



# Eastern Region Textile Forum

*taking textiles forward*

## ERTF AUTUMN BULLETIN – October 2019

### CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,



What a wonderful success the “Making of a Market Town” at the St Albans Museum + Gallery is. The private view was attended by about 80 including the Mayor. The feedback was that our exhibition was of a high standard and professionally hung with interesting boards and detailed labels. Craft in the Courtroom only had a few attendees but was enjoyed by those who did go.

**Sarah Keeling, the Museum Curator wrote on 10 October,**

**‘The exhibition is still getting fantastic comments from all our visitors and some of the councillors have been in and particularly praised it as well!**

**In September the exhibition had over 4500 visitors – of course we only opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> September so that’s three weeks of visitors. We’ve also already sold just short of £900 worth of items relating to the exhibition in the shop, which is definitely the best of any exhibition in the Keeper’s Galleries so far.**

**‘I’ve just topped up the pages in the visitor book as we reached the end and the comments are all still wonderful – lots of people talking about how beautiful the pieces are, the skill that went into making them and also how much they enjoy the historical elements being brought out in the artworks.’**

This is excellent publicity for us. We have already picked up four new members. Thank you to all exhibitors and well done on such brilliant textile art.

More problematic has been the Spotlight Gallery, Broxbourne, as it has undergone refurbishment and cancelled all future bookings including ours. After frantic committee activity, we have secured a booking at

the **Hertford Theatre Gallery**, Courtyard Arts and Community Centre 29/9/20 to 24/10/20. The dates are different but the title, 'A Sense of Place', remains the same. Please note maximum number of entries and size. They are also undergoing refurbishment but are more positive that this will not affect our booking.

We had a committee meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October. Deborah Richardson and Flea Cooke have resigned due to personal reasons. We thank them for the work they have undertaken on our behalf. A warm welcome was given to Frances Green who has become our new website coordinator. She has already made tremendous progress and the Facebook Page she has set up has many members, as it is a public site. Her posts are interesting and exciting. Do help by posting. Frances can support you if help is required with the website or FB.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work. We will all help with exhibitions now. We would still like volunteers for specific tasks in all our activities to come forward so please do help when you can. I look forward to seeing you soon. Happy Creating.

Very best wishes

Sue

**Please note that the St Albans exhibition finishes Sunday 3 November and take down is on Monday 4 November with work to be collected from the Museum from 1.00 pm.**

## **TEXTILES EAST FAIR 2020**

ERTF has booked a stand at [Textiles East Fair](#) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020. Many members are already familiar with this regular event at Swavesey Village College. Entrance is good value at £6 for a good range of traders, Make and Take and an exhibition by New Horizons Textile Group

This is an opportunity for us to attract new members and publicise our future Exhibitions and Conferences. Margaret Talbot is taking the lead as our organiser with some back-up from Eva Cantin. They also need your support:

A few examples of members' work will be needed, to draw visitors and illustrate the variety and quality of textile art we create.

- Could you loan us any sturdy 3D works? They should be fairly compact and free-standing, light and easy to pack and transport.
- Could you loan us any flat, hanging work? It needs to be lightweight and ready to hang – items from the current exhibition could be held over for display if you want to offer yours.

If you have items you could lend us please send Margaret or Eva details including dimensions and at least one photo (JPEG please)

The stand needs volunteers:

- to represent ERTF and talk to visitors to the stand
- to help with setting up and taking down

An hour or two of your time would be really helpful. Please contact Eva if you could help with this.

Contacts: Margaret Talbot, Cambs Representative and Eva Cantin, Herts Representative

## **ERTF EXHIBITIONS AHEAD:**

**Hertford Theatre Gallery**, Courtyard Arts and Community Centre, **The Wash, Hertford, SG14 1PS**

**Title – “A Sense of Place”**

**29 September – 24 October 2020**

**This will be a non-selected exhibition**

The title does **not** refer solely to a landscape or seascape. This is a broad-brush title. It can, among other things, refer to somewhere/something of importance to you, be about memories or belonging, a moment in time, it can be a building or object and could be completely imaginary. As long as you can connect your piece to the title in your artist's statement, it will be fine.

**Two pieces maximum per exhibitor.** Maximum size 1 metre square. Unfortunately, there is no provision for 3D pieces so all work needs to be 2D. Hanging details will follow but framed pieces will need mirror plates and unframed pieces need a neat, discreet way to securely attach them to the board. The maximum weight should be no more than 2 to 3 kgs. Please bear in mind that pieces have to be transported and carried by committee members. More details will follow early in the new year.

