

Dear Colleagues

I hope this email finds you well. I know that some of you will have already have received the vaccine. Hopefully, by the Summer, we will start to get back on track with our events.

January 26 Committee Meeting Update. Unfortunately, we do not think it will be viable to hold our 17 April meeting as planned. However, Carole has been in negotiation with **Debbie Lyddon** and she is prepared to do a Zoom talk on that day. Also on that day, Debbie is also considering the suggestion of a Zoom workshop. We will update you nearer the time. There will be no charge for these events.

With regard to the **AGM**, we propose to hold this in the summer at Hyde Hall or in October. **Subscription fees will remain suspended** until we can resume our normal programme. We have 49 members. I would like to welcome Lucy Sugden. Please do contact any member of the Committee if we can be of help.

I was due to stand down as **Chair** this April but I will now continue in the role until April 2022. The support I receive from all the Committee makes my role enjoyable and manageable.

EXHIBITIONS

Hertford – still on hold as they are not discussing exhibitions at the Gallery before Easter.

Parndon Mill – still on hold as they have a waiting list and cannot open in the near future.

RHS Hyde Hall exhibition.

Although there is uncertainty regarding the scheduling of our *A Sense of Place* and *Flower Power* exhibitions, we are currently working on the basis that all will be well for *Changing Earth*. This RHS collaborative exhibition is scheduled for June 2022 at RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford and promises to be hugely popular given its location, time of year and important, very relevant theme.

Our work will draw on the RHS Report *Gardening in a Changing Climate* and, if you haven't yet taken a look, please visit the relevant page of our website for more information, including our introductory video <https://ertf.org.uk/ertf-members-exhibition/>. The exhibition space at Hyde Hall is light and spacious. It is also large; we need participating members to produce enough pieces (2D and 3D) to do justice to the space, so please do give early thought to this exhibition.

Our provisional plan, assuming it works in the wider Covid context, is to arrange an ERTF visit at some point during this coming summer. If permitted, we shall enjoy the gardens in full bloom, have an outdoor opportunity to meet as a group and be able to discuss ideas/work in progress. More information will follow in due course.

FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM

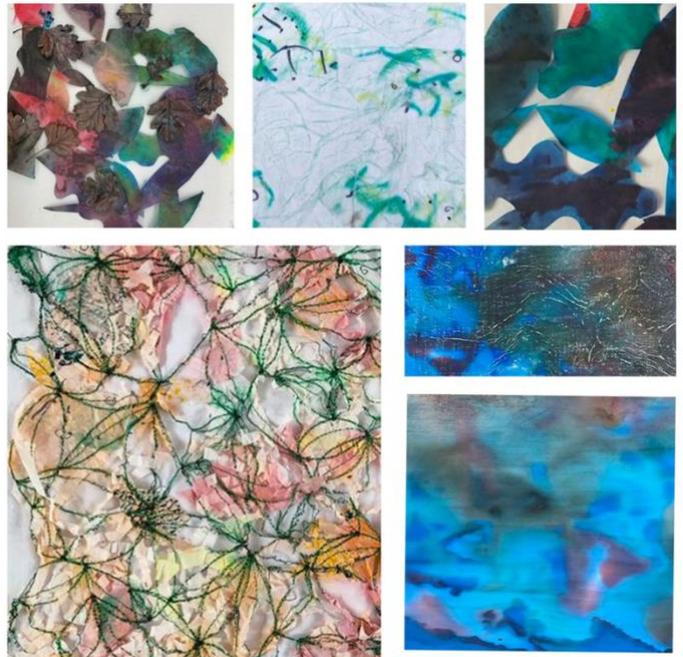
Both brilliant media platforms for our textile art. Facebook continues to thrive with excellent, frequent postings. Thanks, Frances.

We now have 100 followers on Instagram. Thanks, Hannah.

