



ERTF SPRING BULLETIN – May 2018

The aim of last year's new bulletin format was to provide quick relevant ERTF organization news to all members four times a year. Two immediately follow on from conferences, like this one and the two in between include all recent updates.

Letter from the new Chair, Sue Dunkerley

Thank you for endorsing me as your new Chair of the Eastern Region Textile Forum (ERTF). I am really pleased to be undertaking this role. I would like to extend my heartfelt warm thanks to all those retiring from the committee. They have done a great job.

ERTF is thriving. The recent Kaleidoscope exhibition in Cambridge was a real success. We had many visitors to this vibrant, diverse exhibition. Janet Edmonds was impressed by the standard. The private view was well attended. We had a high turnout for our AGM. The Anne Kelly talk and workshop was an interesting and enjoyable experience. Please bring your completed samples or a photo to our October conference.

I am looking forward to working with the new committee. We have two excellent exhibitions in the pipeline, the first being Saffron Walden Museum in October this year. I hope as many of you as possible can enter this unselected exhibition. Please contact Carole if you have missed the deadline.

For September/October 2019, our application has been accepted for an exhibition in a new world class gallery in the Town Hall in central St Albans, due to open in June on completion of a £7m refurbishment. More details follow. This is very exciting.

Finding venues is particularly tricky so please let us know if you have any suggestions and we will follow them up. I intend to continue my work with exhibitions. To that end, the committee will discuss exhibitions at their meetings so there will be no need for a separate committee as is the case at the moment. We have a healthy bank balance to support all our activities.

We are looking forward to our next conference with Alice Fox on 20 October. If you hear any good speakers or go to any good workshops, please do let us know. If you have any ideas which you think would enhance ERTF's activities, please contact us.

All voluntary organisations need every member to take an active part, no matter how small. If you can give one off help with an exhibition, organise one conference or give us ideas that will help ERTF go from strength to strength. Do encourage others to join us. Together we all make a great team.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you.

Kaleidoscope Concluded

From Tricia Fowler



This exhibition presented a spectrum of colourful pieces of work. Inspiration in interpretation of the theme was taken from a wide variety of sources and ranged from drawing on the mathematical basis of the kaleidoscope to concentration on colour. There was a high footfall throughout the exhibition period and feedback from staff at the venue was very positive.

The private view was held in the evening of Wednesday 11th April and this was well attended. We were delighted that Janet Edmonds, who had assessed all work during the selection process, was able to be present. She was thanked formally and presented with a bouquet of flowers.

During the exhibition period a needle-felting workshop was held at Michaelhouse and provided by ERTF member Annie Brown. It was well attended and participants made a needle-felted card.

Overall the exhibition was very successful and enjoyed by many. Thanks are extended to all who contributed to and supported the event. Specific feedback from any members is always welcome by the exhibitions committee.

AGM and Conference: 28 April 2018: Chipping Ongar

AGM

From Liz Holliday

Carole Nicholls first and foremost needs to be congratulated for steering the whole AGM, both before and during the event, so efficiently and to time, despite many agenda items. As a result we are all able to celebrate having a full list of volunteers for all organizational roles and they deserve our warm thanks in due turn. The names of the new and current committee post holders are at the end of the bulletin as usual. The email addresses of the

committee will be circulated to members separately. Thanks were expressed to Claire Cousins, Marion Curtis, Tricia Fowler and Sarah Marshall who all stepped down from committee this year. The new GDPR legislation had a mention as did the website. A website report and welcome from the new Chair appear separately in this bulletin.

Talk “Textile Nature”: Speaker Anne Kelly

www.annekellytextiles.com

From Norah Stocker

A truly inspiring international artist and tutor, Anne Kelly arrived with all her wonderful textiles packed into beautiful textile art covered suitcases. Her exquisite textile display of work included wall hangings inspired by her world travels, lovely folded mixed media books on nature, sketchbooks, cards, books and a wonderful jacket Anne had covered in beautiful patches, pieced, free machined and then appliquéd.

Her unique and exquisite designs also cover objects large and small, an actual shed, a dolls house, suitcases, boxes, tables, bags and books, all of them both inside the object and the complete outside of it!

Anne uses found textiles, antique fabrics, aprons, tablecloths, table napkins, waistcoats, needlepoint, old linen, liberty prints, cotton and natural fabrics. These are strategically placed after much thought, once cut into shapes or used as a background to work upon. Small screen prints, wooden stamps, transfer prints, hand drawn birds, bugs, butterflies, flowers, vines, trees and leaves, all the beauty of the natural world of nature then find their way onto her collages.

