

From Sue Dunkerley, ERTF Chair
22 May 2022



Dear Colleagues

I write to you all as I sign off from my role as Chair. Thank you so much for the lovely vase and flowers, plus the very kind comments in the card. They were given to me appropriately at Hyde Hall. Very much appreciated.

What a fantastic way to end my final ERTF outing with our brilliant and extremely successful exhibition at **Hyde Hall**. My congratulations to all the 35 inspired and talented artists involved. I hope that other members not exhibiting managed to get along to see the work and visit the wonderful gardens.

Our exhibition featured over a hundred pieces and a really splendid sales table. The whole event was a tremendous success, not simply in terms of sales takings of over £6000, (yes, you have read that correctly!), but in the very warm and enthusiastic reviews given by the constant stream of delighted visitors. For many of them, our exhibition provided new insights into textile art, its many techniques and applications. The thoughtful, challenging and delightful pieces intrigued, amused and gave much pleasure to everyone looking around. We received many compliments on the high standard and impact of our work interpreting the theme of climate change. Our partners at Hyde Hall were also very impressed and pleased with the show. Frances will add excerpts from our visitors' book to the website in due course.

My thanks go to everyone who contributed towards making this memorable exhibition happen. An incredible amount of work by a lot of people went in to the organisation and implementation of the exhibition which started over two years ago. Particular congratulations go to Frances for her detailed, professional and highly efficient approach. Marian, our Zettle expert, was an invaluable support. The exhibition was very expensive to put on. However, very worthwhile. Marian will be writing to individual members about their sales money in the near future. Thanks to all those who helped put up and take down the exhibition and the stewards. The exhibition was a triumph!

We had a **Committee meeting** on Tuesday 26 April. Unfortunately, no one has come forward as Chair but if Carole can allocate the whole conference role to one or two people, she will take over as Chair. Cherry has kindly offered to be Secretary. The success of any organisation depends on **all** members doing their part to contribute. Please do support your committee. Please contact Carole to discuss what you could do to help.

My last AGM bulletin sent on 17 April was very comprehensive and there is nothing much to add to that so please do refer to it (set out below). Please do let Maggie know if you want or are posting something on Instagram as she can ensure our Instagram presence is up to date and active. Maggie is happy for you to email images to her. She has lots of ideas for future posts.

I have really enjoyed being Chair of ERTF. It has been very rewarding and I have enjoyed meeting you all. I will miss it and look forward to hearing all about your future events.

Happy creating
Sue

AGM April Report 2021 – 2022

HAPPY EASTER

It is with sadness that this will be my last report as Chair for ERTF. As I stated previously, Colin and I are moving to Bristol to be nearer our family. It is coming at a time when hopefully life for ERTF will be back to 'normal'. The Committee have done a sterling job and been very proactive. Our enthusiastic membership means that ERTF continues to thrive and develop.

The papers emailed out with this report form our online AGM this year. In 2023, the AGM will be in person. However, you are more than welcome to email me or any other member of the Committee with questions or comments about ERTF. Please see the attached list of Committee members.

We have had regular Committee Meetings that have involved a lot of future planning for our forthcoming exhibitions and conferences. We also had a lot of communication between Committee members as appropriate. Unfortunately, Covid still hampered our activities for half the year. A lot of time and energy was spent dealing with postponements and rearrangements. Members were kept fully informed after Committee meetings by the Chair's bulletin letters. Other Committee members sent information about various events as and when appropriate.

'Changing Earth' – our collaborative exhibition with RHS Hyde Hall, Chelmsford Essex 6 – 19 May RHS Hyde Hall

Plans are now entering the final stages for our Hyde Hall exhibition and it promises to be a very good show. The remaining time contains some critical exhibitor deadlines.

Frances has put a lot of information and all the forms on our web site (including about hanging systems/requirements, submission etc so please would everyone involved ensure they have looked at this <https://ertf.org.uk/ertf-members-exhibition/>). If you cannot download the final forms, let her know urgently and she will email to you.

