

Is Facebook for you?

Facebook is a bit of a Marmite thing – you either love it or hate it!

When you love it it's great - and if you go off it for a while, you can just not look at it.

For me, the idea is that it is a mix of chit chat conversations, what you like/love/hate/care about and what you don't like. I can be in touch with friends, family, colleagues and group members wherever I am, on any device, at any time, at no cost.

I can see what's going on in my friends and family life especially with photos and videos, but I don't necessarily need to comment - I can just be passive but be in the know! It also saves them the bother of re-sending to me on email or WhatsApp for example.

Equally I can share some news or photos with friends and family if I wish to. Again it's easier than doing an email and finding all the email ids etc.

At the request of the Master I created the Needlemakers Facebook Group in March 2020 and wrote some Facebook Joining Instructions which were distributed to all Members. This was at a time when the implications of Covid-19 were becoming clearer, and our lives were changing every day.

Just to clarify the roles of our communication channels: our WCN Facebook Group is an **internal** method of communication; whereas Twitter is our **voice** to the rest of the world and the website is our **shop window**.

We now have 34 members who have joined this private group. It is not secret on Facebook: the main difference between the 'private' and 'secret' group options is that private groups can be found in search, while secret ones cannot.

With our private group, as the group admin, I approve members, which means that only people who I accept into the group can be active there. This hopefully builds a sense of exclusivity for the people I allow in, while it also makes content we share in such groups only available to those who are part of them.

The Needlemakers now have a variety of communication channels and those using Facebook are hopefully happy to view the posts, may feel the need to comment on them and possibly feel the need to initiate new posts. This is all a personal choice of course.

The Needlemakers can use it as a space to do more deep diving into subjects if so desired, or as a testing ground for new ideas to get feedback quickly and safely. It's also another way for our members to connect with each other, which is such a great benefit during Covid-19 lockdowns. Members can start conversations among themselves, and eventually even answer each other's questions.

Are you persuaded?

See you on FB - or not?