



WITWATERSRAND EMBROIDERS' GUILD NEWSLETTER

January 2024



MEETINGS BEGIN ON THE 9TH AND 13TH JANUARY 2024

Hello everyone

Let's welcome 2024 with hope and enthusiasm. Wishing you all a year of love, laughter, and success. May the New Year be filled with vibrant moments and unforgettable memories and lots of stitching!

We have another year which has been given to us to fill with good times, friendship, and creativity. Despite the terrible things that are happening in the world, and our anxiety about them, we have a chance every week or so, to put aside those worries and invest in ourselves and our own craft.

I am looking forward to learning more stitches this year, to hopefully getting finished with the alarming pile of UFOs, and embarking on more projects which make me happy. More about our 2024 workshops in later newsletters.

The Royal School of Needlework published a series of 25 Elizabethan stitches during December 2023. Their Stitch Bank is a fantastic resource of over 350 stitches. It can be downloaded onto a computer, or a phone. You can access it here: <https://rsnstitchbank.org/>

Do have a look at the Elizabethan series which reveals a fascinating view of the kind of embroidery that was taking place 500 years ago.

This year in the Chinese calendar is the Year of the Dragon which according to the Chinese horoscope brings authority, prosperity, and good fortune. No-one can complain about that for a predication!

One of the (many) artists I follow on Instagram and Facebook is Yumiko Higuchi and she recently posted this gorgeous embroidery for the Year of the Dragon.



She is a very talented artist who constantly innovates but retains her own particular style and point of view, which is very delicate and feminine. What I would like now, is for one of our experts to show me how to do the stitch she used for the dragon's scales! Or perhaps I should consult the RSN Stitch Bank...

You will find her on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/embroideryart.jp?tn=-UC>

And on Instagram, here: <https://www.instagram.com/yumikohiguchi/?hl=en>

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Alex Begg 6th January
Amina Ismail 18th January
Jasmeen Omarjee 22nd January
Danny Wimpey 31st January

IF WE'VE LEFT YOU OUT PLEASE LET US KNOW

Birthdays are excellent opportunities to celebrate by bringing tea to a meeting. I have already pencilled myself in for tea at least once during January.

WORKSHOPS

EXTERNAL/BEGINNERS

If there is a demand for beginner's workshops, we will run them again. Please let us know if this is something you are interested in, or if you know someone who may want to do one. We are always looking for ways to share knowledge and introduce newcomers to our craft.

Contact either Alice, or Danny (see number under the committee paragraph)

FINAL INTERNAL WORKSHOP OF 2023: SMOCKING

As you know, Helen O'H suffered an injury to veins in her hand, which was repaired under general anaesthetic last year. We will be arranging that the workshop takes place during the first quarter of 2024 and more information will follow.

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

Please think about assisting or running workshops on Tuesdays; please contact Jenni to discuss it.

WORKSHOP COSTS

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

Please let us know if there is anything in particular that you would like us to design a kit for. As mentioned, we will be using sale of kits as a potential fundraiser for Ighali.

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

Sales tables will be set up as usual in January. Anyone who has the inclination or capacity to help Linda and Alice, please let any one of us know.

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.

OTHER SALES

Toni will sell her stock on the first Saturday of January, provided she has recovered from her trip to Ireland. She is also available on the phone if you need something in particular.

Toni 0824527311

IGHALI

The crucial challenge of 2024 will be to run a successful conference. This entails many different aspects, including finding a venue, budgeting, and fundraising. We have a dedicated committee, headed by Toni, and we will welcome any suggestions that you may have regarding Ighali.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEETINGS

The committee will be meeting again this month to do a bit of planning for 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 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 Ciairan (Tea) 0729964030 (alternate)

DONATIONS

The Abraham Kriel Bambanani Childrens Home collected the gifts which you so generously donated at the Party. I will be meeting with them in the next few weeks to find out if there are ways for us to work with them to support them. Anyone who would like to donate to them 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

Dear Cordelia lost her husband, Bill in December, and herself is not well. We are so very sorry Cordelia and are sending you our love and holding you close in our hearts.

Tricia Leishman is moving after nearly 50 years in her house. Good luck Tricia, I know you will tackle this challenge with your usual energy, enthusiasm, and good humour.

Agness is still recovering but, as always, an inspiration and a joy. We love receiving your messages Agness, thank you.

PLEASE SEND ME ANY NEWS YOU WOULD LIKE TO, AND MAY, HAVE PUBLISHED HERE.

TEA TABLE

I repeat my call for volunteers for tea. I think we had wonderful tea parties in 2023 and we would love it if we can continue that into 2024. The lists are in the tea cupboard. Thank you, I know that this call is really unnecessary, judging by your generosity in 2023.

Here's to a great 2024 – see you next week!

Danny