



*Dear Members,*

Another month has passed us by and amazingly our thoughts will soon be on Christmas and the dark winter evenings. This is the time of year that I like to get creative with miniatures, this winter I hope to start the refurb of the pub that was rescued from a bonfire. Have you any restoration projects or tips on restoration? I have run out of excuses to put it off!

This weekend is Miniatura at the NEC. Anyone going? I am not this time as I am quite well stocked with materials.

October sees the Bantock House Museum dolls house fair at Wolverhampton, a nice place and event to visit. If you fancy a day out it is on October 22nd.

## September meeting

Apologies from Julie R. and Jill.

It was nice to have Beryl back amongst us. She has been away for quite a while due to holidays and a broken arm. Welcome back Beryl.

This month's meeting found us learning the techniques of needle felting. Ann Griffin brought along some kits that consisted of a barbed needle, dyed wool and blocks of dense sponge. She gently coaxed us in the ways of making felted figures from unspun wool. It was amazing how the wool reacted to being shaped by the delicate repeated stabbing by the barbed needle. Concentration was needed as fingers could easily and painfully be stabbed if care wasn't taken in this procedure. Thank you Ann for teaching us how to do this.

Gaynor brought along some of her creations that she had learnt to make when she attended a needle felting course at Hatton in Warwickshire.

There are some useful books on the subject. Look out for these - 'My Felted Friends' by Mia Underwood and 'Making Needle Felted Animals' by Steffi Stern & Sophie Buckley.

In October we will be making children's story books. Please let Gaynor know if you need a kit.

*Beverley* 



*Selection of felted figures brought in by Gaynor, Kim and Ann Griffin.*



# From your Hon. President

September 2017

Hi All

Today the sky is blue and the air warm – my favourite sort of day! The Virginia creeper on the house opposite me has turned to the most glorious red. The trees are starting to shed their leaves – and as a follow on from the practical session we did with paper punches – please think about collecting some beautifully coloured leaves if you are out and about and punching out leaf shapes with your punches. Remember to align the veins for a perfect collection of Autumn leaves. If your leaves are a bit brittle you can massage in some hand cream – Vaseline Intensive Care even advertise their hand cream this way!

Our thanks to Ann Griffin for our introduction to needle felting in September. I hope you enjoyed it and still have whole fingers if not holes in your fingers! I was planning on taking my kit with me to Scotland for a few days where I could concentrate on needling away without distractions of household duties – unfortunately the trip has had to be cancelled – darn it!

For October we will be making up a selection of miniature books – perfect for a Christmas scene, a child's nursery, school or library. I shall supply the printed kit, you will need small sharp pointy scissors or scalpel and metal edge ruler, usual glue and cocktail sticks.

In order for me to print off sufficient numbers of kits PLEASE let me know if you will be attending and requiring a kit.

If I have the opportunity I will try and organise a selection of other books BUT the printing costs will need to be covered SO please also indicate if you are interested in more books and are will to pay for them and I will do my best.

See you on October 18th

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Above: Miniature leaves punched out of real dried leaves.



Left: A selection of miniature leaf punches showing the range of shapes that are possible.



Sample miniature books. Inspiration for next month's crafting if not for our home baking!

## Dates for your diary

September 30th.  
- 1st. October

Miniatura  
NEC  
Birmingham

October 22nd.

Bantock House  
Wolverhampton  
WV3 9LQ



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Some of the Laser cut wooden building fronts from last month’s session made into little houses by Kim.

Roughly 12th scale to a 12th scale doll’s house.