

NEWSLETTER

September 2023 *no. 163*



From the Chair

Yippee!! The kids have gone back to school and as a result the sun has come back out 🐱🐱. Pity they were off for Cartmel Show as four of us spent the day sitting in a huge muddy puddle.

Yesterday I found myself having to leave mum on her own for an unknown length of time. I spoke to her neighbour who told me she would be in and not to worry. When I got back four hours later I saw Janet in lane. Stopped to ask her if mum had been ok and she started laughing. Mother, bless her had toddled round with three mugs of tea!! Janet had just brewed up for herself and Terry so she went in and she was handed a mug of tea.

"Oh" said mum "I've got a mug like this"

"It's yours" said Janet, "you've just come round with it and two others"

"Have I?" Came the reply "I must be going crackers"

She drank up and as she was going said "I'm going to leave these mugs here, you can bring them round when you've washed them!!"

Mortified 🐱🐱🐱🐱

Keep twiddling the bobbins and exercising the brain - you never know what's round the corner!! 🧠🧠🧠🧠

Donna

National Events

Date	Event & Venue
30 th Sep - 1 st October	Masham Sheep Fair Market Sq, Masham, N. Yorks
5 th - 8 th October	Knitting & Stitching Show Alexandra Palace, London
11 th November	Pudsey Lace & Craft Fair Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Stanningley, Leeds LS28 5TA
16 th - 19 th November	Knitting & Stitching Show HCC, Harrogate
2 nd December	The Makit LQ&N (Lacemaking, Quilting & Needlecraft) Christmas Fair National Conference Centre, Coventry Rd. Solihull B92 0EJ
18 th -22 nd March 2024	The Lace Guild Spring School Yarnfield Park, Stone, Staffordshire (see LG website)
April 2024	Beads Up North, Haydock Park Racecourse Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 0HQ

From the Editor

Dear Lace-making friends,

Well, here I am, banging on about the weather again: By the time you had all received your June newsletter, the hot weather had effectively gone! We've had a pretty dismal Summer school holidays, an all-too-brief Indian Summer, for the first week of September, and a pretty blustery, rainy last 2 weeks of Summer, before the Autumn Equinox... that landed on the Saturday of our Autumn Lace Weekend. Talking of which, I'm afraid we didn't have space, in the last newsletter, to report on April's Lace Weekend, so "two for the price of one", I'm delivering the pictures from both, this time.

Having finally bought a campervan (with shower, loo, etc), having talked about it for at least two decades, we spent most of the last three months looking forward to getting away in it. With all sorts of family commitments, it was that Indian Summer week before we finally made it to Chester, for the start of a Welsh Coast Odyssey. The joy of a campervan is the freedom to spend nights off-grid, in designated town car-parks, pub car-parks or simply free-parking seafronts. On the front cover of this newsletter is a picture of our rear-door view across Holyhead Marina - absolute bliss! Of 17 nights in total, 7 were off-grid: Chester Zoo park-and-ride (with Rhinos for neighbours!), Holyhead Marina for the sea views, Aberystwyth seafront for the sound of surf (10 feet away), Pendine seafront for rock-pooling (definitely NOT too old for THAT!), and Brecon for the sheer fun of it!

Best of all, I found the perfect spot in our various storage lockers for a lace pillow, accessories, plus folding table. I spent rainy hours, happily lace-making - but isn't that what holidays are for - self indulgence?

Happy lace-making until next time, Ali O

Programme 2023

Date	Meeting
30 th September	Make Lace & Sales
21 st October	Crochet with Heather Onions
18 th November	am - AGM pm - Christmas Lace with Janice Wilkinson
16 th December	Continue/finish Christmas Lace with Janice



Messages & Notices

From Steve Smith, on the old Winslow Bobbins website:

"11 September 2023

It is with much sadness and a very heavy heart that I have to announce that yesterday afternoon Heather passed away. Less than a year has passed since she received the final diagnosis that she was suffering from Fronto-temporal dementia. In the intervening period she has experienced a rapid deterioration. Thankfully during her final hours she showed no sign of agitation and was not in pain. I was holding her hand and talking to her when she peacefully slipped away.

