



Eastern Region Textile Forum  
*taking textiles forward*

## ERTF WINTER BULLETIN – January 2020

### CHAIR'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you are enjoying creating your textile art. We had a very successful committee meeting on 21 January.

The **St Albans exhibition** was an incredible success. We had 14,322 visitors. Shop sales totalled £1554.99 and they continue to sell Alison's sheep products. Comments from the visitors' book included, 'Great exhibition, very evocative of our town in days gone by and today; A very fine exhibition – vivid, diversely skillful and full of wit; Very creative – lends a fresh perspective to the market town; Amazing variety of exhibits. Enjoyed reading detailed explanations. Good source of inspiration. Well done and thank you; Me and my Mum thought it was electrifying!' The last quote was an email to the museum accompanied by a photograph of their 8 year old daughter's very commendable attempt to recreate Alison's 3D hill and sheep. Thank you to everyone who contributed or supported the exhibition in any way. We intend to submit another application for an exhibition at the gallery in 2023.

**Website.** Thanks to Frances, the new website is now excellent and has everything you need – dates for your diary for the next couple of years with details of all events, forms for conferences and exhibitions as appropriate, as well as information on the group. Please do look at it and use it as a resource.

Frances enthusiastically updates the Facebook page and we have 80 members. It is interesting and enjoyable so please do look and contribute. Thanks, Frances.

**AGM and Conference with Julia Triston 25 April 2020.** Thanks to Carole we managed to secure Jordan's Mill after being let down by the previous venue. Please send in your form to Carole.

**A Sense of Place. Hertford Theatre 29 September to 24 October 2020.** We will be asking for good quality images to use in publicity after the conference. It would be great to have the interesting back stories to go with these. The private view is 2 October.

**20 June 2020 Barley Town House, Church End Royston. Flower Power Inspiration.** This is a new addition to the calendar. This is a response to requests for more social activities and opportunities to support each other with our work. In due course, Carole will ask if you intend to come but it will be a free day with a sandwich lunch provided plus a workshop by Vanda Campbell. You should leave with lots of ideas of starting points for our sixties themed exhibition.

As you will read in this bulletin, our programme is full of interesting opportunities to exhibit, meet and create together. We continue to be proactive and have booked Hyde Hall for an exhibition 1 – 14 June 2022. I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work and continued support.

I look forward to seeing many of you in April. Thanks to you all for making ERTF such a great group of like-minded artists.

Very best wishes  
Sue Dunkerley

## 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. All members received an email request for volunteers to help them and offers have been gratefully received.

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.**

**The size parameters for this exhibition have changed since the last bulletin. Please note that now:**

The ideal size of exhibits would be 70 cm in height by 60 cm in width. The pieces can be smaller.

Larger pieces will create a problem as there are only eight boards in the main area. There are three in the gallery extension so if any one is wishing to create a single larger piece please can they contact Sue Dunkerley or Carole Nicholls.

Unfortunately, there is no provision for 3D pieces so all work needs to be 2D.

The hanging method will need to be mirror plates for framed work or if unframed, a discreet wooden dowel with screw eyes at either end. Maximum weight 2 – 3 Kg.

“Intent to submit” forms for this exhibition have been emailed to all members and are easily available to download from the website. Please return them at the latest by Friday 28 February.

The “Information for Exhibitors” form is to be submitted with an image of the work by Friday 26 June.

The Submission Date of actual work is 28 August to Area Reps, and payment by the same day of the final £20 submission fee by cheque or BACS.

If you have any queries please email Carole and Sue. We hope that you enjoy preparing and working your pieces. Do keep checking the website for further information and updates.

## **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.

In the meantime, please visit the ERTF website where you will now find a link to a selection of themes and ideas linked to the Sixties. There is also an Andy Warhol exhibition at Tate Modern from 12 March – 6 September 2020. A group visit is going to be organized with more details to come.

Also the committee has organized a theme brainstorming social day for this exhibition on Saturday 20 June 2020, in Barley Town House, Church End, Royston, SG88 8JP. It will be open to all the membership and will involve discussion around the theme, a workshop led by Vanda Campbell and a buffet lunch. There will be no charge. Carole will be sending out an invitation to every member.

**Exhibitions are being planned beyond this. We are delighted to confirm that in 2022, the gallery at Hyde Hall, the RHS Gardens in Essex, has been booked for 1 – 14 June, with a title as yet to be confirmed.**

### **ERTF CONFERENCES AHEAD:**

**25 April 2020: AGM and Conference:** Jordan’s Mill, Holme Mills, Southill Road, Broom, Nr Biggleswade, SG18 9JY

**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'**

This workshop will explore identity and the memories that previously used/worn textiles can hold. You will deconstruct some functional textiles and reconstruct them into a new 'assemblage', with a changed identity. You may choose to complete one small piece on the day, or produce a series of samples that can be developed at a later date.

The application form for this conference has already been emailed to members by Carole Nicholls. A copy can also be downloaded from our website. Please book your place as soon as you can. The final booking date is 17 April. NB: The workshop requirements list of items to bring is on the website.

**17 October 2020:** Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2RE

**Speaker: Kathleen Laurel Sage: 'How textiles shaped my life'**

[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 three-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.

#### **Embroidered, Soldered and heat Zapped Surfaces**

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: Kathleen Laurel Sage: 'Colour Washed and Surface Stitched Garden Memories'**

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 and 2022**

We have successfully booked:

Debbie Lyddon for our 17 April 2021 AGM and Conference in the Saffron Walden area, with a theme of "Sensing the Landscape".

blog: [debbielyddon.wordpress.com](https://debbielyddon.wordpress.com)

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)

Vivienne Morpeth for our 23 April 2022 AGM and Conference in the Cambridge direction, who is a felt maker.

[www.viviennemorpeth.uk](http://www.viviennemorpeth.uk)

## **WEBSITE**

**Frances Green has continued to work on the new website and Facebook group.**

**Website** - we are very nearly there now with the front page of the members' gallery. The aim is that ALL members should exhibit at least one photo and that is nearly completed. It looks good. Because this is often the main landing page for anyone interested in the work of the group or working with us on publicity, we really do need to make this particular page a great showcase. PLEASE email Frances Green if you need help updating any aspects of your pages.

**Facebook** - the FB Group is open to anyone interested in textiles and they do not have to be ERTF members. It is a great way to talk about our work and share events and enthusiasm for textiles more widely. We currently have 80 members in the FB group and it is growing slowly - do spread the word! If you would like to share one of your events on the ERTF Facebook group, please either join the group and post your net, OR email the details to Frances to post.

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

## **BULLETIN**

The purpose of this bulletin is to supply all up-to-the-minute information in print form to members four times a year, so that each update provides the latest "all you need to know". Frances also keeps the website up to date between times courtesy of the latest information from committee. This all means information emails are kept to a minimum and hopefully all members have succinct regular information reference points and are as up to date on everything as the committee!

I would like to thank all Area Representatives for reporting in to me so very promptly with a "nothing much specific to mention". They need thanks from us all just for keeping up contact all round.

**The next bulletin will be circulated hopefully in very late April 2020, with a pre-conference deadline of items to be included of 20 April 2020. It will have an added AGM and conference report.**

**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**