

# CETG ARCHIVE

## Meeting Report

**13th February 2017**

**Speaker: Joan West**

**Talk: Stitched Baskets**

[Joan West](#) introduced us to her amazing stitched basketry. Her stitching journey began 30 years ago when she combined raising a young family with studying at the London School of Fashion under Anthea Godfrey. She was drawn to three dimensional work incorporating embroidery and began working over papier maché moulds, a method she continues to use in her work. She uses principally soft natural materials and in recent times has begun to "grow her own" in her new allotment. As well as the obvious rushes and grasses, her materials include raffia, sisal and jute alongside the more unusual cordyline palm leaves, montbretia, miscanthus grass, iris leaves, nettles and coconut fibre.

In her "Pulled fabric" work, Joan lays small bunches of fibre together, stitching repeatedly to produce a lacy effect, then places them over a mould, joining them with more stitching. "Random weave" is an adaptation of lace making over pins, in an unsystematic manner over a mould. Her third technique is coiling, where she winds fibre to make a shape, joining it by random stitches, sometimes even through the centre of the coil. All methods may then be further embellished with embroidery in natural or more colourful threads such as wool, silk, cotton and satin cord. The results are wonderfully unlike any baskets at all!



Joan West



Terry reported back on CETG's presence at the "Creative Hazlemere" event, and thanked Deborah Sanders for her excellent interview on Wycombe Sound radio, which you can listen to [here](#). Both may help spread our name among local stitchers.

The first "Have a go" session at Terry's house went off well, and the second will be held at Liz Smith's on 21st February when Viki will be demonstrating a range of 3-dimensional stitches. The March session will take place at Rosemary's house, time and topic to be announced before the next meeting.

Three workshops have been arranged for 2017; the first will be led by Janet Edmonds on "Van Gogh as Inspiration for Texture and Colour" at Great Kingshill Parish Hall on 1st April. Janet brought along some examples of the kind of work she will be covering. Sign up by contacting Janet direct, or adding your name to the list at the March meeting. Later in the year, Heather Cawthorn will teach "The Fun and Fascination of Nuno Felt" on 10th June, and Matty Smith's workshop will be "Weave a Tapestry Sampler" on 7th October. Members may remember Matty's fascinating talk at our December meeting.

The Committee asked for members' views on two topics. The first was whether we should set up a scheme of "mentors" who would be available to help others with advice on techniques they are trying out for the first time. This was generally thought to be a good idea and Terry will pursue it. Secondly, the Embroiderers' Guild is moving their collection to Aylesbury and is seeking donations to help decorate a room at the Bucks County

Museum where exhibitions will be held, and also to upgrade the storage at Halton. Terry asked whether the members would in principle be in favour of CETG making a donation from funds towards the Guild's target of £15,000. The majority of those present were willing for the Committee to discuss the idea further; any amount decided will need to be approved by members before money changes hands.



There were two displays of members' works on show: a selection of the bottle-top pincushions made at our January meeting, and a number of impressive stitched boxes providing much inspiration to the rest of us (see pictures above).

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