



ERTF AUTUMN BULLETIN – October 2018

CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Saffron Walden Private View. The museum staff has done a wonderful job displaying our work and it looks brilliant.

We had a productive **Committee Meeting** on 9 October. Everyone was very pleased with “**Collections Re-crafted**” at **Saffron Walden Museum**. We have not paid to stage the exhibition but it was understood that we would make a donation to the museum at some point. The decision was to donate £200 at the end of the exhibition. Cllr Dr Barbara Light mentioned that the Mayor's Ball next March will support the Salvation Army and two local causes. She asked if any member who had work in the exhibition would be willing to donate their piece as part of the charity auction. Please let me know if you are interested and I will let you have further details.

Preparations for the **St Albans** Museum exhibition are going well. Some dates were finalized and these will be communicated to you.

Please let us know of any other suitable exhibition venues for 2020 as we need to start preparing for this now. We need your help.

Conference preparations are well in advance with speakers and workshops booked for both April and October 2019.

Financially we are healthy. Some work is required on our insurance requirements.

I will separate the **GDPR** form from the membership form so that this only has to be filled in once and not every year. You can, of course, change your preferences at any point.

Deborah and Karen continue to work on the **website**. There is a new links & events page. Please let Deborah know if you wish anything to be included. All adverts to Deborah only please.

Our current constitution is no longer fit for purpose as it was written when the group was much larger and had a different mission statement. Deborah is writing a draft document for discussion at our **next meeting** in the afternoon of **24 January**. Hopefully this will be ready for the next AGM.

Catherina will be stepping down as **Herts Rep** in April so we will need a new rep. She is doing a great job and we thank her for all she has done and is currently doing.

The Coastal Perspective Conference on 20 October was very enjoyable. Thank you to Carole for all her hard work.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Happy creating.

Very best wishes

Sue

SAFFRON WALDEN EXHIBITION – Now open!
“Collections Re-crafted”: 6 October 2018 - 3 February 2019



Private View from Liz Holliday

Thirty members have submitted forty-three textile artworks for inclusion in this exhibition, inspired by Saffron Walden and the Museum’s outstanding collection. The Curator, Carolyn Wingfield, has been most supportive throughout the project. The museum staff has made a superb job of both staging all the work for us and also of providing labels, information boards and exhibition guide booklets. Our ERTF logo is throughout the museum to link with our sources of inspiration. The Museum Society generously provided and served all the refreshments. On our behalf, Sue Dunkerley thanked everyone in Saffron Walden involved and presented Jenny Oxley, who had taken charge of mounting the exhibition itself, with a bouquet. Sue also thanked the ERTF exhibition committee past and present, for all their hard work behind the scenes, in particular this time Carole Nicholls. It was a proud and happy occasion for all our members able to attend with family and friends.



ST ALBANS MUSEUM & GALLERY EXHIBITION

“The Making of a Market Town”: 7 September to 3 November 2019

The latest details for this next selective exhibition from Flea Cooke



Theme Summary

The theme is open to individual interpretation and can link to any Eastern Region County: all have a rich tapestry of ‘market place’. We discussed:

- **Produce** – licensing and local trades
- **Transport links** – waterways, Roman roads
- **Layout** – overall shape, awnings, display
- **Local characters** – past and present, buskers, street vendors
- **Historical aspects** – Royal Charter, development into regional trade
- **Trading links** – across counties

Research/Viewing Archives

Sarah Keeling, curator of galleries at St Albans Museum will host a Handling Day at on **24th January 2019** for all members. She will also be doing a presentation. Refreshments will be provided.

Claire Willets, curator of Braintree Museum will be giving a presentation and showing photos and collections from their stores. There will also be a walk to the original market site where the town was granted the first market charter. All members are welcome to this session too, tea and biscuits will be provided.

Each of the above visits costs £5.00

Details and the application forms for these events have already been mailed to all members by Carole Nicholls and booking has started.

Exhibition submission forms have not yet been circulated.

Setting up, Hanging and PV

The exhibition will open on 7th September 2019 and run until 3rd November 2019. Packaging can be stored at the gallery under the display cases. The space allocated to us includes the East and West Wing and the connecting corridor. The rooms have both walls and display cases so can include both 2D and 3D artworks.

