Guild Bulletin

February 2026

Embroiderers' Guild

Love and care

Welcome to February, and of course during this month there is plenty for you to love. If you missed Guild Trustee and Artistic Director, Anthea Godfrey's Thread Talk, *Care & Presentation* on 14 February, don't worry it's not too late to learn how to give your textiles some love. Available to watch On Demand very soon. **On Demand: THREAD TALKS: Anthea Godfrey: Care & Presentation Tickets | Eventbrite**



Silk Shawl from the Guild Collection - not the easiest item to store properly

Still to come this month *An Introduction to Crewelwork* with Phillipa Turnbull on the 23rd February. Join Phillipa as she journeys through the evolution of crewelwork from beginnings to modern day incarnations. Tickets are available for both the live event: **EG THREAD TALKS: Phillipa Turnbull: An Introduction to Crewel Work Tickets, Mon 23 Feb 2026 at 19:00 | Eventbrite** and on demand: **On Demand: THREAD TALKS: Phillipa Turnbull: An Introduction to Crewel Work Tickets | Eventbrite.**

We have packed lots into this month, so if you missed Anne Brooke's workshop *Stitch a Paper Book in a Box* you can still follow along on-demand: **On Demand: WORKSHOP: Stitched Paper Book in a Box with Anne Brooke Tickets, Tue 17 Feb 2026 at 19:00 | Eventbrite**

Finally, a last reminder for our 2026 Members' Challenge 'Feast, entries must be submitted by 27 February 2026.

Workshops and demonstrations are £2.99 for Guild members (£10-15 for non-members). Members will need to use the relevant code published in the members area of the Guild website here: **Member discounts for Workshops and Demonstrations - Embroiderers' Guild**. You will need to be logged into your account to access the link. If you haven't yet setup a members' account please email **receptionist@embroiderersguild.com**

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT:

New Quarterly Members Magazine

We're excited to announce a very special launch, coming at the end of March. *The Creative Thread* is your new quarterly digital members' magazine from the Embroiderers' Guild, full of inspiration and ideas celebrating the art we all love.

Rooted in the Guild's rich heritage and its powerful mission of championing story through stitch, *The Creative Thread* honours embroidery as a living, evolving art form reflecting the depth of skill, curiosity and creativity that defines our community.

Inside each issue you'll find exclusive embroidery projects created especially for members, alongside inspiring interviews with established and emerging artists who are pushing the boundaries of what embroidery can be. We put the spotlight on pieces from The Guild's extensive Collection, exploring how historic works can spark fresh ideas for contemporary practice, suggest stitches and techniques to try alongside product highlights and recommendations to support your own creative journey.

Above all, *The Creative Thread* is an invitation to slow down and feel part of something shared. It celebrates the strength of our community, the generosity of knowledge passed from one embroiderer to another and the joy of self-expression and making by hand.



When *The Creative Thread* publishes in March we hope that, through its pages, you'll feel inspired, connected and creatively energised.

The first issue of The Creative Thread will be available on 26 March. Look out for our email with links to read and download projects.

MEMBER REQUEST

Your contributions are wanted for future issues of *The Creative Thread* & Website resources. We are looking for projects, articles on techniques & stitched samples, products and tools you find useful. Email your contributions **here**.

