

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

January 2016

Textile Merry-Go-Round

A Textile Merry-Go-Round involved four of our talented members each demonstrating a different technique to a small group who were able to "have a go" for themselves for a short period of time, before moving on to the next tutor. By the end of the evening, everyone had had a taste of each of the techniques, perhaps with their own sample to take home, to finish off at leisure. The techniques shown at this first meeting of the year were:

Japanese Sashiko Quilting - Terry Stevenson gave an insight into the methods and traditions of Japanese Sashiko, worked in a simple running stitch with white thread on a dark blue ground. Using the right needle is essential, and for a beginner, white coton à broder is a reasonable substitute for authentic Sashiko thread. To get a pleasing result, the stitcher needs to think ahead to decide where future stitches will go up and down through the fabric where lines cross.



"On the edge" embroidery stitches - Rosemary Wilkinson had us all practising the following stitches to create beautiful edging for embroidered items such as needle cases:

- [Coral stitch](#) - both on its own and as a neat and attractive way to create a beaded edging. Use Perlé 5 and number 22 Chenille needle for edging, but finer Perlé 8 and a

straw or milliners needle will be required to pass easily through the beads.

- [Scroll stitch](#) - another pretty edging - use Perlé 5 and number 22 Chenille needle.
- [Palestrina](#) or double knot stitch was also shared with some groups.



Embroidered buttons - Sue Wilkie showed how to produce hand-embroidered buttons using small motifs in a variety of freehand stitches and also how to make [Dorset button](#) decorated with a bunch of French Knot flowers.



Gelli plate printing on fabric - Julia Phillips demonstrated how to use a gelli plate and printing block to create a negative image on fabric. By repeating the process with the plate offset from the original and adding "positive" prints with the blocks, beautiful fabrics can be created either for use on their own or as a basis for embroidery and bead embellishment. Julia recommended the use of Egyptian cotton

from [Empress Mills](#) with fabric paint and hand carved Indian blocks available from [Colouricious](#).



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