



# **HORSHAM CREATIVE EMBROIDERERS**

**Inclusive,  
Enthusiastic,  
Contemporary  
and Friendly**

**Newsletter  
September 2025**

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer break and are looking forward to meeting up again. If you have finished a piece of work that you would like to share please bring it in.

A few of us met in Newbridges coffee shop in July and we all agreed that stitching the Sashiko squares in June was very enjoyable and that it would be fun to continue in September with a more experimental approach. This could involve using different materials such as Aida, felt, an openweave fabric or anything you would like to try and an non-traditional colour. Consider using different threads such as DMC or Anchor embroidery threads, Perle, metallics, anything unusual but make sure they work with your fabric. I will bring in various fabrics and threads, some of the cotton backing we ironed, an iron & board, Sashiko cards and pattern books. You could think about making a small item such as a fold-over pouch, or an insert for a card.

Whilst we are stitching, Valerie Cummings from Cornerstone Methodist Church is going to pop in as the church is trying to get feedback from the groups that hire their rooms regarding possible improvements as they plan some major changes to the premises. Obviously parking is the main issue but if you have any thoughts you would like to share with Valerie she would appreciate it.

We had an invitation to have a stand at the Billingshurst Christmas Fayre, but decided that it was not worth the hard work and time involved. It will be held at The Billingshurst Centre on 6th December from 10 am to 3 pm.

There is still time to take part in the Cherry Blossom Project; if you do decide add my name as the co-ordinator and we can return them all in one go.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Thursday,

**Janet**

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## RAFFLE

### “WE LIVE”

At the edge of the forest was some open land and then the river. Over the river there was a bridge. The bridge was wide enough for a horse and cart to cross although mostly it was just used by pedestrians. Very occasionally, when the river was running high, branches and rubbish would get caught under the bridge and once, it was rumoured, a troll had taken up residence under the bridge and frightened anyone who tried to cross – but no-one lives there these days. Sometimes people would use the river to get from the forest to the town or to transport all manner of goods from one place to another. One morning, four river boats came quietly and tied up alongside the bridge with no fuss. Each boat was flying a flag with a picture of a golden sun and the words ‘WE LIVE’ in red capital letters.

The forest seemed to hold its breath but for a long time nothing else happened. Time passed. A few forest creatures crept close then suddenly four men, four boys and four girls all dressed in green jumped on to the bank. Four women on the boats started handing over bundles of canvas and long poles. In what seemed like almost no time at all the men and the young people transformed the canvas and the poles into four colourful tents. The women joined them and soon each tent had chairs and tables and boxes inside and out. They arranged the tents in a circle and, in the centre, they built a fire. Quite soon they had made a little settlement and in almost no time at all they had started cooking on the fire. The forest creatures crept close again.

As the day wore on the boat people ate and drank, rested and then started to explore their surroundings, although they kept fairly close to the tents. The day got closer to twilight and they came together and started playing and singing. To start with they sang busy, joyful songs that spoke of travel and meeting other people, of places they had seen and happy encounters. Then, as darkness advanced, their songs became more plaintive and there was more of a feeling of loss. The children crept closer to the adults and the parents wrapped the children in soft blankets as the final songs became quieter and quieter, and everyone drifted closer and closer to sleep. Eventually the songs were over and everyone made their way back to the boats. They would sleep on board the boats, except for one person who would be on duty to guard the settlement. The next day would be a busy one.

The next day dawned bright and clear. The sun was shining but there was quite a nip in the air. Although the trees were still green for the most part, the leaves had already started falling and the smell of Autumn was in the air.

The boat people were up early. They built up the fire again and set water to boil. Soon they were able to make hot drinks for everyone and a bit later there was the scent of cooking and, then, the clatter of plates and cutlery as everyone helped themselves to a meal. When they had eaten, the children took the plates and forks to the river and washed everything while the parents kept an eye on them. They left everything to dry on the riverbank in the sun.

Everyone joined together round the fire. One of the men and one of the women – Jost and Emla – seemed to be in charge of the conversation. ‘Right, everyone,’ said Jost, ‘I think this will be a good place to stop. It’s sheltered and quiet, the people and the animals here have always been welcoming.’ ‘Might we even stop here for the Winter?’ said Emla. ‘Maybe. We need some time to see to the boats and the tents. I vote we stop here for a while, at least.’ Everyone seemed to be in agreement. They had been travelling for a long time and, although they liked travelling, they needed a rest from time to time. ‘Are we going to do a show?’ someone asked. ‘Oh yes, I think so. Frooster, you and Angle run through the forest and let everyone know we’re here and tell them to come and join us at three o’clock for a show of magic and wonder.’

cont.

Two of the children, a boy and a girl, jumped up and ran straight into the forest carrying sticks with red flags and tiny bells. Sometimes they kept the bells in their pockets where the sound was muffled and, at other times, they took the bells out of their pockets and let them jingle. Every now and then they would stop and sing a few verses of a “welcome song”. Everywhere they went, little creatures stopped what they were doing and listened to their song and the little bells. Some of them joined the children as they ran along.

Back at the tents everyone started practising. There was juggling, sword play, dancing, wrestling and singing, lots of singing. Then there was whittling, drawing, sewing and card play and more singing, of course. Frooster and Angle came back with a number of animals and then everyone joined in putting out lots of chairs.

They stopped for lunch and then got changed into their performance clothes, which included cloaks and crowns and spangles and jingles. Three o’clock came, the audience of forest creatures burst into applause as the boat people, in all their finery, trooped into the ring and the show began.

Well, you had to have been there to really appreciate what fun it was. Suffice to say it was the most exciting and fantastic show that anyone had ever seen. One or two little creatures were actually sick with excitement (or it might have been a few too many sweets!).

The show went on and on, sometimes in the circle and sometimes in the individual tents. When the youngest children got tired, their parents took them home and by the time darkness fell most creatures had left. The boat people came together for one last song. They laid their crowns aside, sheathed their swords and silenced their jingles.

Jost and Emla lingered by the dying embers of the fire, while the others went aboard the boats. Eventually, even they packed up the last few bits and pieces and said, ‘Goodnight’ as they climbed into their boats. They doused the lights and then all was dark and silent, just the lapping of the river and the rustling of the trees in the magic forest.

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Raffle: felt, cloth, leaf, thread, decorative buttons, flower trim, a duck, a pig and a squirrel

**What’s On!**

**Dorking Embroiderers Exhibition:** Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham RH5 6BD  
Until 28/9/2025

**Stitch Together Group Exhibition:** Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street,  
Guildford GU1 3AJ  
From 11th October to 1st November 2025  
Free Entry