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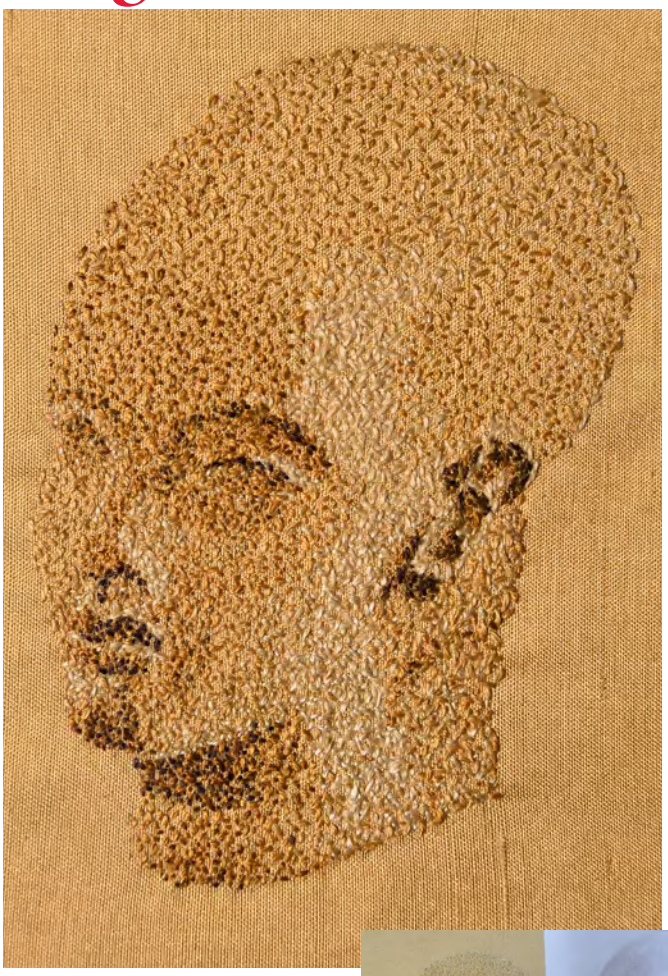
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

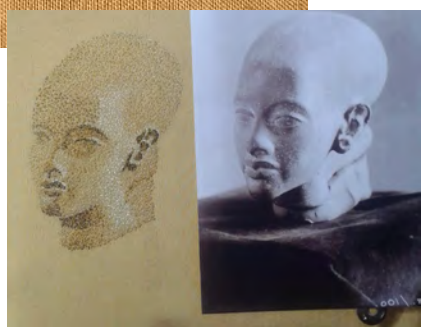
Rachel Wright

Rachel's earliest embroidery memory is being guided by her Grandmama to stitch a butterfly and flower onto canvas. She is a self-taught embroiderer and has expanded her skills by "project creep", every new idea demands a new technique, every new technique brings with it a new idea. Unable to single out a favourite technique, Rachel enjoys most the one she is using at the time. She is fascinated by how changing the material and scale of a stitch alters what that stitch represents – seed stitch can be dust, or sand, or the markings in rock, there is excitement in the endless possibilities.

Rachel had a moment of realisation when reviewing and reflecting on the final edits of her *Dreams of Amarna* book which has recently been published by the Guild. Two decades of concentrated practice had led to development of techniques, ideas and execution. Speaking about the *Head of the Princess* Rachel says this "is the nearest to classical painting I have come to in my Amarna stitchery. Scattered seed stitches in close shades create the modelling on my version of the carved stone head." Working from a couple of source photographs Rachel started with the darkest and lightest shades later moving to the trickier mid shades, using a "Stitch- Stare- Compare" approach on repeat until the final image was brought to life. In her reflections Rachel says, "I am not at all sure whether the embroidery taught me to paint, or maybe the painting taught me to embroider, but certainly something happened, and what's more, I can pinpoint the turn."

How does Rachel find inspiration and come up with her ideas? Have a look at Rachel's short videos on You Tube about projects in her *Dreams of Amarna* book **here**, listen to Rachel's on-demand talk here: **On Demand: THREAD TALKS: Rachel Wright: From an Inkling to a Stitch Tickets | Eventbrite**, catch-up with her Fiber Talk podcast with Gary Parry here: **Stitches and Stories with Rachel Wright – Fiber Talk** or admire her paintings on Instagram **@virtuosewadventures**





Follow Rachel's journey reimagining history, one stitch at a time in her *Dreams of Amarna* book. **www.dreamsofamarna.co.uk** The book priced at £28 plus p&p is available on the Guild merchandise page. A discounted price of £25 plus p&p is available to Guild members and *Embroidery* subscribers via this link: **https://bit.ly/468nhXR**



Be 'Inspired to Create'
With online self-study courses from The Embroiderers' Guild

You've done some embroidery kits and bought or followed designs from artists you admire. You are ready for your next step in your creative journey!

You'd LOVE to be able to 'do your own thing' and design your own embroidery & textile art projects. But you lack confidence and aren't sure where to start.