In the last few months she had had no quality of life so we are thankful that things weren't prolonged and she didn't suffer. Throughout the whole time she has been uncomplaining, which was so typical of Heather.

Dennis (Sizeland) her father who started the family business and will be 94 this month, has done remarkably well, all things considered."

Hints & Tips

(new feature - looking for members' contributions)

(seen on a Facebook thread re Bucks Point Flora Lace):

1. If things look too dense for your liking, toss a pair out - to throw a pair out, here and there, is easy, especially when you are close to a gimp thread...
2. If you feel you would like another pair somewhere, simply put one in - or carry the extra pair around the gimp (1 above), until you get to the next section where you will need it. This saves so much sewing in and throwing out!
3. If you don't like the stitch they used, use what you like.
4. Do what you like to get it the way you want it.

Picked up on the Autumn Lace Weekend:

- Yvonne was doing the sewing in to link the start to the end of a full hexagon, when - horror - one thread broke before tying off. Frances reassured us that tying the remaining (lone) thread, then trimming any visible end in would not be seen, once the lace is mounted.
- Imagine a pattern where the progress is up one side of a central line, then turning at a "top", before returning down the other side. You may wonder what the worker is supposed to "stitch" with, on each central pin - it doesn't!! The worker pair is given 3 or 4 twists, then WRAPPED around each of the central pins as you come to them. Descending the other side, sew into that loop as the pattern marries up.
- Many will already know this next one - I didn't, but glad I do now! Multi-legged spiders (16+) will look pretty daunting, when it comes to the crossover in the centre. It actually needs only a clear division of the LH pairs from the RH pairs, then... taking one pair at a time from the LH side, weave across from left to right of the RH pairs. Simple!

Book Review

Ed:-

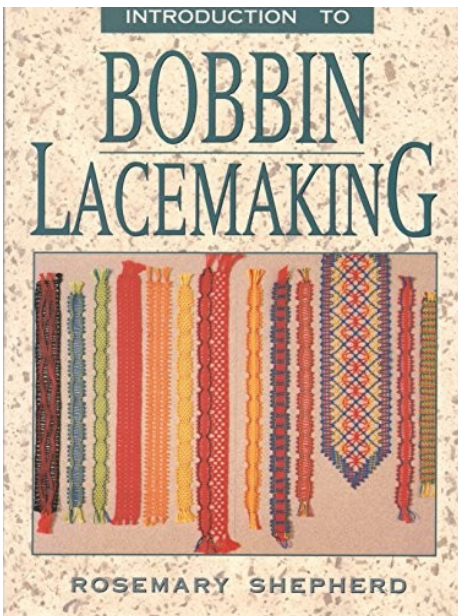
I've come up with a new thread for the SLL newsletter: "my favourite lace book - a review"

I'm hoping that this is something that everyone will feel they can contribute to, over the next few months and years. We all have a "go to" or a well-loved book that was recommended to us, when we started out. The best bit of this idea is that it not only doesn't matter if two members come up with the same book... it's actually more interesting, getting two viewpoints, or the same positivity for different aspects.

Of course, there are also books that may have left you feeling utterly uninspired, or worse, made you feel "left behind" or completely confused. If you have a "pet hate", it may help others to explain why they should "steer clear".

I only need a paragraph - two if you're feeling up to it. To start it off, this newsletter, I have one from me, and next time, one from C K-C.

