



# *M.N.S.*

## *NEWS SHEET*

### *DECEMBER 2009*

Dear Members,

I had the good fortune to be at the Kensington Christmas Festival, ably assisted by Jean Priestley. The Show was a great success. Being only on for one day, it was extremely busy and brought to mind shows of yesteryear when customers had to struggle to get near some of the traders.

Charlotte Stokoe, who organises the show, once again kindly gave MNS a free table. This time we were the first thing visitors saw as they entered and although this was a great honour, it was a bit difficult to demonstrate various techniques to the visitors due to the constant passage of people coming in and out, and the limited amount of space. We were opposite a delightful Amsterdam “street” of 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale houses made by the North London Miniaturists which were quite delightful. We don’t have any 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale needlework on display at the moment. I know some members do indulge in 1/24<sup>th</sup>, so anything you would like to lend for exhibition would be much appreciated.

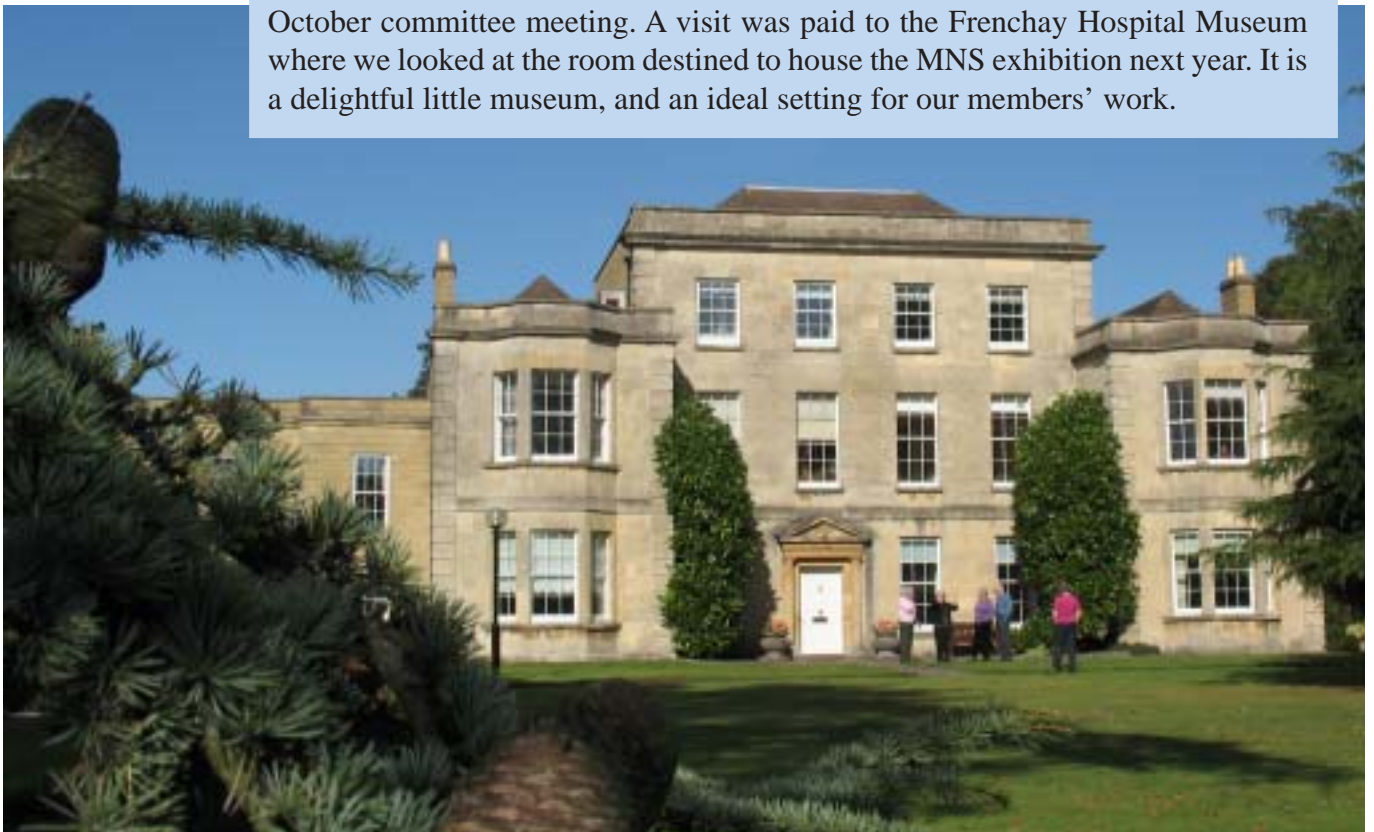
Don’t forget about our 2010 competition for a bedcover, details of which were in your last Newsletter. Entries must reach me by 28<sup>th</sup> February, and if you want me to acknowledge receipt, please enclose an sae.

