

# CETG ARCHIVE

## Meeting Report

**13th June 2016**

### **Speaker: Jamie Malden**

Jamie Malden of [Colouricious](#) gave an enthusiastic talk about printing with hand carved wooden blocks. After a career in teaching, Jamie retired to crafting with rubber stamps, but was unable to find stamps in the ethnic designs she preferred. She experimented with making her own rubber stamps with highly unsatisfactory results. An Indian friend mentioned the wooden printing blocks carved to order in the streets of her native Jaipur, and a business was born. The designs are created in the UK, emailed to India where the carvers receive 100% of the proceeds. This has enabled many of them to leave the streets and return to their workshops, earning enough to pay the rent and send their children to school. The blocks are carved in native sheesham wood and soaked in olive oil to ensure they are more durable than cheaper versions made of mango wood. Jamie also uses water-based fabric paints which leave no residue on the surface of the cloth once they have been fixed with a hot iron. Her secret weapons for a successful print are a rubber mat under the fabric and sparing amounts of paint.

With a multitude of samples handed round the room, Jamie demonstrated the versatility of the method using a wide variety of media - fabric, paper, air dried clay, gesso, metal foil, gelli plate - to make all kinds of items - cushions, clothes, soft toys and rag dolls, bags, books and cards. She also demonstrated how the basic printed fabric could be combined with other techniques such as embroidery, shisha, quilting, patchwork or stencils. This was an inspiring talk which set all our creative juices flowing.





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Janet reminded members of the arrangements for the outing to the Warner Textile Archive on 8th July - don't forget your packed lunch! A second outing is proposed to the [Manor at Hemingford Grey](#), Huntingdon where there is an extensive collection of quilts by Lucy Boston. Dates in late July were mooted, but few members were able to commit to these, so Janet has obtained alternative dates of August 14th, 20th, or 21st, September 10th or 11th. Please contact Janet with preferences so arrangements can be made.

The competition for the rose bowl is to be revived. The rose bowl was donated to CETG by the husband of a member who passed away, and the competition was last run about 3 years ago when it was won by Sally Dinning. All members are encouraged to submit a work to be voted on by the group at the first meeting of 2017 on 9th January. The work should comply with the following criteria:

- Theme: "Winter"

- Either 2 or 3 dimensional
- No more than 8 inches (20cm) in any direction
- One work per member

It is proposed that the group take a table at the [Amersham Heritage Day](#) on 11th September 2016 where we could demonstrate our stitching and perhaps attract new members. Janet called for volunteers who would be willing to spend a few hours stitching in public and talking about our activities. The more volunteers, the shorter the period each would need to cover. Janet will contact the organisers to book our table.

Judith put out an appeal for any knitters who would be able to make a "Twiddlemuff" for dementia sufferers. Knitted in chunky yarn with texture through stitch and strongly-attached buttons, tassels, ribbons etc, patients can be calmed by fiddling with these items when they are agitated. They also prevent any catheters from falling out. Instructions are available from Judith or there are many online.

With a little prompting, Janet spoke about the medal she was awarded by the [Worshipful Company of Broderers](#), which she received at Buckingham Palace. The medal was presented by Princess Anne who took the time to speak with all present. Janet told us that a new hat was not required but the cost of her new shoes brought tears to her eyes!

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