Welcome To 'Inspired To Create'

A Series Of Unique Online Courses

- ✓ Easy to use & follow, work at your own pace
- ✓ From beginner through to more experienced
- ✓ Explore through sampling & testing
- ✓ Develop designs & make samples
- ✓ Step-by-step, develop your confidence & skills
- ✓ An exciting route of design discovery
- ✓ Experiment with materials & techniques
- ✓ Practice techniques to understand their use

You can follow these courses using HAND EMBROIDERY or MACHINE EMBROIDERY

Get started TODAY!

courses.embroiderersguild.com

With Guild Members' Discount

MEMBERS' PROJECT 2026:
Look In, Look Out!

Our Members' Project remains open until 31 March 2026 to register your interest. With final submissions due 31 August 2026 there is still plenty of time to search out inspiration, explore ideas, then create in line with this years theme ***Look In, Look Out***. We are excited to see where your imagination takes you!
Entries are exhibited at shows the Embroiderers' Guild attends each year.



Image right: Grace Gatley's work is inspired by heritage buildings, in particular churches and cathedrals. Grace's stitched interpretations of elaborate stained glass windows are especially inspiring. Explore more of Grace's work **@gracegatleytextiles**.

GET INSPIRED, MEMBERS' PROJECT *"LOOK IN"*

This year's theme ***Look In, Look Out*** is a great starting point for generating lots of ideas for creativity. You can choose to explore just one part of the theme, to either ***Look In*** or ***Look Out*** or incorporate both elements. This month we have included a few ideas for ***Look In***.

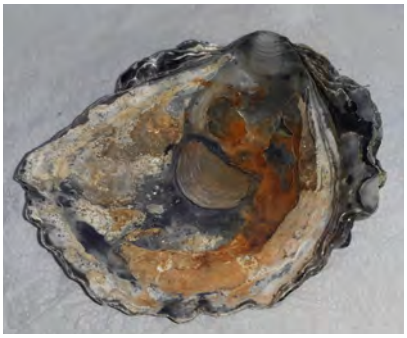
We've provided some images to spark your imagination and start to ***Look In.***

This house, created by Mary Cozens-Walker is part of our collection. It tempts you to peer inside, we see our photographer, Ian taking a close look in.

Think about scale, maybe you want to look into the distant horizon or bring your focus in and look into the small details. For example, a look into the woods could be gazing across the landscape through the trunks and branches, taking in the forms, shadows and spaces, or you may choose to look closer, perhaps peering inside knot holes in the trees or cracks in the bark, exploring the minutiae.

When you start to think about it, there are so many potential paths you can explore.




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FEAST- MEMBERS' CHALLENGE 2026 FINAL REMINDER

SPONSORED BY JANOME



Don't forget to submit your entries for the 2025-26 Members' Challenge ***Feast***.

The closing date for submission of entries is **27 February 2026.**

1650 ALTAR FRONTAL

Elizabeth Wilkinson has been busy stitching and we are delighted she has shared with us her progress of the Altar frontal kit from the Crewel Work Company. This is a reproduction of the altar frontal from our Collection and once complete Elizabeth will donate it to her church. Not only is Elizabeth stitching she has also decided to do some investigating as she suspects the frontal could be a different age to that stated. We are excited to see what Elizabeth's research uncovers.

You can discover historic British Needlework with The Crewel Work Company, including this design inspired by the exquisite needlework from the Guild Collection. We receive a donation on sales of the 1650 Altar Frontal, the donation is ringfenced to put towards Collection conservation work.



You can also learn more about crewelwork in our Thread Talk with Phillipa Turnbull on the 23 February. Discover how it has developed and where you can find a wonderful repository of well-preserved artefacts in British castles, museums and private collections.

EG THREAD TALKS: Phillipa Turnbull: An Introduction to Crewel Work

CREWELWORK BOOK GIVEAWAY AND KIT DISCOUNTS



The Crewel Work Company have kindly provided an exclusive offer on the associated kits for the NEW *Then & Now* Book by Phillipa Turnbull & Hazel Blomkamp.

Guild members can take advantage of **10% OFF** the *Blue Bird, Phoebe's Vineyard, Traditional Eagle & Greedy Squirrel* kits.
Use code: **EG-CWC** at the checkout.
www.crewelwork.com





The Embroiderers' Guild gallery at Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury

When the Guild's collection moved to Discover Bucks Museum stores we were allocated a gallery on the 1st floor of the museum, off a much larger gallery.

