



# HORSHAM CREATIVE EMBROIDERERS

Inclusive,  
Enthusiastic,  
Contemporary  
and Friendly

**Newsletter**  
**March 2026**

Hello everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed Esther Collins talk and presentation last month; I believe she demonstrated very well how easily a design can be created from everyday observations and then used in a variety of techniques and stitches.

She would be happy to do a workshop for us; it would be held at Barns Green Village Hall on a Saturday and for non-drivers we can arrange lifts. Do confirm whether you would be interested in taking part

I am pleased to report that we had a very successful day at the Craft Fair held in the church. It was rather cramped but very well attended. We took £42.00 and paid £10.00 for the table so I was pleased that we made a reasonable profit. Thanks to all of who who made items for us to sell and to Sarah, Anna and Michelle who helped run the stall. There is another one planned for November and I have agreed that HCE would attend. We had several enquiries about our group and I hope some will join us tomorrow. I know you will make them feel welcome. I am aiming more for finding new members than anything else although it is always good to make a profit!

Warnham Evening Flower Club had their 65th Anniversary tea at Roffey Park Institute and I won this stunning and quite traditional arrangement by the demonstrator. Thought I would share it with you in what seems to have developed into our floral corner!

Hope to see you all on tomorrow,

Janet

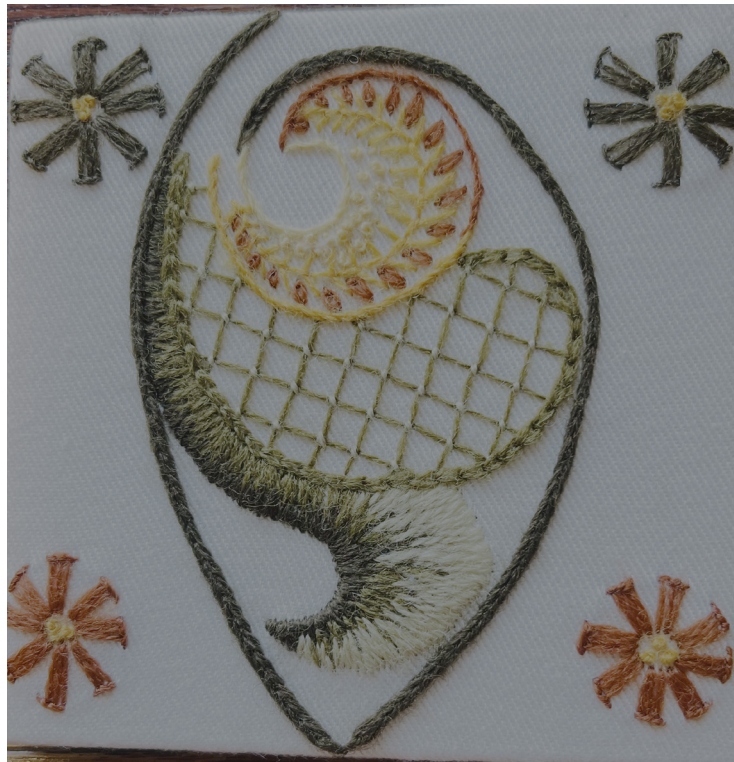
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## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **This Month**

We are looking at Crewel work this month; one of the techniques that was popular in our questionnaire. I have some white or beige linen fabric squares (25 x 25 cms) and will also look to see if I have any other linen in my stash. You will need to bring a hoop, a basic sewing kit, transfer pencil if you have one, sharp needles with a large hole (you might have crewel needles) and a design. I will bring the fabric as mentioned, wools, a lightbox, pencils and some patterns. There will be plenty of books around that will give you inspiration and ideas for stitching. Teresa is bringing some tracing paper.



**Crewel Work design worked by Anne Durham, a former member**

### **Next Month**

Our AGM will be held in April and the relevant paperwork will be sent out shortly. As this will not take up the whole afternoon I thought we could look at Crazy Patchwork, another popular area of interest. This was originally planned for May.

### **May Meeting**

We have another speaker this month; Michelle Agnew who is 'an award-winning Canadian artist specializing in sculptural goldwork embroidery. With training from the Royal School of Needlework, she transforms traditional embroidery into a three-dimensional art form through impressionistic goldwork. Michelle's work merges the ancient craft of goldwork with contemporary techniques, recontextualizing it within modern frameworks. Her approach aims to celebrate the medium's versatility and honour the craft's rich heritage while expanding its boundaries, creating visually striking and conceptually engaging artworks.'

[www.michelleagnew.com](http://www.michelleagnew.com)

Anna has worked hard to secure this booking and designed a lovely poster; I have included this as an attachment and please circulate it to any groups you belong to. A visitor's fee is only £5.00 and we hope we can share this opportunity with other embroiderers.

## RAFFLE

### Goodbyes

It was near the beginning of the month of March. Gladys the country mouse was up early as she intended to go out picking snowdrops as soon as it was light. It was cold but not icy. It had been dry the day before and hopefully it would be dry this morning. Before breakfast she had a little peek outside and discovered a small parcel on the doorstep. She brought it indoors. "Well, well, well, I wonder what this can be." She unwrapped it; "Oh, how lovely," she said when she discovered that it contained a pretty bracelet made of silk threads. Who can this be from? There was no label to explain. It was the same style as the jewellery that the boat people wore but why would they be sending her a present? Oh well, it would soon be made clear, I expect. She wriggled her paw into the bracelet and tucked her sleeve round it to keep it safe. She had breakfast and then got ready to go out. It was light by now so she wrapped up warm and off she went. She decided to go towards the river and maybe call on the boat people – and, in any case, she knew that it was a good place to find snowdrops.

What she didn't know was that the boat people had decided, as the weather was fairly mild, that it was actually time to be on their way. Reluctantly, they had packed up their tents and belongings the day before, tidied the camp-site, made sure they had food and fuel and were ready to depart at first light. They had made small gifts for everyone they had befriended and delivered them the night before. That was how Gladys had got her silken bracelet.

They fired up the engines and started to move away from the bank. Only two people saw them go. One was Grandad, who knew they were leaving and had come with sandwiches made by Grandma and a lemon drizzle cake to see them on their way. They shook hands and gave each other a hug. "Good luck lads," said Grandad and he turned away so they couldn't see tears in his eyes. "Goodbye," they all said, "and thank you."

Once everyone was aboard, the boats really pulled away from the bank then they started off upstream. Gladys was beside herself. "Don't go, please don't go," she squeaked but, of course, her voice was lost in the commotion of the departure. She dropped a farewell snowdrop into the river and waved a furry paw. "Goodbye, my friends, goodbye," she whispered as the boats disappeared upriver. "Well, at least I saw them go," she said to herself. Then she and Grandad made their separate ways home.

That will be the last story from the forest for the time being. It has been fun writing them but now it's time for a rest!

### Raffle: Haberdashery

© Frances Westwood, 2026

*Many thanks to Frances who has entertained us with her lovely stories and Raffle prizes. They have always been a unique part of Horsham Creative Stitchers.*

*We will still hold a Raffle each month.*

## SPARKS OF HOPE TULIP EXHIBITION

Textile Mixed Media by Arun Creative Stitchers

28th March to 23rd April 2026 10 am to 4 pm

Arundel Museum  
(Call 01903 885866 to confirm museum is open)  
Poster Attached