In summary, every exhibitor must:

1. Pay their final £10 by **22 April**;
2. Complete the agreement/stock forms to accompany submission of exhibition and sales table items. This is essential as it is from these forms that the electronic stock catalogue will be constructed, which forms the basis for sales and reconciliations with Hyde Hall. Big thanks to Marian for all her help with this substantial job;
3. Ensure all exhibition and sales table items are handed in by **2nd May latest**.

There is a lot of work to be done between then and the opening, so anyone who can bring submissions to our April conference is encouraged to do so. But please ensure Frances knows you are doing this so we can ensure sufficient car space. Email her on drfrancesgreen@gmail.com;

4. Ensure they adhere to their slots in the stewarding timetable. It is essential that we have good cover for the whole of the exhibition.

Thanks to Frances, Marian and Carole for all their organising, advice and wise counsel behind the scenes.

April 23 2022 Conference Vivienne Morpeth. Anstey Village Hall, Buntingford SG9 0BY. Dressed in Sheep's Clothing. From Ancient Traditions to Modern Felting. Participants will make a nuno felt scarf. All materials provided. She is a designer, artist, teacher of international repute. It will be a great experience.

'Flower Power', Parndon Mill, 29 June - 6 August 2023. Vanda has reinstated the sixties workshop on **3 September 2022** at [Anstey Village Hall, Anstey, Buntingford SG9 0BY](#). The booking form is on the website plus requirements for the workshop. £15 plus £4 materials paid to Vanda on the day. Thanks to Carole who has spent a long time reorganising both the workshop and exhibition.

October 15 2022 Conference. Debbie Lyddon. Anstey Village Hall, Buntingford SG9 0BY. Sensing the Landscape. Details and booking form on the ERTF website.

April 29 2023 AGM & Conference. Nikki Parmenter. Hundertwasser Lollipop Trees theme. Details to follow.

October 14 2023 Conference Tansy Hargan Details to follow.

St Albans Museum and Gallery 2024. Thanks to Carole for completing the considerable paperwork as part of this booking. Further details will follow.

Financially we are very healthy. **The membership fee for 2022-2023 will be £25 by BACS.** It is becoming harder to deal with cheques but if you have a problem, please contact Marian. Expenses have been low due to the restrictions. However, these will rise. The website domain licence was due. Public liability insurance for exhibitions has been restarted. However, we have kept hanging fees to a minimum and had free Zoom talks. **Marian will contact members individually** to sort out what they owe as some members have paid membership fees and part of Vanda's workshop cost in advance.

It helps that at present we have 60 members and we will start a waiting list. Our position will be clearer after the membership fees are due. Thanks to Marian who is brilliant at keeping everything in check. Cherry Taylor has joined the Committee as **Membership Coordinator.** She will collate the membership list, GDPR requirement list and deal with new member applications.

GDPR. Our GDPR policy has been updated by an expert. We are going to ask all members to sign a new GDPR form so we can ensure our records are current and up to date. Please find attached the policy and form for your signature which you can bring to the conference or send it to Cherry.

The **website** is fantastic and all the information about past and future events are on there in an attractive format. Our **Facebook** has 190 members. Many thanks to Frances who does an absolutely wonderful job.

Hannah reluctantly resigned from the Committee in January although she continues to be an active member. She has recently moved to Suffolk, is establishing a studio and has a lot of personal demands on her time. We wish her well and thank her for all that she has done,

especially with regard to setting up the Instagram account. You will have heard by now from Maggie Hands who has joined the Committee and is overseeing our **Instagram** account. Welcome and thank you, Maggie.

As I write this, we still **need a new Chair**. I will continue until the end of May, even if I have to commute. The role can be tailored to the person as we work as a team. Responsibilities include chairing meetings, both Committee and ERTF conferences and events, maintaining an overall awareness of all committee members activities and ensuring future events are planned. I am quite willing to help someone. The rest of the Committee is fantastic and we all support one another whilst enjoying our roles. I can't thank both the past and present Committee enough.

I wish ERTF all the best for the future. It is a wonderful group to belong to. Happy creating.

Sue. Chair of ERTF