

South East Region

January 20th 2010

Dear Chairmen,

Happy New Year. I hope you have all heard the news that the Guild offices are to stay at Hampton Court Palace for a little longer. The search for new premises will go on, but we should be able to avoid a temporary move. This means that you can tell your members to send their entries for the Members Competition on the theme of "Shelter", to the place as instructed on the entry form by February 7th. These will be on display at the Annual meeting in Nottingham April 9th – 11th. The next edition of 'Contact' should have all the details about this and full branch contact details and venues.

I hope that some of your members will be planning to go to Nottingham and that you will submit any questions you have at the AGM. We will be voting for a new National vice chairman, following the sad death of Maggie Judges.

The Regional Summer School May 21st -23rd has three tutors Bobby Britnell, Susan Briscoe and Jae Maries ready to teach you. It will take place at Earnley Concourse from Friday evening to Sunday teatime. The cost is £235 for residents and £150 for non residents. I have attached an application form and a small flyer to entice your members. Please try to let them have the information quickly because we already have a lot of interest.

Preparations for the regional day at Whitelands College Roehampton on July 17th are well in hand. Diane Bates will give the Madeira lecture, although with her it may be more of a cosy chat! in the afternoon. In the morning we will have tours of Parkstead house and the college's collection of May Queen Costumes. The tradition of an annual May Queen was started at the suggestion of John Ruskin in 1881. Jan Beaney made costumes during her time at the college. Anthea Godfrey will be with us and we plan to have an open discussion on the Guild's educational role. This will include contributions on The Arts Award *' for Young Embroiderers and Level 1 city and Guilds courses run by branches. There will be the Guild bookshop, other traders and our branch challenge competition "Tote Gallery". I hope you have asked your members to make some useful and decorative tote bags, The Young Embroiderers will be displaying their work for the Coats Competition with the theme of "My Face Bag". Any young Embroiderer may send an entry. Details from Thelma Cooper or Joan Hazell

It has been four year since we had a regional exhibition of our work so this year we have booked the Stables Gallery at Hall Place in Bexley for the whole of October. The theme for the exhibition is "Inspired by the world". Any work done within the last two years will be eligible, including any entries for this year's adult coats competition "Out of Africa" This will be judged at the regional AGM in Northwood on September 25th. Work in this exhibition can be sold and we will need stewards from the local branches of Bromley, North Kent, Sevenoaks and Blackheath. If anyone from these branches would like to be involved in preparing the exhibition and publicity please let me know.

I have been trying to put together a regional calendar and would like details of any special events or anniversaries to include. Kingston Branch is 40 years old this year. I have attached the dates I have so far. We will have a stand at the Brighton Show run by Linda Hoddy and Brighton branch will be there.

Do make sure that you have sent a report about your branch to Janet Brown for the regional magazine.

Best wishes to you and your members
lackie Rayer Chairman