



Embroiderers' Guild

ISSUE  
NUMBER  
150

FEBRUARY 2019

HORSHAM  
BRANCH

Inclusive, Enthusiastic,  
Creative, Contemporary  
and Friendly



**Doors Open at 1.15  
For Stitch Time**

**Meetings Start at 2 pm**

**Your Contributions  
Are Important!**

Contact the Editor,  
Jan Brown, if you  
would like  
to share your report  
on a workshop,  
speaker, visit, show  
or anything else of  
interest, on:

01403 256973 or 240840  
07801 137349

or by email at:  
jan@janet-brown.co.uk

Hello,

Really enjoyed last month's meeting where we shared all our favourite and unusual gadgets. Sarah won the prize for the most gadgets in her workbox - years worth of shopping at various quilt stores and shows I guess!

I have brought in the device for making springs as Paul has set it up so you can see how it works.

We welcome Felicity J Warnes to our branch today. She sells mostly second hand books and has written a beautifully produced book with colour plates of ladies fashion. Her talk today on being trendy in the

nineteenth century should be fascinating. She is bringing some of her books to sell.

We came perilously close to having to take the decision to close the Young Embroiderers at the end of the summer as we had only two girls, but now miraculously we have three new members. Obviously we need to cover our costs. However having lost one of our helpers, we now do need an extra pair of hands so please let me know if you are interested. It involves two hours a month, having a CRB check done at the Guild's expense and is very rewarding. In particular we need someone to help on 22nd June as Hazel is away. Why not give it a go?

**Jan Brown**

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Stitchfest 13th July 2019

Tickets for this event will be £9.00 in advance or £11.00 at the door, but members of East Grinstead and Horsham branch will be able to buy a ticket for £5.00 if they are able to offer some help for a few hours to the region. I will soon have a breakdown of what help is required but it would include manning the door (collecting and selling tickets), selling Raffle tickets and helping with the Tombola (we are hoping to replicate our successful tombola at the Regional AGM). If you are planning to attend do let me know if you can help in any way. Obviously we also have our own branch table to set up and steward; our Treasurer is again happy to subsidise the ticket cost if you can help the branch.

## Next Month's Meeting

28th March 2019

Speaker: Janet Bolton

Title: 'Hand Sewn Narrative Textiles: A Personal Journey'

Janet Bolton composes textile pictures using the simplest of hand sewing techniques. Her inspiration comes from visual experience, memory, imagination – and sometimes from some quality inspired by the material itself - the placement of each element within the composition and the feeling this evokes being the important factor of each piece of work.

[www.janetbolton.com](http://www.janetbolton.com)



### Celebrating our 15th Birthday - The Crystal Swan Jigsaw



Thank you for all your comments and suggestions at the last Meeting. We have revised and clarified the Instructions - and put the waves round the right way! - and the complete kits are ready for collection on Thursday.

Please do join in this Project. If time is an issue, we have different size puzzle pieces. And if you're new to any of the techniques we're using, there will be demonstrations and lots of help and guidance.

If you've never done 'padding' before, then make sure you get there early on Thursday as we will be demonstrating how to do this at 2pm.

**Teresa**

Teresa will be demonstrating at the February, March and April meetings (details of each demonstration are in the Instruction packs) at 2 pm and we hope to have the completed parts returned in the May meeting.

The Swan will hold pride of place in our Showcase display at Ardingly and you may recall that last month I talked also about having some extra embroidered pieces relating to the swan, on display. I hope that you will be able to use your creative juices for this part of the project; it can be any size, 2D or 3D, relate to swans, cygnets, feathers, feet, beaks, water etc. We also hope the Young Embroiderers will complete some pieces as well so we truly have a 'showcase' of all the talent in the branch!

**Jan**

## Clear Vision Project

Some members have expressed an interest in making a Tactile Book for Clear Vision which I passed on to Fiona Taylor. Below is her reply:

*'Thank you so much for getting back to ClearVision, and for your interest in the tactile book project. I have been looking through the Tactile book collection and we have found some alphabet books which were made by the Horsham Embroiderers Guild between 2014 and 2016. I attach a picture of 'R for ... rattle'. There was also listed one for the sound 'Sh' but this was out on loan. These are very popular - and still going strong - so well made! There are other books which sadly in the earlier days were only catalogued by title and so I can't tell if any were yours, or maybe some have been catalogued in an individual needleperson's name.*

*We have one or two other embroiderers' guilds who make books and this is so helpful as the books are always so carefully made so that bits don't fall off or come apart. So yes please we would be very keen for some help. You will note from the last newsletter that we do need more alphabet books - so helpful for children learning to explore by touch and then move on to reading just a few simple everyday words - we add the braille labels.*

*Other books that go down well are short fun poems illustrated with simple tactile images or objects. We can add the whole poem, or just keywords, in the Braille. Or if anyone is keen on creative writing, some original little stories with easy to manage tactile illustrations. Simple science/nature/everyday life books are good too.*

*If you think it would be useful for your members, particularly any new since you were making them before, we can send out a loan of some of the books for you all to look at.'*

I am attaching with this newsletter two booklets Fiona has sent me which should give you some idea of what is required. Please let me know at the meetings, or by phone or email, if you are interested in doing a book, or even some pages and we could all get together and decide if we want to do one book between us or a book each. I think I still have some pages of plastic canvas covered in felt which we used before.

## This Month's Raffle from Frances Westwood

### **Madras**

The city of Chennai was formerly known as Madras and was the original home of the fabric known as madras. Chennai is the largest cultural, economic and educational centre of southern India. The name was changed from Madras to Chennai in 1996 although the name Madras still remains in unofficial use from time to time.

Madras is a lightweight cotton fabric with a plaid design. Authentic Madras is handwoven, has the same pattern on both sides of the fabric and contains small slubs as a natural feature of the yarn.

The first madras material was a muslin overprinted or embroidered in elaborate patterns with vegetable dyes. It became popular in Europe because it was lightweight and breathable. Cotton plaid madras reached America in 1718. Sears offered the first madras shirt for sale in their 1897 catalogue. By the 1930s it had become quite a status symbol because only American tourists who could afford expensive Caribbean holidays during the Great Depression had access to the fabric.

In 1958 William Jacobson, a leading textile importer travelled to Bombay to trade for madras material. He struck a deal with C.P. Krishnan, a leading exporter. Krishnan warned Jacobson that the fabric should be washed gently in cold water to avoid 'bleeding'. The advice never reached Brooks Brothers to whom Jacobson sold 10,000 yards. Brooks Bros. then sold madras garments without proper washing instructions resulting in the bright madras dyes bleeding in the wash and emerging discoloured and faded. Angry customers demanded an explanation. Nothing daunted, the advertising giant David Ogilvy coined the phrase 'guaranteed to bleed' and used this as a selling point. A 1966 advertisement stated: 'Authentic Indian Madras is completely handwoven from yarns dyed with native vegetable colourings. Home-spun by native weavers, no two plaids are exactly the same. When washed with mild soap in warm water, they are guaranteed to bleed and blend together into distinctively muted and subdued colouring.'

I'm pretty sure that I remember my mother talking about 'bleeding madras' and relishing the opportunity to shock everyone by using such a rude word!

**Raffle** Genuine madras, bleeding or otherwise was too expensive to buy for the raffle this month and so I have substituted some muslin and some scoured calico both fabrics originally from India.