



HORSHAM CREATIVE EMBROIDERERS

Inclusive,
Enthusiastic,
Contemporary
and Friendly

Newsletter
April 2026

Hello everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather and sunshine - long may it last - and had a lovely Easter break. This month we are holding our AGM (more information overleaf) and also looking at Crazy Patchwork, another technique that was a favourite on our recent quiz. Crazy patchwork is an improvisational, non-repeating quilting technique where irregular fabric scraps are stitched onto a foundation base such as felt or more traditionally muslin or batting, to form a new, textured fabric. Popularized in the Victorian era, it emphasizes creativity over precision and it is ideal for using up small fabric scraps without measuring. Traditionally the scraps are sewn together using the stitch and flip method where you sew piece right-sides together, flip, and press, continuing to add pieces to cover the foundation.

You can also position your scraps in your chosen design, secure them with fabric glue or Bondaweb and sew the pieces together using embroidery stitches such as feather stitch, chevron, herringbone and decorating with ribbons, lace, beads or other embellishments. A more modern approach is to use cotton scraps, machine-stitch the seams (with zig-zag or decorative stitches) using bold colours.

I will bring some fabric scraps (Francoise has also donated a large bag), some felt for a base, an iron and mat as most scraps gets creased, some Bondaweb and fabric glue pens although do bring your own scraps if you have them. You will also need a basic sewing kit, with perhaps some tacking thread if you do not want to use glue, and decorative threads (6-stranded, Perle etc).

I hope this will be a lot of fun after the formalities of the AGM.

Membership renewal is due this month; you should all have received an email from Michelle regarding this.

We will still hold a Raffle every month; this is a great way to support us. you might also consider joining Horsham Lottery which helps with our income; Yvonne can advise you on how to join.

I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday,

Janet

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Another photo from Francoise whose garden is looking lovely this spring.

Annual General Meeting 23rd April 2026

The Agenda, Nomination Form, Minutes of the AGM on 22nd May 2025 and the Income and Expenditure information for the year ending 31st March 2026 have been sent with this newsletter.

You will see from last year's minutes that I stated I would stand down as Chair of Horsham Creative Embroiderers, a role I have had for many years. The role generally is not in itself very onerous, although it obviously does carry a certain amount of responsibility, but for a long while it has included aspects that should ideally be carried out by other members.

If there is not a nomination for a new Chair I am suggesting the following as an alternative way forward as constitutionally the group must have a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. We need to formally adopt a Secretary but there are many other aspects that some members have taken under their wing - for example Sarah with the Library, Sue Walker who stores our display equipment, Michelle who is our membership Secretary and Hazel who looks after our website - all important to the running of the group, illustrating that the principle that 'many hands make light work'.

In essence I am proposing that I continue to be chair for the next year with overall responsibility and to remain the contact for Cornerstone Methodist Church on the understanding that the supporting roles outlined below must be filled at the AGM. This will provide all of us, the members of HCE, an interim handover year before ideally a new chair comes forward.

> We have a nominated secretary to organise committee meetings and to type up the minutes.

> A member or small team to organise the future programme of in-house activities, speakers and workshops with support from the chair.

> We also need a member to take over from Michelle the task of providing the refreshments - an essential part of our meetings - and she will be happy to let you know what is involved.

> Jessica is standing down from running the Sales Table, a job that she has so well done for many years - this provides the group with extra funds and if you are having a clear out at any time, is a perfect place for donating your unwanted items. Sharing this with a fellow member would work well.

I will happily support with information and help anyone who is able to step up and cover these roles. I will also continue producing the newsletter for this year unless a volunteer comes forward; we always used to have input from members about an exhibition, workshop, book etc they wished to share and it would be good to start that up again.

Horsham Creative Embroiderers is prospering with new members, more funds for speakers, lovely friendships, a place to share our knowledge and I sincerely want that to continue. I hope you all do as well so please give my suggestion some serious thought to see if you could devote some extra time to HCE. If you would like to discuss this or get more information about these roles please call me or speak to me at the meeting.

Janet Brown

Just repeating this from last month; hope you are encouraging your friends to attend this talk.

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.ca