"Introduction to Bobbin Lacemaking" - Rosemary Shepherd



To experienced lace-makers, this probably seems a bit simple. To me it is still my "comfort blanket", let me explain:

A good instruction book covers a single "lesson" in more than one way (written, then diagrammatic or pictorial) - Rosemary Shepherd does it at least four ways! After the first two chapters (equipment and preparation), every lesson starts with a description of the end product. This is accompanied by a photograph, a pricking and then "movement" diagrams. These movement diagrams become **very** gradually more detailed and complex, as the book progresses, but I defy anyone to feel confused or under-informed, if the method is followed as intended. The diagrams are clear and of a good size. The prickings are shown on a back-drop of graph paper, and the photos are of perfectly worked

examples. At the back of the book, there is a section on Torchon design motifs, a short explanation of "polar" graph paper, for circular and curved lace (collars, fans, etc), a little information about mounting lace on fabrics, and an introduction to "free lace". Finally, there are a half dozen pages of graph papers (10/inch, 8/inch, 2mm, 5mm and two different polar), for photocopying ready for your own designing.

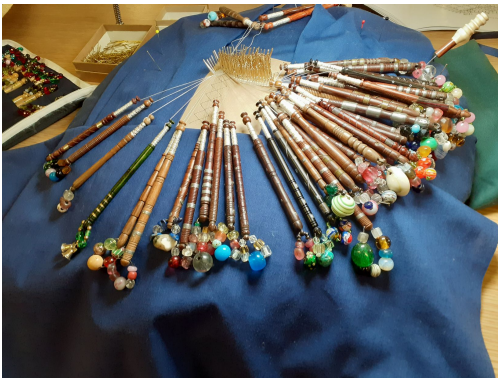
What's not to love?

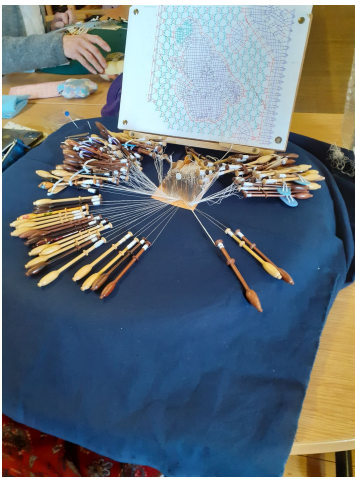
As promised, photographs from the Spring - and Autumn - Lace weekends

Spring

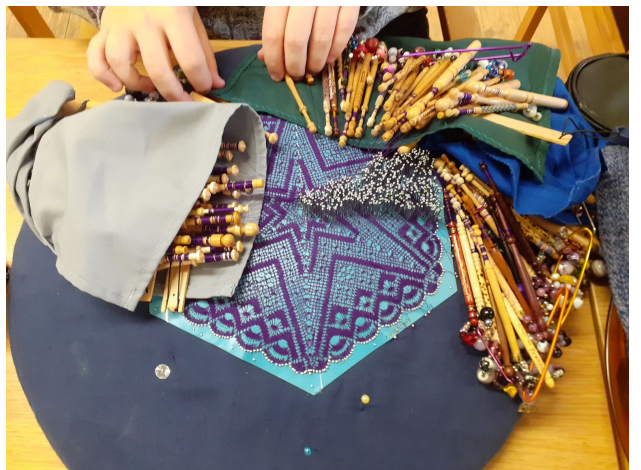


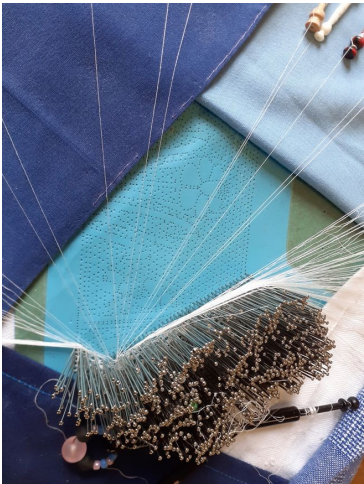
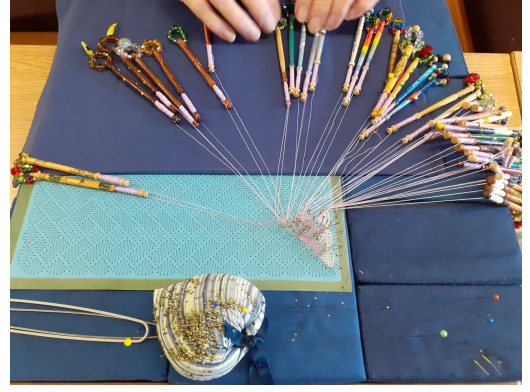
Teaser! See overleaf for Sue Egan's Dragon notes





Autumn





Above is Yvonne's beautiful "picture frame", and to the left is Frances' (both to have ends sewn in).

