

### GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS ...

**IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS ...** In our new mid-month newsletter we are going to do just that!

This month we hear from Sheila who lives in the North East of England in a small sea-side town near Newcastle upon Tyne.

We'll let her tell the story from here ...

I am an ex- primary teacher who took early retirement and retrained to be an adult-education tutor. Now nearing 60 I look back on what I have done in my crafts with pride.

I have been stitching since I was about 10 years old, embroidering chair back covers, anti-macasars (these were chair arm protectors), tray cloths and table cloths, mostly for my Grandmother who loved my hand made gifts. None of these pieces have survived the intervening 50 yrs. I remember nearly being put off by a Primary School teacher who made me take out a whole lot of work that she thought wasn't good enough but my Mum encouraged me to continue - thank goodness

During my working life I embroidered, crocheted and knitted and dabbled in other crafts but always came back to my surface embroidery, cross stitch and canvas work which were usually holiday projects and took a long time to complete. One piece, a foot stool for my mother, took about 20

years to be made up because it was put away in the loft for a while. I was technology co-ordinator in school and loved doing crafts with the children that I taught.

In early retirement I started a certificated course in embroidery and learnt about the many other embroideries that there are. Black-work and Hardanger being two of my favourite.

Then I started a City & Guilds course and learned so much more. This course encouraged me to experiment with creating fabrics which could then be stitched. Free-machine embroidery is now a favourite of mine along with felting and beading.

I'm still attending courses through our Embroiderers' Guild and am just coming to the end of a three year stint as Chair of a local Branch where I have thoroughly enjoyed organising meetings, exhibitions and encouraging new members to join us, spreading the word that stitching is fun. In my final year as a Diploma student (6 years total as a C&G student) I am researching the history of embroidery not only in England but also in Africa, Madeira, Spain and Italy.

During this time I have also made so many online friends through groups like The Stitcher's Village, Jayne's Attic and others. I meet other designers and textile  
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## GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS ... (cont'd)

artists and have made so many friends locally - Northumberland is a great craft county.

Apart from stitching my other passion is my garden and recently hosted a garden party and after the first proposed date was washed out with a terrible thunder storm we had a lovely afternoon the following week. Lots of nice company, food and of course wine.

Recently I raised money for Cancer Research by taking part in a 5K walk (some people ran the distance) around Newcastle Exhibition park. It was a fun afternoon. I decided to do this because both my Sister-in-Law and her husband have been recently diagnosed with a cancer.

Examples of my work can be found on my photo website at:  
<http://community.webshots.com/user/gandalfstitcher>  
And my blog:  
<http://sheilasembroidery.blogspot.com/> is my varied rambles about my work and my home life.



Would you like to share your love of stitching and photos of your work with us here at The Stitchers Voice? We have two new projects in the works at the moment and we hope you would like to be part of them.

The Stitchers Voice is planning to publish twice a month, with the mid-month version dedicated to members who would like to share their love of stitching. Email your articles, and supporting photos to Janie at : [editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com](mailto:editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com). We'd love to hear from you.



### Members Needlework Gallery

## WE LOVE SHOW-OFFS!

We are building a new Members Gallery especially for members to show off their completed stitching projects.

This building will be ready for it's grand opening on September 1, 2009!

Each member will have the opportunity to have their very own 'named gallery' with five 'picture frames' in place to exhibit their work. Pictures can be changed at any time, and there is no charge to own one of these gallery rooms.

So start sorting through your latest project pictures and get ready to become a real 'show-off' here at The Stitchers' Village!

## AUGUST 2009 COMPETITION

**3 Stitches** from Houston, Texas is sponsoring this month's competition. Have you sent in your entry yet? You'll find all the details in the last Newsletter - Issue 7!

**SPEND HALLOWEEN WITH US!**

MORE DETAILS IN THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

