



WITWATERSRAND EMBROIDERS' GUILD NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Hello everyone,

I am overwhelmed when I think that we have got through a year at WEG, and have managed to do so, so very successfully. Of course, there may have been hiccups, but I can't even think what they are at this stage; obviously they were not very serious.

My first thank you, among so many, is to the 2023/4 committee who have been so supportive to me and helped in numerous ways. As a reasonably new member, I am ignorant of many of the traditions and activities of the guild, but Helen, Alice, Diane, Jenny, and Agness have all helped me to get through it, without too many ruffled feathers!

We have tried hard this year to unite the two meeting groups. An organisation cannot survive if there are divisions, and we feel that Tuesdays and Saturdays are now closer to knowing each other and understanding the different dynamics. This can only improve. In particular I would like to thank Helen and Alice who, despite being "Tuesday" members, have attended as many of the Saturday meetings as they can, to get to know those members and start to forge a unity that will only improve in the months to come. Having workshops which were not 'day dependent' made a difference and these will continue until we find a Tuesday workshop co-ordinator.

I am encouraged at the goodwill and friendship that has been forged between the two groups, based on the love for each other which has always been a hallmark of WEG. The WhatsApp group, for which we have Hilary Walker to thank, has made a huge contribution to our closeness.

I look forward to 2024, after a restorative break, and to many more happy hours of creative endeavour together. Meetings start on the 9th and 13th January.



BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Janet Holloway 12th December
Sharon Clarke 13th December
Tricia Leichman 15th December
Lucia Singh 17th December
Cordelia Robinson 20th December
Khay Moosa 27th December
Nellie Molgard 27th December
Jenny Henning 28th December



AGAIN, IF WE'VE LEFT YOU OUT PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS.

WORKSHOPS

EXTERNAL/BEGINNERS

Alice has taken a break from the beginners workshops as the year ends, but we will pick them up again in 2024 if there is a need for them. Anyone who wants to learn something is welcome to contact either Alice, or me, to find out more.

Alice 082 926 9704

Danny 082 565 6401

FINAL INTERNAL WORKSHOP: SMOCKING

Helen O'H suffered a horrific injury to her hand, which necessitated an operation under general anaesthetic to repair a tear to the veins in her hand. Of course this meant she had to cancel the final workshop, but we will be offering it again in the new year. I will let you know in 2024 when that will be.

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

As I mentioned last month, we really want to be able to offer workshops at both meetings but are still without a facilitator/co-ordinator for Tuesdays. This makes it impossible to run Tuesday workshops unless one of the committee takes it on as another portfolio, which is not possible at this stage. If you see yourself being able to contribute, please contact Jenni to discuss it.

Jenni Langford: 082 489 1624

WORKSHOP COSTS

A reminder that we will be calculating the cost of each workshop as they come up, and will let you know beforehand, what they will be. The minimum cost in 2024 will be R50 but will increase should the kit costs exceed that.

KITS for SALE

Based on the success of the workshops this year, we are considering making kits for sale, based on requests from the members. These will be used to generate income for Igħali. This is a challenge for us, as capacity is always a problem, but we will definitely be tackling the idea in 2024. Please let us know if there is anything in particular you would like us to try.

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR WORKSHOPS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO POP YOUR SUGGESTIONS INTO THE SUGGESTION BOX, IN THE TEA CUPBOARD AND IF POSSIBLE WE WILL ADD THEM TO OUR LIST OF WORKSHOPS FOR 2024

SALES

GUILD SALES TABLES

Linda Putter and Alice Per have faithfully, every month, taken all the sales goodies out of the cupboard and set up the tables. This is no small task, and they do it uncomplainingly and even manage to smile. It is a great contribution to all of us, and to the Guild funds which are used among other things, to pay the majority of the costs for the year-end Party. It is I fear, something that is taken for granted and goes largely unnoticed, but we would miss it if it was gone.

Thank you Linda and Alice, for your wonderful and loyal work this year. We really appreciate you both.



Please contact Alice Per or Linda Putter if you would like to sell your own things. An 'honesty' donation to the Guild of 10% of what you sell is all that you need to pay.