What makes Anne’s work so individual is how she completes her work with free machining zig-zag stitches using pale thread. This gives the cohesiveness to the whole piece. The shapes will have had both hand and free machining in dark threads first so they show through the top paler threads.



From Suzanne Jarvis

Anne explained everything really well and with great enthusiasm. Her real love of all nature came across strongly. The many old fabrics and papers she uses aid keeping memories alive and passing on histories.

Workshop: Creating hand stitched postcards, also with Anne Kelly

From Marian Murphy

After Anne Kelly's lovely slideshow she took members through her method of making a postcard. Crested grebes, kingfishers, sparrows and lapwings were some of the birds flying along with butterflies and dragonflies. These images were drawn on to fabric, appliqued and embellished with stitchery each growing its own colourful personality. Before winging their way home, the creatures were laid out together in a gorgeous giant patchwork for all to enjoy.



From Jane Barry

What a wealth of ideas from an established expert in the textile field. This was a lovely day in good company. I returned home with creative ideas to develop.

From Catherina Petit van Hoey

What a lovely time we ERTF ladies had, designing and creating bugs and birds for postcards under the experienced guidance of Anne Kelly. The atmosphere was relaxed and harmonious. I thoroughly enjoyed stitching and 'twittering with fellow birds of a feather'. Although no one actually finished the work I will be looking forward to see some end results, hopefully at our next conference.

CONFERENCES AHEAD: Save these DATES!

20 October 2018: Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead

Speaker: Alice Fox with both a Talk – “A Coastal Perspective” and Workshop “Paper and Stitch”

Alice’s work is very well known. Her practice is based on personal engagement with landscape and her creations celebrate and carry an essence of what she experiences in the natural world.

www.alicefox.co.uk

This autumn conference date will overlap with the Saffron Walden Exhibition.

A flyer is now available for this. Booking will start on 1 August.

13 April 2019: AGM and Conference: Cambridge area

Speaker: Michele Garragher

TALK: The Embroidered Narrative: Costume Embroidery for Film and Television.

Michele Carragher is a highly creative Costume Hand Embroiderer who has been working in costume on Film and Television productions for over 20 years. She studied Fashion Design at The London College of Fashion. After leaving college Michele worked in Textile Conservation, repairing and restoring historical textiles before moving into a career in costume for Film and Television, initially working as a Costume Assistant/Maker on productions then gravitated towards the decoration and embellishment of costumes, using skills in hand embroidery and surface decoration. The first production that saw her undertake the role of a Principal Costume Embroiderer was for HBO's 2005 Emmy Costume award-winning production of Elizabeth 1. Her most recent work has been on HBO's 2012/14/16/17/18 Costume award-winning television series Game of Thrones, working on all seven seasons to date.

Venue, title and workshop details are currently being sorted

EXHIBITIONS AHEAD

“Collections Re-crafted”: 6 October 2018 - 3 February 2019: Saffron Walden Museum, Essex

This is our up and coming non-selected exhibition where we would hope to include all submissions.

It is a site-specific exhibition. The work will be displayed for four months, which is fantastic. The exhibition will be supported by the museum with stewarding and publicity provided by that venue. Saffron Walden Museum is one of the oldest in Britain, founded in 1835. It has an unusually rich and varied collection of natural history, ancient Egypt, North American, archaeology, local history, ceramics, glass, wood and textiles from around the globe (over 170,000 objects).

Two guided tours and workshops at the Museum have already taken place. All members now continue to be free to visit the museum again for their own study purposes. The deadline for photographic submissions/work in progress is 27th June 2018, and final submission date is Friday 21st September 2018 with a maximum of two pieces. The Private View will take place on Friday 5th October 2018, 6-7:30pm – personal invitations, admitting one or two people, will be issued nearer the time.

Museum staff will be responsible for editing and formatting all text for labels, information panels and publicity for the event.

Exhibition in Autumn 2019

From Carole Nicholls

The venue of our next selected exhibition will be St Albans Museum, within the newly refurbished town hall, which is part of a seven million pound lottery funded refurbishment project to create a major gallery and exhibition space in St Albans.

The gallery opens in June 2018 and ERTF will be presenting the first textile exhibition there. The theme is “The Making of a Market Town” but with a strong emphasis on the Eastern Region counties.

The exhibition will run for ten weeks from September 2019 and there will be selling opportunities for main and browser pieces plus cards.

More detailed information will follow.

Website Update

From Deborah Richardson

During the past year, I’ve made some inroads into updating the website and making it more relevant to the members. I am looking forward to working closely in our newly formed sub-committee to update the appearance and improve user-friendly features.

The home page slideshow will now be regularly updated to reflect the most recent conference, workshop or exhibition. These images will then be moved to the events gallery so that they are still available to view. With other committee members I am committed to making these images good quality and of interest to everyone involved.

