

I am an affiliate paper and I am about to be sent to a new owner by the registrar. I currently live on her computer and I am either printed out or sent by email to my new owner. I know the Registrar prefers me to be sent electronically because it is much quicker and cheaper for the Guild and I believe many papers sent by Royal Mail seem to get lost on the way. I don't want to get lost so am happy to be attached to an email.

My new owner is Hope and she has already sent her cheque to the registrar with her letter and contact details which included the email address.

I have many pages and when Hope receives me she may well be a little scared but I think as she prints me out will see how beautiful I am. I will give her many hours of pleasure and probably at times Hope will get cross with me but hopefully not for long. I wish I could talk because I would tell her to take her time with me as I often need a lot of practice, it is very rare to get me right first time but I bet each time she does my pattern it gets easier but how can I tell her that. I am hoping she talks to people in the Guild who have gone through this process themselves. She may even be able to go to an Exhibition and see me completed, when she will really see how beautiful I am.

The registrar is busy attaching my pages to Hope's email address and before she hits send will update her records on the database. Everyone who receives me has the same treatment and I know it may be a while before I see the registrar again.

I am now on Hopes computer and she is looking at me before she prints me out. Hope can print me out more than once if she wishes which is really useful if coffee or tea got spilt onto me. I do like to be looking fresh when I go back to the registrar and I know the judges will like to see me looking nice and clean. It shows them that Hope cared for me.

Hope is now practising my designs and I have heard her asking her friends in the Guild if she got stuck. She even spoke to the registrar about a few queries. I am almost finished and now Hope is looking at how she can display me. I do like to be presented well and the judges like to see me labelled nicely too. It is said that I look better on an A4 page but please don't put me on shiny paper, as I do not photograph well and the registrar doesn't like to see her own image reflected on the photograph.

I am now being put into a presentation folder, Hope bought me one at the supermarket and I am now looking pretty in pink, she must think I am a girl!! She places my consent form, patterns and instructions along with her work but makes sure the only thing with her name on is the consent form. The judges will not see that form as it will be removed and kept by the registrar and I will become a number. I am now being bundled into a comfortable jiffy bag which will keep me safe and Hope has stapled the ends so that I can come home in the same bag. It may be quite a while till I see Her again but I know I shall see some new faces soon.

I have now arrived with the registrar and she has sent Hope an email to say I arrived safely. It was nice to see the registrar again. I now have a six digit number and each piece of work has been photographed and been given that number so that I wont get confused and given back to the wrong person. All of my details have been entered on to the database. I am now going into a large box along with other papers, there are several Affiliates just like me and some other levels which have all

had the same treatment. Each of us is placed into a colour coded folder; I have a nice red one...does that mean I am still a girl!

The cut off date has arrived and all of the processing must be done. I have already had most of mine done but I am soon to have some marking sheets placed into my red folder and will be packaged up and sent to the Judges. Into the box went several other papers and I was not at all lonely.

The panel of Judges have received me and have looked at all of us checking the paperwork to see if the registrar had sent everything needed. When the judge opened my folder she carefully looked at each piece and then put me to one side and then she took out all of my sheets of paper and started writing things onto them. She did this to all of the other folders and this happened several times over with the other judges. When they had looked at all the papers, the judges took each folder and collated their comments and I understand this is to give consistency in the comments when they are returned. I asked some of my friends why it took so long and they could tell me people like Hope take a long time and a lot of effort to put us together and the judges feel the least they can do is to take time to study and mark carefully. I know Hope took a lot of care with me so I am glad the judges feel I am worth taking time over. When all of the paperwork was completed we were all put back into our box to be sent back to the registrar.

After our long journey and being examined in minute detail we were eventually on our way back to the registrar and back to that large box. I stayed in that box until we were all safely home with the registrar. She had been busy though compiling more sheets of paper for our owners and putting the data onto her computer. One Day I was taken out of the red folder and was placed back into my jiffy bag along with a letter, the marks and comments, a very smart certificate and a lovely little badge with a special ribbon. I now knew this meant that my weeks of being looked at meant Hope had passed and is now an Affiliate of the Guild. I knew she would be proud and I was looking forward to seeing her again with a huge smile on her face.

I would not see the registrar again as her work was done but I knew that Hope would show me off and be very proud and would inspire others, I heard her say that not everyone passed all of the pieces first time and if they hadn't they could submit the failed pieces again when they had reworked some new ones and had taken on board the judges comments and hopefully have the same smile on their face as Hope had today. I guess their journey isn't yet complete and they get to see the Registrar again. I am happy not to see that box again but I think Hope is now ordering another level of exam papers, maybe I will soon have a folder mate to keep me company perhaps it will be a blue one.