



June 2023

## **Hello - and an introduction**

It's a pleasure to send out my first bulletin as ERTF Chair. I have been on the committee since 2021 and, with enormous thanks to Carole for all her very hard work in various committee capacities including Chair, have stepped forward to take on the role. With your help, and that of my fellow committee members, I look forward to this next exciting phase for our organisation.

A little by way of background about me. I have had an interest in art since a relatively young age and come from a family of creative women who due to the constraints at the time couldn't reach their potential. Due to care commitments I was unable to study art until I was older. I completed a number of C&G courses in textiles and embroidery, followed by an Art and Design course.

I'm a former member of the Midlands Textile Forum but when I moved to Bedfordshire I applied to join ERTF. My work tends to straddle the mixed media tag, but I don't like to pigeon hole myself.

What follows is a summary of recent and forthcoming events and a few pleas for help. As always, don't hesitate to contact me or Cherry Taylor who is now Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

## **Recent events**

a) We had a super workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> April with Nikki Parmenter. Everyone present had a wonderfully creative day and produced colourful, exuberant works. Big thanks to Kirsten for a lovely write up (see <https://ertf.org.uk/ertf-agm-and-conference-29th-april-2023/>) and to Carole for all her work in organising the day;

b) The above day was also the AGM and a time to record the changes in the committee. We had a follow up committee meeting on 7 June and took the opportunity to say a huge thanks to Carole and Marian.



### What's coming up?

a) After a long period of planning and anticipation and again with enormous thanks to Carole, our wonderful **Parndon Mill exhibition opens on 29 June and runs to 6 August.** The pieces submitted celebrate the 1960s in a vibrant engaging way, and are a real tribute to the high level of textile mastery within our group. I will be unable to meet any of you at the **private view on Sunday 2 July (2-4pm)** as I am away on holiday but I look forward to getting to know as many of you as possible in the future.



b) It seems a long way off but you will have seen that planning for our 2024 St Albans exhibition is off the starting blocks. We have been given a long exhibition period and it will be a super opportunity to showcase members' work. I hope that as many members as possible will take part. Frances (who is now organising this exhibition with Catherina) has sent out an email asking to know who will be attending the morning briefing by the museum in September, so do let her know (yes or no). More information is here: <https://ertf.org.uk/ertf-members-exhibition-9-september-18-october-2024-st-albans-museum-gallery/>

c) Booking is open now for our 14 October autumn conference/workshop with Tansy Hargan. We are anticipating that this will be a popular day with members and I know a number of you have done some of her workshops previously. Book early to avoid disappointment! Details are at <https://ertf.org.uk/workshop-with-tansy-hargan-14th-october-2023/> where you can find out more about Tansy.

d) Beyond that we have workshops planned for 20 April 2024 (Janice Gunner) and 12 October 2024 with our own Magenta Kang. Please do note these dates in your diaries and keep an eye on the website pages.

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More generally, please do take the time to look at our ERTF website. It contains a lot of information and guidance and my thanks to Frances to keeping on top of

this and our Facebook group. I am keen to see all members' gallery pages used and Frances is available to load photos and text for you if that helps.

We currently have 41 members and so, if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining ERTF, do encourage them to do so. *I mentioned a plea at the start: we need a secretary (this is now a much simpler role than previously) and ideally one or two other members to serve on the committee.*

Please do consider whether you can help us. Cherry and I are very happy to discuss any questions you might have.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank committee members for all their work, and to wish everyone a very enjoyable, happy healthy summer.

Kind regards  
Maggie Hands  
*ERTF Chair*