This was called the Beryl Dean Gallery in recognition of the work of and influence Beryl Dean had on embroidery.

Discover Bucks, like all museums, are looking at what can attract visitors to the museum and are having a major exhibition in 2026 on the Saxons. To enable this to work they needed to include the space we were allocated as it adjoins their major exhibition space used for short term exhibitions.

This has enabled us to work in a different space on the ground floor, which while much smaller means we can present smaller pieces that would never work exhibited in a larger space.

Sew Dainty opened on 10 January 2026 and features exquisite small pieces in a space that enables them to be shown to their best.

This gallery is off the Buckinghamshire Galleries and is named The Embroiderers' Guild Gallery for this year.

As part of the Saxon exhibition the Beryl Dean name will be removed from the wall by the gallery to enable a better layout of this major exhibition that has generated major sponsorship and will have an artist in residence producing work inspired by this time period. The artist has not yet been chosen, however we shared details of the opportunity on our social media in the hope an embroiderer will apply.

We are working with the museum on where our gallery will be for 2027 and future years. The museum is bidding for refurbishment funds and can't guarantee which space we can have until they know the outcome of this bid, and how this impacts their plans. Be assured we will have a gallery, however until we know which one we are unable to say what we will exhibit, and in the meantime Sew Dainty is available to view until late 2026.

Longer term they will allocate us a new permanent gallery and in the meantime, we will work with them on plans for future years.

Any new gallery will have the name "The Embroiderers' Guild Gallery" as this makes it much easier for museum staff to direct visitors to find our exhibition, as well as people seeing it while going around to understand what is in that gallery space.

NEC FASHION & EMBROIDERY SHOW

We will be at the NEC Fashion & Embroidery Show in Birmingham 12-15 March Fashion & Embroidery - The Creative Craft Shows - UK

On our Make & Takes stand we will be running mini workshop sessions with a range of stitch samplers giving you an opportunity to discover different stitches or try out old favourites in a new way. Plus we will have a new panel of The World's Longest Embroidery to add to. The mini workshop sessions cost £10. There's no need to book, just come along. If you want to be guaranteed a place the quieter times are usually 9.30-10.30am and 3.30-5.00pm.

The 2025 Members' Challenge *Colour Rhythms* sponsored by Janome and Members' Project *Land & Sea* will be exhibited in the Embroiderers' Guild gallery and there will be a chance to meet and chat to some of the Trustees about the new Members' Project, *Look In, Look Out*.

In addition, Penny & Helen will also be hosting some short workshops in the breakout areas on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Fashion & Embroidery - The Creative Craft Shows - UK

MEMBER OFFER

ICHF are offering a **50% DISCOUNT** off tickets (on door price) for the NEC Fashion & Embroidery Show for Guild members. The code to use when booking online is: **friendsnec26**

The Creative Craft Show/Sewing for Pleasure/Fashion & Embroidery, | ICHF Events

PICTURED: Some of the stitches and techniques **(couching & running stitch)** that will be available to work through on our Make & Takes stand.

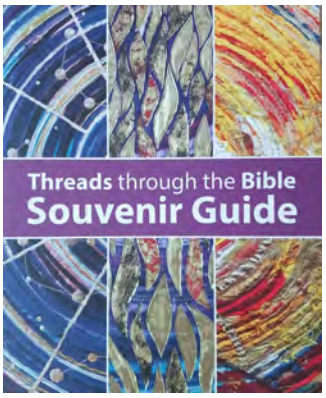




Special Offers & Giveaways

Congratulations to Debbie Southwood who won our December giveaway which was a hard back book Mary Cozens-Walker *Objects of Obsession 1955-2011*. This 88-page hardcover book contains over 100 full colour illustrations with text by Cozens-Walker herself as well as a number of eminent curators, writers and critics. The book is available for sale at £12 including UK postage from the Guild eBay shop **embroiderersguild on eBay** and on the *Embroidery* magazine website where it can be purchased internationally in several currencies including euros, US$, CAN$ and AUS$. **Embroidery Merchandise - My Magazine Subscriptions**

Our February giveaway is a copy of *Threads Through the Bible Souvenir Guide*. The exhibition is an extraordinary display of three huge sequences, *'Threads through Creation', 'Threads through the Cross'* and *'Threads through Revelation'* as one exhibition of 44 panels which took Jacqui Parkinson ten years to create and are made up of more than 25 million stitches.



