

Letter from Caroline Ingle in America

It has been a very busy year for us in the Athens lace group. We started with the effort to make enough lace to make an exhibition with a gardens theme as we meet in the conservatory of the State Botanical Gardens. This was a real challenge to our members and they all took part with great determination and enthusiasm and bit by bit took on more challenging patterns which featured flowers, leaves, birds and animals.

It was amazing to see the development of the lace making ability of every member, Anna and I were kept very busy during our weekly gatherings helping with many questions and gradually the group began to gain confidence in their abilities and discussions of technique and colour with everyone taking part. The result has been that all but the newest members have moved into the intermediate category. It has also resulted in several members finding a specific area of lace in which they really like to work. Elizabeth is a wiz!! with colour and likes to produce pictures.

Anna has made a lot of beautiful point ground. Betty is renown for her angels of which she has made many especially for friends in difficulty. Jessica has taken to the older laces and is busy with Finnish laces at the moment. We have been delighted to welcome 3 newcomers to lace making this year. All had never done it before and all have proved to have a talent in the lacemaking direction and are progressing fast.

We finally had to cancel the exhibition this year as 2 of us moved to a retirement Village about 40 miles north of Athens. With the turmoil of moving and selling houses and fitting out the new ones from scratch it became impossible to fill the slot this year but we have been asked to do so another year. As the result of moving to Gainesville I have renewed contact with a well respected lace maker Robin Lewis -Wild, who taught in this area a few years ago.

She is a designer and has lace displayed in a number of respected venues. Below is a large panel 4'x 2' she was commissioned to design and make as a memorial to a friend and I have found it in a very active Art and Craft museum in Gainesville. I have been much encouraged and helped by Robin who, sadly is fighting illness.



