

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

May 2016

Speaker: Jane O'Brien

[Jane O'Brien](#) gave an absorbing talk on the history of damask cloth and how it has influenced her work. With a background in interior design where she used the fabric for her commercial and domestic clients, she became fascinated by the lustrous properties which have made it desirable since Roman times. She illustrated the history via a series of well-known classic paintings from medieval to Tudor and Renaissance times, when it was the fabric of choice for the rich and powerful who displayed their status through the clothes they wore. The motifs which were created in early times - the pomegranates, pine cones, birds, entwining leaves and cartouches - are used almost unchanged today in upmarket furnishings.

When Jane left employment to study full-time, she found inspiration in the patterns, colours and textures of damask for her mixed media work using fabric, paper and stitch. She also incorporated her love of text, later discovering that her mother, who had been a graphic artist in the 1930's, also made great use of calligraphy in her professional work. Some of her mother's artwork has been restored and reprinted in a series of cards under the "Eileen and Edith" name.





[Bucks Open Studios](#) will run from 11th-26th June. Val and Viki will be taking part from 17th to 24th June showing their knitting and hand embroidery. Julia's hand dyed fabrics and block printing will be on show at the Queens Park Art Centre in Aylesbury on all three Saturdays and from 14th to 16th and 21st to 23rd June.

St Mary's church in Beaconsfield has commissioned a new altar frontal to be stitched by Jenny Adim-Christie. The final stitch is to be put in by the Duchess of Cambridge. You can watch Jenny at work in the church on 18th, 19th and 20th July. She will also give a lecture on 19th July at 8.00pm in the church at a cost of £5. Contact Deborah Sanders for more information.

[Art in Action](#) celebrates its 40th year from 14th - 17th July at Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire. See up to 400 artists at work, join in workshops, shop in the marketplace or just soak up the atmosphere of the gardens over tempting refreshments. This is the last chance to visit this inspiring show as the organisers have been unable to find replacements to take over the running of the show in the future.

At the end of the evening, the group presented our Chairwoman, Janet Edmonds, with flowers to mark the medal she has received from City and Guilds for 25 years of teaching for their qualifications. Janet also revealed she has received an award from the [Worshipful Company of Broderers](#), which will be presented to her at Buckingham Palace later this year. She is currently pondering the purchase of a new hat!

All photos © Liz Smith

