

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

14th August 2017

Speaker: Marilyn Pipe

Talk: I am a Textile Nomad

[Marilyn Pipe](#) gave an amusing talk on her "Life as a Textile Nomad" based on some of her experiences as a textile tutor at places such as Denman College, [Ardington School of Crafts](#), the Quilt Show and one-off events nationwide and overseas. She will spend 210 nights away from home in 2017, teaching many textile based techniques including ribbon embroidery, mixed media and manipulation of textile fabrics. This evening she spoke about the more amusing aspects of her travelling life.

Marilyn enjoys taking pupils out of their comfort zone, so for the Quilt Show she had a group of very precise, neat, accurate quilters doing free-form machine embroidery and using a heat gun to burn off layers of fabric, or using frayed selvages (which they would normally throw away) and zigzag stitches to create spiral patterns. She told of getting lost in strange places where all the roads were up to make way for a new motorway; the delights of a Waitrose dinner in her room to avoid the dingy hotel bar; of filling the teaching room with hanging baskets she had just bought from one of her pupils; of being blinded by spotlights as her class was filmed and of the endless making of kits - 182 identical ribbon embroidery kits involving cutting 1,763 pieces of ribbon to the exact same length and with no variation in colour.

As a final demonstration, Marilyn showed a quick and simple way to create a ruffled fabric using a square-holed cake rack and bondaweb. An alternative method uses fabric stiffener and a (clean) chip pan basket. Sadly, Marilyn's prototype has never been the same since a large lady sat on it!





Terry read out a thank you letter from the Embroiderers' Guild for our donation to their appeal to fund their new archive and exhibition space at the Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury. The letter contained assurances that donations would be used exclusively for the matters set out in the appeal. Several members have visited the ["Beautiful Stitch"](#) exhibition of the Embroiderers' Guild holdings at Bucks County Museum and praised it highly, encouraging others to visit. Alongside the exhibition, the Museum's residency this year is textile artist James Fox. Details of his residency can be found [here](#) and an information sheet [here](#). The Chris Ofili tapestry commissioned by the Clothworkers' Guild exhibiting at the National Gallery was also highlighted as well worth a visit.

The next "Have a go" session will take place on Saturday 2nd September at Jackie Connors' house; the topic will be Hand Quilting with Terry Stevenson. Matty Smith's workshop on "An Introduction to Tapestry Weaving" will take place on 7th October at Great Kingshill Village Hall 10:00am-4:00pm at a cost of £30.

The design-based outing to [Tring Natural History Museum](#) will take place on two separate days: Saturday 23rd September at 10:00am, and either Thursday 19th or Tuesday 24th October (TBA) at 2:00pm, both meeting at the museum entrance. Members who have signed up for multiple dates should let Terry know which they will be attending. Terry emphasised the purpose of the day is to find an interesting exhibit and use it as inspiration to carry out exercises for creating a rough design from it, as demonstrated by Carole Waddle at the March meeting. We do not expect participants to create a finished work. The coach is nearly full for the outing to the [Knitting and Stitching Show](#) on 14th October, please contact Jackie Connors if you wish to join the trip.

Final arrangements were discussed for CETG's stand at the Amersham Heritage Day on 10th September. The completed bunting was on display, together with some members' work from workshops which will be shown on our stand. Thank you to the 4 volunteers who have signed up to represent us on the day. If anyone else wishes to join them, even for a few hours, please contact Liz Smith. If any members plan to visit the show, please drop in and say "hello". Val will also be there on Helen Jenkins' stall.

There are enough members expressing an interest for us to create a second Hand Stitch Group, and the Committee will discuss possible days and times at the forthcoming Committee Meeting. The idea is to form a second group on a different day of the week from the existing one, to meet initially at members' houses.

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