The daffodil C K-C finished on the course - more on that next time!

Sue Egan's Dragon Odyssey

"Mimi Dibreva's Bulgarian Dragon

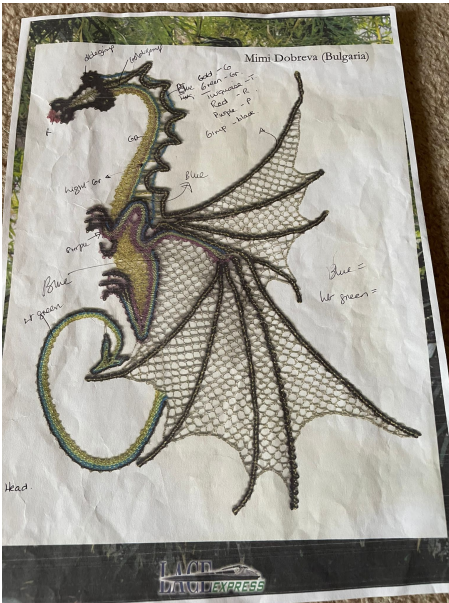
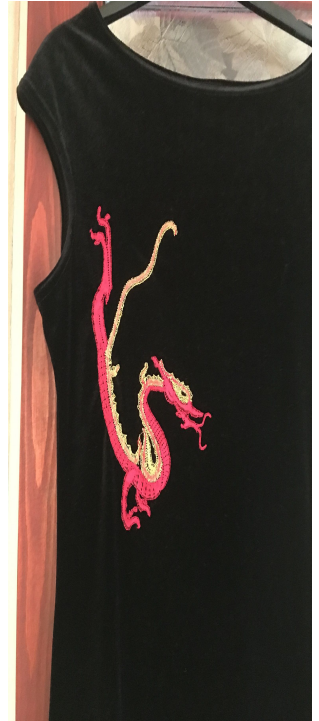
Many years ago I attended a lace course and saw a beautiful Venetian style mask made in bobbin lace, which I coveted. At the time my lace skills just weren't good enough to consider making it!

Some years later, with an increase in confidence, I decided to give it a try. Unfortunately I couldn't remember who had made it or even where I'd seen it! Christine K-C came to the rescue and lent me several Lac Express magazines with mask patterns (Venetian not medical this was pre-Covid). I didn't find the one I was looking for, but I did see Mimi Dobreva's dragon.

The finished lace was attached to a plain black dress and looked stunning, I was hooked. I was fairly sure I could handle the skills involved, but as is often the case in lace-making I had no idea how or where to start!

Frances proved to be my White Knight and with her help I was able to slay the dragon. It took several lace weekends, interrupted by Covid before I came close to finishing it. Finally, I was able to bring it to the Spring Weekend this year to show Frances and thank her for her help.

My Bulgarian dragon has started something of an obsession as I completed another somewhat simpler dragon during the Covid lockdowns and I have started another dragon - well I've prepared the pricking and wound the bobbins ready for Frances' Spring Weekend 2024!"



Woods used to make Lace Bobbins

I was recently "ogling" lace bobbins, on the internet (as I often do), and came across this image on the "Tree Carcass Tweaking" website. He offered the choice of different designs, and a selection of different timbers. I realised that, though I had examples of some of them, I had no knowledge of most of them... so here's the results of a bit of bobbin wood research!