Linda 072 4069842

Alice 082 926 9704

OTHER SALES

Toni no longer sells her treasures on a Tuesday; however, she is still selling on the first Saturday of the month and will be available on the phone if you need anything. Don't contact her in December though, she and Gordon are going to Ireland to visit family! Travel safely Toni and have a wonderful time.

Toni 0824527311

IGHALI

The Ighali committee has met to discuss the needs of the conference and will be communicating with us in the new year. A huge challenge is the fundraising. If anyone has any ideas, or contacts that could help, please contact Toni or me in the new year to ensure that we can run a successful conference.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEETINGS

The committee has held its last meeting for the year and will be meeting again only in January 2024. If you would like to bring something to our attention, or ask us to consider anything, please either put it in the suggestion box, or message any one of us, or you can email it to witsembroidery@gmail.com

I am so grateful to everyone who works on the committee or supports the work of the Guild. Without these tireless contributors, we would not be able to have a Guild at all.

I repeat my call for volunteers. Feel free to offer your services. You will be so welcome.

COMMITTEE

Danny 0825656401, Helen 0627421232, Jenni 0834891624, Diane 0721194938, Agness 0812708581, Alice 0829269704, Cuki 011 493 3777, Dot 082395 3308
Linda Putter for Sales 0724069842 and Ciaran (Tea) 0729964030 (alternate)

DONATIONS

The gifts which everyone so generously brought to the year-end party will be delivered to the Abraham Kriel Bambanani Childrens Home. In 2024 I will be meeting with them to forge a closer relationship and to find out if there are ways for us to work with them to support them. Anyone who would like to donate to them, I there are people moving home and downsizing, you can contact them on 011 839 3058 and speak to Darlene.

Any other donations which we can use, can be brought to us at the centre. This includes donations of embroideries which we can add to the gallery wall. Thank you all so much for your ongoing generosity.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Neith Thompson continues to improve, despite her ongoing challenges. Helen O'H had the most spectacular bruises from the injury to her hand, but is almost better, thank goodness. Agness JVR continues to get stronger, which is a blessing.

I had a lovely restful holiday in Nature's Valley, which has to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. Here is just one picture of the beach.



Jenni Langford is off to the UK to visit her family there, and Toni Billing, as I mentioned is going to Ireland.

We have held our last meetings for 2023, the centre is now closed. Our first meetings will be on the 9th and the 13th of January 2024!

Please send me any news you would like to, and may, have published here.

TEA TABLE

Please volunteer to do the eats for tea if you have not yet done so. The lists are in the tea cupboard. Please start thinking about the dates in 2024 that you could commemorate by doing tea for your friends.

YEAR-END FUNCTION

What a wonderful success! I suffered from extreme FOMO on the 2nd while we were driving back from our holiday as I received photo after photo from various people. It looked fantastic. I don't think there was anything that was negative (aside from loadshedding but Ho hum...)

A party like that means extreme team work and it can never be down to just one or two people. This year's party started in the planning stages months ago when Helen and I met with Debbie the caterer to discuss our ideas and to get her input on the menu. Debbie did a fantastic job I think. Thereafter Helen took on all the administration, bookings, and liaison. Without her hard work the party would not have been the success it was.

I'm sure everyone realises how much work Helen does for the guild: keeping our books up to date, paying for things, organising, keeping records, depositing, reminding the Chair to do things...the list is very long. We are forever indebted to you, Helen.

The rest of the committee also helped and supported, and I am grateful to everyone of them. Alice as always, if ever-present, supportive, and organised. She was responsible for sourcing the gorgeous cookies, for helping decorate and generally making sure things ran smoothly. Di and Jenni, with help from volunteers and the other committee did the wonderful decorations. A team effort. I am so proud of everyone and thank you all so much.

These are just a few of the pictures. Please feel free to share any that you have on the group.







This last picture is fuzzy, but I could resist it! They both make me smile every day.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year. Be safe and happy over the holidays, if you are traveling take it slow, and please everyone, have a wonderful rest.

Lots of love

Danny

December 2023