan recommended several books that she has used over several years that continue to give her inspiration, including:

Christmas Stitchery	Jenny Chippindale/Kate Thorp
Quick and Easy	Debbie Mumm
Christmas Quilts	

Jan continued with a slideshow of all the many different Christmas items she makes:

Advent Calendar

Jan showed us an Advent Calendar, a family favourite, featuring a large Christmas tree on which a different decoration is placed during Advent with the last one on Christmas Eve. The decorations, all handmade with material and felt, are stuck to the tree with Velcro. It was very effective. She has now made three of these, all slightly different, for her children's families.

Handmade Cards

- Handmade Cards using all sorts of techniques - fabric with random machine embroidery sewn all over then placed under a cut-out Christmas tree card or patchwork.
- A sheet of A4 paper folded into 8, then opened up and fabric glued onto each area and different designs glued on top. This is then colour photocopied and cut into 8 to decorate cards. All your own work! She

also takes ideas from bought cards. A piece of advice: always give your handmade cards to someone who will appreciate them!

- Cut out shapes on hessian, sewn round, edges frayed and stuck on felt then onto cards - paper/felt, free machining on water soluble fabric in a Christmas tree shape.
- Quilling, tomato puree tubes (sheet metal) marked (embossed) with a pencil then machine stitched around the edge.
- Bobbin lace handmade, and also old lace, cut into shapes, plastic canvas.
- Photocopy pictures onto acetate, stitch round to look like a stained-glass window.
- Christmas sheet music ... the list is endless!

Christmas Stockings

- Cut the shape in calico. Bond different fabrics on top, making a crazy patchwork design. Embellish with ribbons, stitching, beads, buttons - use up all your stash!
- Use velvet for the reverse and line with Christmas fabric by making a stocking the same size and sewing around the top of the stocking to attach the two together.

Little stockings look good on the tree, filled with chocolate buttons - great for children.

Decorations

- Use pelmet vilene. Cut into a shape i.e. a star. Layer two together and sew silver/gold thread across the middle with beads.
- Hearts - made in a Scandinavian patchwork design.
- Felt baubles, very simple, embellished with stitching, sequins etc - pop a pound coin inside.
- Polystyrene balls, covered with sequins attached with pins - any coloured sequins, very pretty.
- Oxo cube boxes, covered with fabric and tied with ribbon - very effective on the tree.
- Special baubles made with fabric covered card in a rounded diamond shape slip stitched together along the edges. These can be embroidered first before covering the cardboard shape.
- Little rolls of festive paper tied with ribbon and a decoration, very simple and effective.
- Suffolk puffs, up to 12 starting with 10" then 9.5" ... placed on top of each other to make a tree. You can put a cotton reel at the bottom with a pencil through the middle.
- Pelmet vilene in 2 Christmas tree shapes covered in fabric on both sides, machine down the middle to attach to each other and open out - makes a standing tree.
- Patchwork table mats and runners, Christmas cake bands, hangings, little bags for money presents, mini garden pots for candle holders.

The ideas go on and on!

Family Traditions

Jan makes a decoration for each of her family every year, the same design but all slightly different. She started this in 2000. Each decoration has the name and year on it.

In 2001, it was stars.

2002 - Angels

2003 - Flat baubles

2004 - Bobbin lace designs with beads

2005 - Christmas trees

2006 - Bells

2007 - shop bought glass baubles with the names and dates on drawn each

2008 - lace twirly designs

2009 - no decoration. It was a busy year when she wrote a book and had a house extension!

2010 - Snowmen made of bobbin lace

2011 - lace stars, the names and dates were printed very small and stuck on a sequin fastened with clear nail varnish

2012 - Bells

2013/2014/2015 - lace designs

2016 - Idrija lace design from Slovenia

2017 - Wreaths with bells in the middle

2018 - not made yet, but will be angels

Jan makes fabric crackers which she opens at one end to put a present in. If the present is too big she puts a note inside to look somewhere in the house for the present. There is always a Christmas Tea Cosy on the table.

Jan modelled her Christmas waistcoat made at a workshop with special LED lights, battery powered hidden in an inside pocket - very festive. She also wore a waistcoat she made using lots of excess fabrics in black and gold put together in a crazy patchwork design.

Many of Jan's Christmas items were on display for us to look at afterwards. We came away with so many ideas, most very simple and easy to make. Thank you Jan for passing on your enthusiasm and inspiring us to have a go at making some handmade Christmas crafts!





Liz Smith's Announcements at the meeting

Committee

I would like to introduce you all to the committee old and new. Their photos will be put on the website very soon, but until then you will just have to try to memorise their faces!

Function	Name
Chairman	Liz Smith
Treasurer	Val Jenkins
Minutes Secretary	Tina Leslau
Programme Secretary	Helen Jenkins
Speaker Support	Michaela Matza
Communications	Fiona Brown
Organising the tea and coffee rota	Gita Szwerc
Meet and greet and scrap book and tea/coffee buyer	Linda Hillyer

Programmes

The new programme is out and available at the table where you come in. Also we have new posters printed if you are able to help us by distributing some of them please fill in the sheet to let us know where you are able to place them so we don't duplicate the effort.

Fees for 2018/9

I just want to clarify that you can still pay one payment of £25 and then £3 per meeting rather than £55 straight off. Don't forget you can pay in cash, by cheque or online. If you need help with how to pay online just ask one of the committee.

Workshop

Don't forget we are extremely lucky to have Nicola Jarvis to give us a workshop on the 2nd Feb. Please give your name to Judith Gibson if you would like to do this workshop.

Trips

I am looking for interesting places to take you to next year - so don't forget to let either myself or one of the committee know if you visit a particularly good exhibition or know of one coming up in 2019 that you think we may all enjoy.

Out and about

See the notice board for info on what is going on in textile world.