

Monday 12 May 2025 meeting

Trish Zachariah – Sewing Nature with Thread

Trish has been a member of the Hertfordshire Embroiderers' Guild (which is now Herts Textile Art & Stitch) for 25 years. The group meet in St Albans and now has 80 members. She mentioned the links between her group, AVS and CETG; we all interact and mention each other on blogs and newsletters.

Trish learned her basic skills from her Mum/Grandma and school and used to make her own clothes as it was much cheaper to do so, unlike today. Once her children were at school, she took a course in Horticulture and Garden Design – this is where her “Sew Natural” inspiration comes from; she mostly stitches designs from nature.

She attended a Kay Dennis stumpwork course; the project was stitching two acorns and a leaf. In six hours she barely finished one acorn! She enjoyed the project and followed up by attending a few more Kay Dennis courses. She has since done quite a lot of stumpwork. She also tried stumpwork faces (with Fay Maxwell) and showed us a handmade book entitled “Facebook”, filled with stumpwork faces.



She has also tried goldwork; taking courses with Hazel Everett. Her sons especially like her goldwork beetles; insects and bugs are a common theme in her work. Other techniques shown were crazy patchwork, kantha work, hand-dyed fabrics and more. Vintage tablecloths and lace are often used in her work.

She taught residential courses at Denman College until it sadly closed. Trish now runs weekly classes in St Albans teaching all kinds of techniques and also teaches two/three residential courses a year at the Denham Grove Hotel. These run from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon and are usually themed.



One of Trish's themes (which is often taught at her classes) is a "Herbaceous Border" embroidered hoop. This includes many different embroidery stitches. Another design uses satin ribbonwork which works well for bouquets and flower borders.

She often starts a design by tracing a subject using a Micron pen, then adds some fabric paints and finally a little embroidery. This way you don't need to embroider everything in the piece.

The majority of Trish's display of work was embroidered books. The books idea originated from when she first joined the Embroiderers' Guild and was helping the Young Embroiders who needed smaller items to help them get started. The books are cut out using a Sizzix machine (which gives a wavy edge). The pages are then put together as collages which can include charms, buttons, feathers etc. The fabric pages are calico which is torn at the edges, the cover is calico and interfacing (four layers). They all have a cuff on the cover and are threaded through with a thin rope to hold it all together. Trish has made a lot of wonderful books, and she had brought a large selection for us to look at, handle and admire.



There were also two framed embroidered collages on show, one on a seaside theme. These were inspired by a piece of wrapping paper. All the little elements (squares and rectangles of embroidery) were sewn separately and then overlapped over a backing fabric. Also on display were little embroidered and embellished fairy shoes (inspired by Annette Emms).

Trish was a warm, friendly, talented embroidery artist; it was an inspiring evening.

See more of her work on:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrishandPaula/>

<https://uk.pinterest.com/trishazac/>