I hope you all have a very happy Christmas and that the New Year will be peaceful and prosperous.

Kindest regards to you all.

*Moira Chaplin*

The MNS Committee met on a glorious afternoon at Cedar Hall in Bristol for the October committee meeting. A visit was paid to the Frenchay Hospital Museum where we looked at the room destined to house the MNS exhibition next year. It is a delightful little museum, and an ideal setting for our members’ work.



# Summary of the Minutes of the MNS Committee Meeting 10 October 2009

**Present:** Moira Chaplin (Chairman), Pat Wootten (Treasurer), Rosemary Jeynes (Secretary), Jane Tarrant, Teresa Norton, Carolyn Postgate

1. **Apologies** - Corinne Duggins (Membership Secretary), Ann Ford (Scottish Rep)
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - Agreed as correct record with no matters arising
3. **Chairman's Report** - It has been a very sad year for the Society losing two founder members, Sally Howard-Smith and Jill Swift, especially so close to each other. Free kit produced for new members was well received and more ideas required to produce more kits at minimal cost. The Bathing Belles to Bikini competition entries displayed at Miniatura and Kensington were well received. Ann Ford requested the display for Scottish Miniatura next year with possibility of going on to Houghton Hall. It was hoped that the number of entries for next year's competition would increase due to the interest shown by members at recent shows. Moira thanked the committee for their continued help and support.
4. **Election of Committee Members** - Position of Treasurer to be advertised in the next News Sheet.
5. **Treasurer's Report** - A copy of the Half Year accounts ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were presented to the committee. It was proposed and seconded that £3,000 be transferred from the current account into the savings account. New expenses claim form will be issued to members running workshops to help them balance costs incurred. Public Liability Insurance renewed at a cost of £135. Subs received from USA amounted to £362.00. It was agreed not to re-advertise in Workbox.
6. **Membership Secretary's Report** - Membership dropped again this year and responses from lapsed members as to why they were not rejoining included poor eyesight, not enough time or financial. Australia again have no new members with their membership numbers falling by over half. Suggested new members receive a copy of the MNS badge pattern.
7. **Newsletter Report** - Agreed MNS magazines be produced and distributed quarterly i.e. Newsletter March/September, News Sheet June/December. More articles needed for the next News Sheet and as this would go out just before Christmas, to hopefully include a pattern for a cushion with a Christmas tree motif. To advertise the exhibition at Frenchay Museum in the March Newsletter with a request for exhibition pieces. More patterns are needed for the Newsletters.
8. **Representative for Scotland's Report** - Four successful workshops held this year with two more planned for October. Scottish Miniatura in June was a one day event and very busy. The MNS stand at next year's show has been booked. Show cases at Houghton Hall proving as popular as ever. New items to display are required as a number are due to be returned to their owners. The committee thanked Ann and Adrian for their hard work in looking after the exhibition at Houghton Hall.
9. **Fairs and Workshops Reports** - Cover to be organised for the stand at Kensington in November. Bookings confirmed for Spring Miniatura at NEC on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and Scotland 2010 at Murrayfield on 12<sup>th</sup> June.
10. **Competition for 2010** - This has been well advertised but the decision on who will judge the competition is still to be finalised.
11. **Minfo Packs** - Agreed price for Minfo Packs in their current format is too high and suggested they now be produced as A4 sheets, copied back to back, stapled together and sold for 50p each.
12. **MNS Exhibition at Frenchay Museum** - Agreed facilities viewed at Frenchay Museum will make a great venue to promote the Society's work. Article to go in next Newsletter advertising dates with a request for exhibition pieces.
13. Date of next year's committee meeting to be confirmed.