I have deleted several duplications on the site, and am moving towards making it more compliant with current data protection legislation. The divisions between regional/county groups seem artificial since many members are willing and able to travel between counties to attend events organised for their benefit. To this end I’ve discussed with Carole about how planned events may be circulated to everyone, opening-up another key membership benefit.

I am most concerned with making the website a key membership benefit, enabling members to stay in touch with the organisers and each other. Members should be able to publicize their involvement in their own events, and to invite other interested people to participate or visit. Due to communication difficulties, it is not possible for members to sell their work through the ERTF site. However, effective links to members’ personal sites and blogs can facilitate sales.

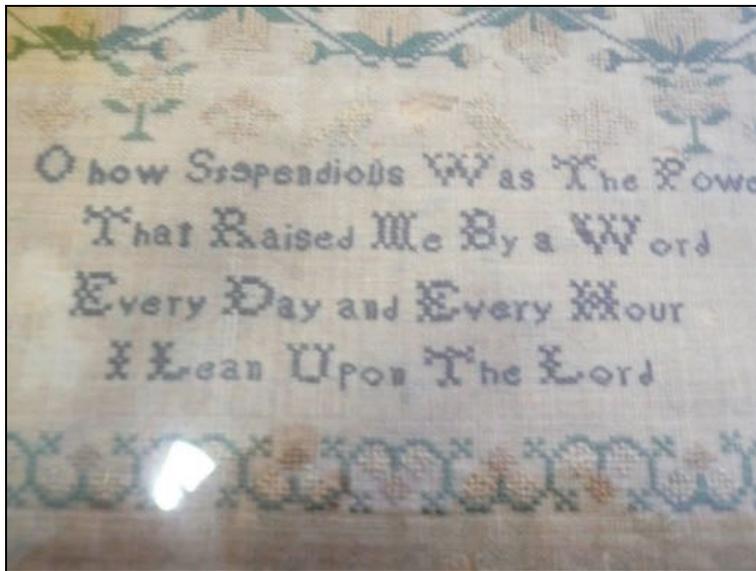
I would urge everyone circulating or replying to emails to use two email features – BCC (blind carbon copy) which means that no-one receiving the email can see all the other addresses in the circulation as not everyone wants their email address circulated, and also, don’t hit the ‘reply all’ button when replying to circulated emails if the reply is not relevant to all the circulated group. Often a reply only needs to be sent to the originator so please don’t clog up everyone’s inbox with unnecessary mails.

“Sampled Lives” ERTF Fitzwilliam Museum visit in April

From Harriet Marland

This was a very enjoyable day for our group of 10 members. The sampler display in the Fitzwilliam is fascinating and well worth a visit – having magnifying glasses to hand allows you to see the detail of the stitching. Lunch was very convivial and the afternoon talk was splendid. Carol Humphrey is very knowledgeable and inspirational to listen to as she shared with us a dozen samplers from a recent bequest. We were fascinated by the detail of her research into the sewer: when and where each sampler was made and the influences on the motifs, texts and stitchery. It was an eye-opener to me as I had no idea there were so many different regional and religious styles. I particularly liked the map samplers and the thought that, when the sewer had marked her home town in red, this could open up a wealth of biographical research, was intriguing. It was touching to think that an unfinished sampler might indicate the early death of the sewer. The ‘monster sampler’, perhaps for a pupil teacher to put on the classroom wall, resonated with my own work as a teacher for many years. Personally, I was delighted to learn more about 4 family samplers that I brought in discovering that they were Scottish from the colours (red and green), the images (crowns and peacocks) and the style of the lettering.

The photo shows a cross-stitch sampler with an amusing spelling mistake.



Committee

Membership forms, with revised GDPR signatures required, will have been circulated ahead of this briefing. It would be great if you would help our new Membership Secretary by mailing your completed renewal form and cheque at your earliest convenience. The official end date for GDPR compliance is 25 May 2018.

Do regularly check out our website www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk

The next bulletin will be circulated in August 2018, with a deadline of items to be included of 31 July 2018.

CHAIR	Sue Dunkerley
SECRETARY	Carole Nicholls
TREASURER	Marian Murphy
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Jenny Leslie
EXHIBITION TEAM	Flea Cooke – COORDINATOR Sue Dunkerley Annie Brown Carole Nicholls
WEBSITE	Deborah Richardson
NEWSLETTERS	Liz Holliday
REPS – CAMBS/BEDS ESSEX HERTS SUFFOLK/NORFOLK	Margaret Talbot Kirsten Yeates Catherina Petit-van-Hoey Hilary Belchak

Liz Holliday