

EAST SURREY GUILD CREATIVE FIBRES

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011



Chairman vacancy to be filled
Secretary Betty Newman
Treasurer Janice Russell

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on Saturday 19th March. The new committee for 2011 is:

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| Chairman | vacancy to be filled | Minutes secretary | Gill Blackmore |
| Secretary | Betty Newman | Committee Members | Jennifer Hughes |
| Treasurer | Janice Russell | | Jean Price |
| Events Organiser | Christina Coutts | | |

After the AGM the speaker was Emma Leslie demonstrating soap making. Emma uses various butters and oils in her soaps. The butters are melted and then added to the oils before adding caustic soda to this mix. Colouring is now added followed by goat's milk (as it's good for the skin) and lastly fragrance. This mixture is poured into a lined mould and left to set. The soap is then left for 4 weeks before using. When selling to the public soap makers need to have their soap recipes checked by a chemist. We were then treated to the smells of the lovely fragrant soaps Emma had for sale.

RECENT MEETINGS

Anna Crutchley, "Creating a Mixed Fibre Tassel workshop" – Saturday 19th February

Our day with Anna was very full, but I think we were all very pleased with the results. Anna provided all the materials, even going to the trouble of doing some of the preparatory work with them, so that we could dive straight in as soon as we had chosen our bag of coloured yarns, and the shape of wooden tassel mould we chose to work with.

Dispatch from Japan

Bob and I reached Japan safely, and spent a morning with Sonoko.

Her exciting news was that she and her husband have just bought a piece of land, and now will start meeting architects to plan the house they will build on it.

Sonoko took us to a workshop some way from the centre of Tokyo, where they specialise in stencilling and dyeing silk for kimono and obi (the wide sash round the kimono). She had arranged for us to take a class in stencilling and then we went round the studio. We were very lucky, because we should have walked round the outside of the building peering in at the windows to see what they were doing. Instead, as there were only the three of us there, they invited us in to see the work close to.

The stencilling is very complex - the designs may use a series of stencils, each carefully positioned, to add a different colour each time. Sometimes this is done on both sides of the fabric! Then the pattern can be protected by painting with wax before the whole piece is dyed.

The owner explained that the technique is not of Japanese origin - it was introduced from India in the 18th century. Indeed I thought many of the designs still showed considerable Indian influence.

At that time, Nagasaki was the only Japanese port open to foreign trade, so this technique came by that route. That we found particularly interesting, as we will be visiting Nagasaki later in our holiday.

We hope to see Sonoko again when we return to Tokyo in two week's time. Another dispatch then.

(Note: Sonoko joined our guild while she was living in England)

Sandy



Sandy & Sonoko



Bob, Sonoko & Sandy

FUTURE MEETINGS

Saturday 21st May - Fabric Figurines with Chris Greenwood

There are still places on this tutored workshop. Please contact treasurer@creativefibres.org to book your place.

Saturday 18th June - General Meeting & Sales Table

Saturday 16th July – An introduction to making Practical Buttons with Felicity Jowitt

There are still places on this tutored workshop. Please contact treasurer@creativefibres.org to book your place.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday 6th May - Monday 9th May Collect 2011 - London.

Crafts Council annual international art fair for contemporary craft at Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, Sloane Square. For more information visit www.craftscouncil.org.uk

Sunday 8th May – Cowpie Country Show at Betchworth, Surrey

Thursday 9th June - Saturday 12th June - South of England Show at The South of England Showground, Ardingly

For more information phone 01444 892700 or visit www.seas.org.uk

Sunday 12th June - Textile Table Top Sale at Betchworth Village Hall, Surrey RH3 7DF

For more information phone 01737 245464 or email nyasa@globalnet.co.uk

Friday 24th June - Saturday 25th June - Woolfest at Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0QQ

For more information phone 01697 478707 or visit www.woolfest.co.uk

Saturday 2nd July - Sunday 3rd July – The Smallholders Show at The South of England Showground, Ardingly

For more information phone Alison Dixie on 07714 102381 www.smallholdersshows.co.uk

Thursday 21st July - Sunday 24th July - Art in Action at Waterperry House, Waterperry, Nr Wheatley Oxford OX33 1JZ

For more information phone 020 7381 3192 or visit www.artinaction.org.uk

Saturday 23rd July - Sunday 24th July - Fibre East - Bedfordshire at Scald End Farm, Mill Road, Thurleigh, near Bedford MK44 2DP

For more information visit www.fibre-east.co.uk or email info@fibre-east.co.uk

If you have any comments, tips or interesting items for future newsletters please send them to me: treasurer@creativefibres.org

Janice Russell