EXHIBITION DATES:
28 January - 1 March – BATH ABBEY
8 May - 28 June – CHESTER CATHEDRAL
2 July - 31 August – LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

A limited number of further copies are available online here: **Embroidery Merchandise - My Magazine Subscriptions** priced at £15 plus p&p.

To enter the giveaway email: **receptionist@embroiderersguild.com** with your name, and address by midnight 10 March 2026.

DAZZLE Thread Pack Offer: We are running a special offer on a Wonderfil Dazzle™ thread pack (50yd spools). 8wt silky rayon with one strand of metallic. Great for highlighting the details on dimensional stitches and passementerie projects for that extra sparkle. You can find a link to purchase the thread pack for £5 plus p&p (RRP £21.60) in the members' area of the Guild website. Strictly one thread pack per member/purchase please, only whilst stocks last.

Louise Saxton *'Cut and Pinned'* Book reduced from £37.50 to £25: To purchase visit **Embroidery Merchandise - My Magazine Subscriptions**. Louise Saxton's gorgeous book *Cut & Pinned* reflects the artist's collecting, reclaiming and re-imagining discarded needlework. Her reclaimed 'cut & pinned' needlework assemblages, make a significant contribution to the long line of artists seeking to level the playing field between what is considered fine art and what is dismissed as craft.

Guild member Rachel Mary Wright's Book offer 10% off: Embark on a mesmerizing journey through the sands of time with Rachel as she reimagines ancient Egyptian art and history in embroidery and paint. The book priced at £28 plus p&p is available on the Guild merchandise page. A discounted price of £25 plus p&p is available to Guild members and Embroidery subscribers via this link: **https://bit.ly/468nhXR**

Search Press Books Offer: Use the code EGBOOKS25 to get 25% off your purchase. P&P is free for book orders that are over £25 after the EG discount offer has been applied. Using the discount code helps the Guild too as we get a small commission every time you use the code. Thank you!

INSPIRATION

Stitch Magazine



Welcome to the February/March issue of Stitch, filled with joyful, expressive projects that celebrate love in all its forms.

We hope you'll find plenty within these pages to inspire, challenge and delight you — whether you're discovering new techniques or refining the skills you already love. However you choose to stitch this season, we hope this issue brings fun, creativity and a little extra love into your world.

Alice Bryan

Stitch Editor

GUILD MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The annual Guild membership fee for 25/26 remains at £42

Don't miss out on:

- Two emailed newsletters each month providing information on embroidery and textile art as well as Guild activities and events;
- Member giveaways and offers on Embroidery magazine subscriptions.
- An annual programme of fascinating online lectures and workshops.
- Access to the members' area of our website.

Claim a discount on:

- Tickets for textile/craft shows.
- Our Inspired to Create courses for hand and machine embroidery.
- Search Press publications.
- Guild on-line workshops.
- Discounted entry to Discover Bucks Museum to view our Collection in our gallery - the Guild will refund 50% of the entry fee.

Take the opportunity to enter the annual Members' Challenge competitions and/or take part in the annual Members' Guild Project and have your work exhibited at the Knitting & Stitching Shows in London & Harrogate.

Why not attend one of our short workshops for members? The costs of these workshops for members is only £2.99, the price of a cup of coffee, non-members are £15 each.

To renew, follow the instructions provided in your renewal reminder email.
If you haven't had, or no longer have this email, please contact us at **receptionist@embroiderersguild.com** to ask for assistance.

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD CONTACT DETAILS

Trustees: trustees@embroiderersguild.com

Membership & General Enquiries: receptionist@embroiderersguild.com
Your email will be promptly forwarded to the most appropriate person to deal with your enquiry

Embroidery & STITCH subscriptions:
subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk or 01778 392468

To promote your goods and services here, please contact Beverley Carter:
bev@media-shed.co.uk or DD 020 3137 8582

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