The Private View will be on Friday 13th September 2019.

CONFERENCE REPORT:

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

Speaker: Alice Fox – “A Coastal Perspective” www.alicefox.co.uk

We had the most excellent of conferences, thanks to a great venue, a fully booked 30 places and brilliant talk and workshop by Alice Fox. “The House of High Tea” literally provided the icing on the cake(s)! Many thanks went to Carole Nicholls for enabling all this to happen.

Since graduating in 2011, Alice has focused her artistic practice on engaging with landscape, particularly coastal. Working on paper, silk and linen Alice layers up print and stitch to make contemplative artworks that embody locations.

Alice took us in detail through her experiences as Artist in Residence for six months at Spurn Point Nature Reserve in Yorkshire in winter! The observations she made and the way she made connections between everything she saw linked completely with her finishing exhibition on all six floors of the lighthouse. No less than 750 people found their way to this remote spot over the three days of her exhibition.



Moving on from this her work still relates directly to place but at the same time broadening out to including a variety of coastal sites and other diverse items collected, including “Gifts” from the pavements of Saltaire where she lives.

Workshop “Paper and Stitch”, also by Alice Fox

From Sue Blackburn

Alice Fox set us a challenge of exploring means of combining scraps of different papers through stitch with a variety of threads and discovering how they behaved when modified in ways such as piercing, tearing, rolling, crumpling etc. We were encouraged to examine these effects in close detail – for example, how different papers behave when pierced from the “right” side compared with when they are pierced from the “wrong” side.

As often happens when creative people experiment with a medium, the outcomes, after an intensive hour or two were strikingly diverse. A final display of all the pieces together revealed the many ways papers had been combined into layers or strips or small 3-D sculptures. We learnt both from our individual efforts, prompted by Alice, and from viewing one another's work.

At the end of the workshop, with no two pieces being alike, I think we had all learnt something for the future about using paper as a surface for stitch.



Further Reflections on the day

From Sue Green

Alice Fox's journey into textiles is a fascinating one. The influences of her geography degree are very clear in her study of the coastal landscape and the resulting textile work. In her designs, Alice places restrictions, mainly that her source materials should be items recovered from the natural environment and building on a theme through play and experiment.

I found the presentation and following workshop very inspiring and will be following the ideas through in my own work.

From Viv Wearing

I found Alice's presentation fascinating. It gave me a greater appreciation and understanding of how to gather and use "found" objects. I particularly enjoyed listening to her talk about how she produced and presented her work in the old lighthouse at Spurn.

Alice brought many examples of her work for us to explore and get ideas: books, photos, pictures and worked materials. The workshop gave me the opportunity to sample stitching on a variety of papers with different needles and threads. The completed examples were shared with the group at the end, which enabled everyone to enjoy the variety and potential of stitching on paper.

Alice involved herself with the group, giving gentle helpful tips during the session, which helped us try new things and take away ideas to use in future projects.

CONFERENCES AHEAD:

13 April 2019: AGM and Conference: St Mark's College, Audley End, Saffron Walden, CB11 4JT

Speaker: Michele Carragher - The Embroidered Narrative: Costume Embroidery for Film and Television.

www.michelecarragherembroidery.com



Michele Carragher is a highly creative costume hand-embroiderer who has been working in costume for film and television productions for over 20 years. Michele will give a 60-minute talk, and bring along a collection of her work that displays her style and techniques. Her work was used in *Elizabeth I*, which starred Dame Helen Mirren and *Game of Thrones*, which she still creates for.