CHRISTINE CHESTER - ON LINE COURSE – Working with Tissue

Members will be aware, from Carole's email/attachment to everyone of 12th January 2021, that we have arranged for members to take advantage of discounted access (£25) to a course designed by Christine Chester (www.christinechester.com) in response to an approach by ERTF with our Hyde Hall exhibition in mind. The course is provided as a video with supporting documentation, and is accompanied by access to a dedicated Facebook group for participants and a chance to post work and liaise directly with Christine.

A number of techniques are covered (some end results shown in these photos). They help prompt thinking about organic ways of working and, even if your work doesn't use Christine's techniques directly, some of her ideas and approaches may help with and support your work for Hyde Hall.



Christine is opening her course up to the public from the end of February at a non-discounted price but ERTF members retain the option to purchase the course at a discounted rate until 14th June 2021.

Some ERTF members have already signed up and written to say how positive it has been for their work – for example:

I've watched this video a couple of times now and have taken away some interesting techniques to explore further. I started incorporating paper into my work last year and I now have several new ideas to move this forward. In particular, I am eager to get experimental with stitching into tissue and also laminating it with fabric, making interesting textural backgrounds for my collage work. **Hannah Rae**

I started the 'Working with Tissues' workshop with a little trepidation but needing to have some form of guidance towards transferring my ideas into stitch. Section one (making marks) was liberating and the results very encouraging. Section two was a joy to do. Section three - transferring the colours from my work with inks and doing a new piece with just tissue paper and water - resulted in two new pieces of material. These are now making me think about how to sew into them – I feel I have gone from design to thinking of stitch. The combination of the written instructions and the video are really useful, complementing each other really well. I still have more sections of the workshop to look forward to and can't wait to see what the results are. **Pauline Jones**

The course really prompted me to get thinking about my Hyde Hall pieces. I was particularly taken by the section working with dissolvable fabric. I may not end up using tissue but the technique has sparked some good onward creative thoughts!

Frances Green

Do take the opportunity to have a look at this course. If enough members join and produce samples, we may have an exhibition panel specifically devoted to Christine's techniques at Hyde Hall.

To sign up Christine says..

You can purchase the course by visiting a special password protected page on my website, link and password (the password is case sensitive). I will be using the e mail that you use when paying by Paypal – which you can do with a credit/debit card. I will then confirm your e mail address and send you the video link and password. The video is on Vimeo and you can watch it via the Vimeo app, or download it to play it as many times as you like on your device.*

*The link and the password can be found in the emailed version of Sue's Chair's bulletin (sent out on January 31st 2021).

TEXTILES EAST FAIR 2021

Given present Covid restrictions, Textiles East will not be held as a live event this year. Members may recall that we ran a very successful stall there last year. This year we have taken advantage of the fact that the fair will be on-line to submit a brief video introducing ERTF. The virtual Fair can be found online at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HskVm3Qh1YM&feature=youtu.be>

Videos, including ours, will be uploaded from February. Watch this space!

Frances did a great job with this video, thanks. We will be able to use it for publicity purposes.

You will notice that we have started to use the beautifully stitched banner letters. Thank you to all those who took part in this endeavour. They are beautiful.

Hannah photoshopped photos of the stitched banner letters which look great. An unexpected bonus. She is going to do further work on this. Thanks, Hannah.

WEBSITE - Members Gallery Pages

All members now have a front image on their gallery pages, but not everyone has content when visitors click on an artist to find out more. As you know, Frances Green has been updating aspects of our website and has previously said she would be very happy to load material and photos for anyone who would find this helpful.

Our website is an important part of showing what a great and diverse group we are - and it really helps support our aim of promoting textiles more widely. With our exhibitions and other events, and for visitors and potential new members, it is important and engaging to have good content. Do email Frances (drfrancesgreen@gmail.com) if she can assist.

Meanwhile, and over the course of 2021, Frances will be contacting members individually to discuss gallery content and offer help. Thank you, Frances.

As you can see from the above, the Committee continues to work hard. We look forward to when we can resume our programme as we have such exciting events planned. It will be great to see you all in person again.

Until then, happy creating,

Sue Dunkerley