Appended to this image was a choice of:-



Lignum Vitae - see below

Ebony - see below

Honduran Rosewood - a "not endangered" Dalbergia*

Walnut - wide mid-brown colour range; very hard

Burmese Rosewood - rare: one of Dalbergia genus*

Paquia Amarello (aka Yellowheart) - type of boxwood

Yew - see below

Plum - one of many stone-fruit woods; light brown

Other designs offered on the same website:

Wenge - see below

Osage Orange - gold to yellow; very hard

White Wenge - not related to Wenge, similar look

Chris Parson's website (The Bobbin Shop) has a similar set of illustrations, offering two price brackets, dependant upon the wood chosen:



(£2 each for this group, and £2.50 for those in the next group)

He lists, top to bottom for the first group:

Lilac - grey-beige with red/lavender streaks; fine grained but only small pieces

Zebrano - as it sounds: strong light and dark striping; hard, makes a good edge

Yew - light to mid-brown; hard enough for sharp edges

Lacewood - as it sounds: lace effect produced by the strongly mottled grain; red-brown

Pau Rose (or Rosa) - another pink to red-brown with very straight, clearly marked grain

Holly - creamy (even bright white), barely visible grain, but only available in small pieces

Box - golden yellow, takes v fine-edged design; known for antique bobbin and treen items

Laburnum - interesting green-gold colour; smooth, fine grain - almost an iridescent sheen



For the second group, top to bottom:

- African Blackwood** - another of the *Dalbergia* genus*; usually near black, no visible grain
- Cocuswood** (aka Jamaican or Green Ebony) - med. to dark brown with occasional green tint
- Pernambuco** (aka Brazilwood) - light red-brown with darker brown grain; lustrous
- Purpleheart** - amazing, almost synthetic-looking purple colour, which sadly fades with time
- Ebony** - extremely dark, described as "the blackest of all woods"; very hard
- Snakewood** (aka letterwood, leopardwood) - dark red-brown with black/dark brown marks
- Tulipwood** (confused with "tuliptree") - beautiful light beige with pink/red grain, lustrous
- Jaguars Ear** - apparently refers to the grain, not an actual species: "ripples on water"!
- Kingwood** - striking med to dark pink/red-brown grain pattern; another rare *Dalbergia**
- Satinwood** - beautiful gold colour, subtle grain, very high lustre (even glitters under light)
- Mexican Rosewood** (aka Granadillo, Bocote) - deep red-brown, with large variation in grain
- Olive** - rich gold-brown with twisted, irregular grain; hard and suitable for fine edges
- Lignum Vitae** - very dark to "black"; can take sharp-edged design

I have also come across...

- Apple** - as all fruit woods: very light to dark tan (almost coppery); can be coarse grained
- Beech** (American, European) - deep golden brown with fine grain; hard and inexpensive
- Birch** - light beige/gold, straight grained but not considered durable; inexpensive
- Maple** (or Sycamore) - all the *Acer* group: very light gold, often used for "bulk" bobbins
- Hornbeam** - like holly, pale beige, almost white; considered hardest of all European wood
- Lemonwood** - similar to boxwood: hard, straight-grained; various colours, yellow to olive
- Black Chacate** - aka Tsotso (Mozambique); a "more affordable" alternative to Ebony
- Palisander** (aka Pallisandre, Wenge) - dark to very dark tropical hardwood; hard
- Roupala** (aka Leopardwood) - med. to dark red-brown, with "leopard" markings; coarse grain
- Mahogany, Australian** (aka Jarrah) - the expected deep red-brown; hard and lustrous
- Kauri, New Zealand** - hardwood; warm mid-brown, fine-grained, with poss. "shimmer"

* CITES appendix II genus-wide restriction

The last day for items for the 'December 2023' Newsletter is:
(Saturday) 2nd December 2023
Please email to Ali Ongley at:
aongley@yahoo.co.uk



"De Kantlossers" Emiel Jacques

Committee Members 2022

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