If you have any queries please email Carole and Sue. We hope that you enjoy preparing and working your pieces.

**PARNDON MILL, Harlow, CM20 2HP**

**Title – “Flower power”**

**17 May - 25 June 2021**

**This will be a selected exhibition. More details will be given in due course.**

**REPORT on our October Conference in Hemel Hempstead:**

**Cas Holmes: ‘Painting with Cloth’**

[www.casholmestextiles.co.uk](http://www.casholmestextiles.co.uk)

*From Donna Goymer:*

The way that Cas works is inspiring to me in that all her pieces of work are reflective of her experiences within the world around her. She has a connection with the piece whether that is through the found cloth she uses, the symbolic meanings and the narrative of the piece and even to the venues where the pieces of work are hung.



*Cas quotes:*

*“Listen to the cloth and paper you are working on and how you interact with it”*

*“If a piece of work is too specific it leaves no space to explore”*

*“There is a power in stitch: suffragettes made their own banners”*

*“Cultural identity is important. We can and should be inspired by it but not use it as our own. We should respect culture by using it to write a new, different story.”*

*From Janet Cook:*

Cas Holmes is a textile artist of great renown, deservedly so. She shared with us her passion for using only “found” materials in her work, be it fabric, paper or colouring agents such as paint, dyes, pencils etc. I was very impressed with her travelling sewing kit, and thought back to the dyes, fabrics, ‘Inktense’ and a range of other pencils and pens, sewing kit for every possibility, sketch books, watercolour paints, brushes, water containers, kitchen roll, plastic bag to sit on/contain waste, and selection of sweets that I consider necessary for a trip!

I must say I found her description of cutting fabric from old mattresses thrown out on the street rather uncomfortable, but that is her way of working. She is true to her ideals. I will use the excuse of my stash for not following her on that one.



We were put to work quite early in the day, being given until a much needed lunch break to reduce 5 pieces of paper into limp scraps suitable for accepting a needle. After a brief half hour we once again settled to “organising” our papers and using a running stitch to create, well, something. For me, not having a sketch or two to guide me, I found the start of this process a struggle. However, by the time we were all called up to display our pieces, I had a fair idea of where I was going and what needed to be added next. The piece was beginning to tell a story, which is the way I like to work. It’s also the way Cas works.

*From Sue Green:*

We were very lucky to enjoy a day with Cas Holmes who uses a wide range of techniques in her pieces. In the workshop, we explored the effect of a crumpling technique on different types of paper, bringing the crumpled paper together in a collage, which is then stitched.

During the session, Cas discussed her thought processes, inspiration in the natural environment and ways of connecting the various elements to bring a story to life in her pieces. Behind the simple process, there was such a range of effects due the type of paper and the amount of crumpling. One of the group had crumpled a brown paper bag and, by the time she had finished, this had been transformed into a piece which looked more like an old piece of leather!

A fascinating day, so thank you to Cas for bringing her inspiration and enthusiasm and to the ERTF committee for arranging a thought provoking session.

*From Cas Holmes*

*Such a welcoming group who worked hard, laughed a lot and listened and exchanged creative ideas.*



*Winning workshop samples:*

These were the prize winning pieces chosen at the end of the day by Cas, the one on the left below by Jenny Hill for its concept and the one on the right by Margaret Talbot for its commendable execution.



**ERTF CONFERENCES AHEAD:**

**25 April 2020: AGM and Conference:** St Mark's College, Audley End, Saffron Walden, CB11 4JT

We have booked the larger Abbey Barn this year and not the smaller River Barn.