## MINIATURA October 2009

The MNS stand at Miniatura was very well stocked with examples of members' work, and proved as popular as ever with visitors and interested needleworkers. The MNS offer of a simple cross-stitch cushion kit as a gift for joining the Society proved a great success, and we gained several new members.



Embroidered dressing table boxes by Anne Walden-Mills. This technique was taught by Anne at Irene Pugmire's workshop at Otford last March.  
Stitch: Brazilian stitch, also known as cast-on stitch  
Thread: Gütermann silk and Pipers 4/20 twisted silk  
Needles: Size 12 straw and Size 14 beading



Tiger Cushion by Rosalie Walby.  
Pattern from *Dollhouse Miniatures* magazine, done on 48 count gauze using 1 strand of DMC embroidery thread.



## A CHRISTMAS CUSHION

Intrigued with Moira using calico for needlework, I misappropriated a piece to practice on. With Christmas in mind, the following pattern emerged.

The pattern is 29 stitches square and this represents a 12" square cushion. If you prefer the equivalent of a 16" square cushion then increase the stitches to 39 square and centre the tree accordingly. The cross stitches are all in green with the candles in gold straight stitch. An alternative to the candles would be random French Knots in red for baubles.

*Teresa Norton*



## Lockeridge Beading Workshop: 17 October

The workshop was inspired by Australian member, Beverley-Anne Miles' Christmas Garland (Newsletter 25, March 2009, page 17).

We had a good time as usual on Saturday at Lockeridge. Only 7 altogether: Eileen, Rosemary Jeynes, Jacoba, Teresa, Jean, Rosemary Acutt & myself. We were lucky Rosemary Acutt managed to join us as we would have struggled and probably not achieved much on our own. With her help we all had at least part of a beaded garland when we went home.

We also had a new pattern Rosemary A worked out from Rosemary J's 'mistake', so we are calling it Rosemary's mistake from now on as it is so pretty. Teresa & I are already attempting it.

*Pat Wootten*



Anne Walden-Mills' beaded pansies used bead sizes 20-23, silk thread and size 16 beading needles.

## Treasurer Needed!

Pat has now been Treasurer for the Society for 4 years, and is looking for a volunteer to take on this task on the Committee - she has sent this job description to explain what the job entails. If you think you might be interested, please email or phone Moira Chaplin: m.chaplin1@btinternet.com 01747 840813.

### Treasurer's duties:-

Keep a record of all income & expenditure, pay all invoices & expenses, prepare a half year income & expenditure account, reconcile bank statements monthly, prepare an income & expenditure account & balance sheet for audit in the legally required form at each year end. Everything must be done in accordance with the legal accounting requirements.

*Pat Wootten*

### MNS Accounts for the Half Year ended 30th June 2009 - Income & Expenditure

	2009	2008
<b>INCOME RECEIVED AND ACCRUED</b>		
Subscriptions	1,563	1,876
Advertising	33	33
Donations	106	50
Workshops	500	437
Bank Interest	1	25
Information Packs	90	133
Sundries	0	0
	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,554</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Newsletters	474	713
Workshops	327	420
Postage & Stationery	(7)	228
Insurance	18	18
Information Packs	0	0
Advertising	40	148
Exhibitions (inc travel)	145	145
Sundries	0	0
	<u>997</u>	<u>1,672</u>
<b>Shortfall/Excess Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>1,296</u>	<u>882</u>