

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

11th September 2017

Speaker: Anthea Godfrey

Talk: Hardhome – the White Walker

Anthea Godfrey, Artistic Director of the [Royal School of Needlework](#), talked about the creation of the "Game of Thrones" embroidery - [Hardhome the White Walker](#). Firstly, she told us about her life in stitch. A lifelong embroiderer, she studied at Goldsmiths College under Constance Howard before working as a textile teacher of students of all ages, in mainstream education, prisons, mental institutions, and at the London College of Fashion where she became Principal Lecturer, before moving to the RSN in her current post. One of her main interests at the RSN has been to encourage collaboration between commercial, educational and embroidering groups.

The first major collaborative project the RSN undertook was the reproduction in stitch of the Wikipedia page relating to the [Magna Carta](#) to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of its signing in 2015. The finished work was 13.5 metres long by 1.8 metres wide and displayed so that both sides of the embroidery could be seen - no untidy backs allowed! Stitchers included RSN pupils, members of the [Embroiderers' Guild](#), [Fine Cell Work](#) (which teaches long term prisoners to stitch) and commercial embroiderers [Hand & Lock](#). The work was a great success and toured the UK.

The Game of Thrones Embroidery of the "White Walker" involved the same collaborative groups, but was a more complex work on a much tighter schedule, due mainly to delays by the commissioning company who did not appreciate how long hand embroidery takes. The background was digitally printed, with the border and main figure being completed in stumpwork. The final work was 4 metres high by 10 metres wide, divided into four separate panels. Anthea showed us many photographs of the work in progress and of the stunning stitching completed by around 200 people, who were allowed to choose their own stitches, whilst using the threads provided to ensure an overall harmony of colour and tone. For copyright reasons, these pictures cannot be reproduced here, but click on the White Walker link above for a selection on the Embroiderers' Guild website. The work was completed largely by volunteers, using threads donated by Coats, as the budget provided was mainly eaten up by the printing costs. After unveiling at Central St Martins in March this year, the embroidery went on a nationwide tour in the UK. The panel containing the Walker himself will be sold by international auction, with proceeds going to the RSN.



Anthea Godfrey



Image from Game of Thrones section on Embroiderers' Guild website.

Alongside the ["Beautiful Stitch"](#) exhibition of the Embroiderers' Guild holdings at Bucks County Museum, Terry highlighted a talk by textile artist in residence, James Fox, on 3rd November for which pre-booking is recommended. Gita mentioned the Tudor Rose Workshops at Oakley in Bedfordshire, details of which can be found on their [website](#).

The "Have a go" session on 2nd September on Hand Quilting was enjoyed by all attending. There will be no October session, and the new Committee will decide whether to continue with these. [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 workshop will cover eight techniques; looms and fibre will be provided, though you are welcome to bring your own. Janet Edmonds is holding a number of workshops at [Workaid](#) in [September](#) and [October-December](#).

The design-based outing to [Tring Natural History Museum](#) will take place on Saturday 23rd September at 10:00am, meeting at the museum entrance. After discussion, there was insufficient interest for a second date, so this will be the only outing to Tring. 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 which is now open to friends and non-members.

Terry thanked the volunteers who ran CETG's stand at the Amersham Heritage Day on 10th September. The completed bunting was on display, together with members' work, focusing on pieces created at workshops. You can read more about the day [here](#). The Annual General Meeting will take place on 9th October at 7.30pm before talk on Shibori. A number of Committee Members will be standing down, and Terry urged members to consider whether they might be able to help fill these posts. None of the

roles is onerous, and job shares are possible, so anyone with nominations should contact Terry immediately. There will also be a vote on a change to the Constitution aimed at encouraging more people to serve on the Committee.

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