**Speaker: Julia Triston: 'Intimacy and Identity'**

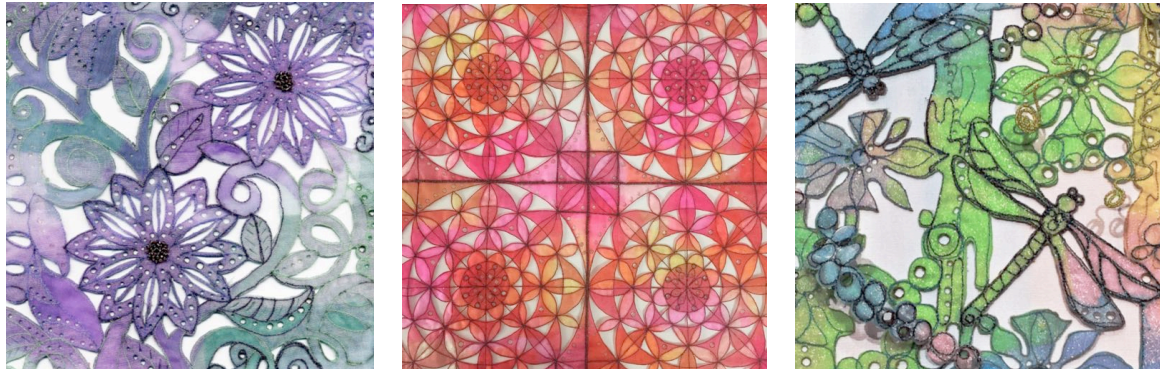
[www.juliatriston.com](http://www.juliatriston.com)



Julia Triston is a professional artist, maker, educator and author in stitched textiles, and contemporary art and design techniques. She is fascinated with the journey textiles take and intrigued by the wear and tear of her raw materials, and the memories they hold. Her raw materials include vintage lace, reclaimed household linen, discarded embroideries, second-hand clothing and previously worn underwear. She is interested in detail, and combines fastenings and straps with raw edges and seams to become features in her pieces. Julia teaches and exhibits internationally and is an active member of the Textile Study Group. She also runs StitchBusiness, an independent, international stitch school. Julia is also co-author of two popular Batsford titles: *How to be Creative in Textile Art* and *Contemporary Appliqué*.

**Workshop: Julia Triston: 'Rip It Up and Start Again'**

**17 October 2020:** Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE  
**Speaker:** Kathleen Laurel Sage  
**Theme for talk and workshop:** ‘Colour Washed and Surface Stitched Garden Memories’  
[www.kathleenlaurelsage.co.uk](http://www.kathleenlaurelsage.co.uk)



Kathleen Laurel Sage is a freelance designer and embroiderer who produces a wide range of textile works, ranging from traditional items through to 3 dimensional pieces in machine embroidery and stump work. Kathleen is particularly well known for teaching classes on how to use soldering irons, heat tools and organza to create floral panels.

### **Inspiration**

The countryside landscape as well as the flowers and foliage in her own garden inspire a great deal of her designs. She has commented that she has a passion for “flowering floral and leaf designs featured strongly on the ceiling moulds, carvings, tiles and masonry of many of our English country houses with their idyllic designed gardens”.

This passion can be seen in her work where she uses machine stitching to recreate the designs she loves and then turns them into 3D structures, fashion accessories and wall hangings.

In 2014, Kathleen published her first book *Embroidered, Soldered and Heat Zapped Surfaces*. The book teaches readers how to use unconventional materials and tools to produce 3D designs.

### **Workshop**

The workshop will encompass another of Kathleen’s interests, which is captured in her book *The Secret Garden*. Hand painted background, enhanced with embroidery stitches along with various mixed techniques to produce a walk through the garden.

We will each collect our own set of garden images to create a painted background, which will then be enhanced using stitch and mixed media to create our own little garden.

### **News ahead for 2021!**

We have successfully booked:

Debbie Lyddon for our 24 April AGM and Conference 2021 in the Saffron Walden area  
blog: [debbielyddon.wordpress.com](http://debbielyddon.wordpress.com)  
and

Richard McVetis for our 16 October 2021 Conference in the Hemel Hempstead area, with a theme of “Marking Time”.  
[www.richardmcvetis.co.uk](http://www.richardmcvetis.co.uk)

## **WEBSITE**

**The lovely new website is up and running. Frances Green is now fielding all the website matters. Please email her now with any queries or with current events you want to share with other members.**

*From Frances Green:*

### **Members' pages on the ERTF website**

It would be very good to get to a position where every ERTF member has a biography and some photos of their work loaded onto our new website.

If you haven't yet loaded anything onto your page but grappling with the required technicalities isn't your thing, nil desperandum! I will be in touch over the autumn with an offer to load your details. So please have some text and photos ready.

[www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk](http://www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk)

## **BULLETIN**

**The next bulletin will be circulated in February 2020, with a deadline of items to be included of 19 January 2020.**

**Text should be sent as a word document or as an email and ideally less than 100 words in length. All photographs should be emailed separately (not embedded in text) and in high quality resolution. Please note that only website addresses can be published. No personal phone numbers, email or postal addresses can be given in this newsletter as it is put on the public access area on our website.**

**Committee and other linked contact details are available separately.**

**Liz Holliday**