Workshop – Vanda Campbell: A Brush with Nature

Vanda Campbell is an artist-maker whose practice challenges the received view of found objects and materials. Recent exhibitions include 10 days at Winchester Cathedral; *Draw the Line* at The Surface Gallery, Nottingham; and Connections 2018 at Wells Malting Arts, Norfolk. Her work is also featured in Mary Schoeser's book *Textiles: The Art of Mankind* (Thames & Hudson). All materials provided

www.vandacampbell.com

19 October 2019: Location research ongoing

Speaker: Cas Holmes - 'Painting with Cloth' www.casholmestextiles.co.uk



Cas trained in fine arts and works between the disciplines of painting, drawing and textiles. Salvaged materials are torn, cut and re-assembled to create mixed media pieces, which draw their inspiration from 'hidden' or 'overlooked' observations of daily life. She likes to use the remnants of domestic life, rags and cloths, pieces of old clothing that are handled and worn, evidencing 'human contact'. She makes reference to the views from windows, the weeds and flora on the roadside verges and field edges, and the places where gardens meet the 'greater landscape'. She describes her process as 'stitch-sketching' and 'painting with cloth', as she seeks to capture a moment or thing before it is gone. This talk will focus on this approach to creating works in cloth and references other artists in connection to the landscape. This is also the focus for her fourth book with Batford, due out at the end of 2018

Landscape: Painting with Cloth.

Workshop – Using the Found, Extreme Stitching: Explore the character and qualities of paper and found material as a surface for working. A focus on hand stitching as an extension of mark making and various means of manipulating, attaching and joining surfaces. We use different threads to build up a range of distressed, torn, manipulated and collage surfaces to create new elements of interest in your work. Some of the methods are adapted from Japanese paper techniques such as Momigami, rub-crinkled paper techniques. The pieces resulting from this creative exploration could be used as a starting point for collage, stitching, 3D or sculptural work.

Participants are provided with a basic workshop list specific to the course, which is largely centred on the creative re-use of the materials you may have available. Old domestic (not valuable) fabrics or scraps that can be recycled as well as copies of paper items, maps, photos and items gathered on your day-to-day journeys are useful things to collect... and they should all fit in one bag. This can reflect your theme, a place special to you, be colour-inspired and/or poems or words that express the feeling of your ideas. A fragment of textile, a handkerchief, napkin or a piece of embroidery can be used as both a base and a starting point.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Janet Cook

A couple of years ago, a friend's brother, a film maker, approached me through the Eagle Gallery in Bedford to see if I would let him use some of my artwork in his new film. He chose "Three Hares", and some time later he told me that they would play an important part.

I missed being an "extra" when crowd scenes were filmed in the village, but now I hear that the film is finished. It has been chosen from 6,500 films to be shown at a film festival in Nova Scotia. He hopes to have a launch in London in November, followed by showings in Bedford.

Take a look at www.thelossen.co.uk for an insight into the production process. I'm looking forward to seeing my name in the credits!



Margaret Talbot

I have written a new book called "TEXTURED SURFACES IN FABRIC and THREAD. My love of texture inspired me to experiment with fabric and thread making textures seen in nature. I was disillusioned with mixed media because it left the fabric hard or crusty. I wanted to use

just fabric and thread to create new and different textures, some with only hand stitching and others using a combination of hand and machine sewing. Fabric manipulation played a large part following the fabric being textured sometimes making a glorious complex cloth with a fascinating surface. I used only natural fabrics and thread in white, which could then be coloured when complete. There is no reason why coloured fabrics could not be used. This book gives many ideas for making textures and fabric manipulation but it is not a project book. I hope to inspire embroiderers to create their own textures and use them in their own work. My book costs £10 (plus p&p £2.99)
(Margaret's contact details are available separately)

Claire Cousins

Claire Cousins will be hosting the Textiles East Fair next year along with her daughter and husband for the third year running.

Claire's passion for textiles stems back to her childhood and she wanted to share this passion through holding a Textile Fair. The Textiles East Fair will be held on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd February 2019 at Swavesey Village College, with the aims of providing a dynamic, active platform for textile artists to exhibit and retailers to showcase their beautiful products for purchase.

There will be two exhibitions, including work from the East Anglian based textile group "Tin Hut Textiles", plus a wide selection of textile supply retailers.

For full details check out www.textileseastfair.wordpress.com

WEBSITE

Do regularly check out our website and update your photographs. Deborah has created a "Links and Events" area on the website so that members can advertise other exhibitions they are participating in there, which is great.

All personal advertising should now therefore be sent to Deborah Richardson.

www.easternregiontextileforum.co.uk

BULLETIN

The next bulletin will be circulated in January 2019, with a deadline of items to be included of 7 January 2019.

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