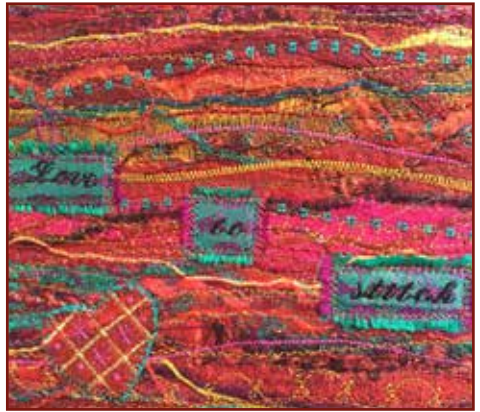




Embroiderers' Guild
WINCHESTER BRANCH



✉ winchesterembroiderers@gmail.com

🌐 www.winchesterembroiderers.org.uk

📌 [/WinchesterEmbroiderersGuild](https://www.facebook.com/WinchesterEmbroiderersGuild)



ABOUT US

Winchester Embroiderers' Guild was founded in 1963. It is affiliated to the internationally recognised Embroiderers' Guild, which embraces all areas of embroidery and is proud to be identified as a voice for raising the profile of textile and stitched art. Don't let the "Guild" in our name put you off - there is nothing stuffy or exclusive about us!

Textile art covers so much more than just fabric and thread and ours is a lively branch with over 70 members, who have a huge range of experience and skills. Their interests are just as varied including all kinds of embroidery (traditional and contemporary), textiles and related subjects: mixed media, patchwork, lace, felt, beading and historical and ethnic work.

We welcome everyone from complete beginners to experienced textile artists. You can be a traditional hand-stitcher, a machine textile artist who enjoys working on bold and contemporary designs or anything in between. To join you needn't be a practising textile artist or have a stitching qualification - just having an interest in our subject suffices.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings are normally on the second Wednesday of the month, apart from August, at our venue:

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church & Dovetail Centre
Winchester Road
Chandler's Ford
SO53 2GJ

They start promptly at 2pm with a short business meeting followed by our speaker or in-house activity. Tea/coffee and biscuits are usually served from 3.30pm and the meeting closes at 4pm. Members can arrive from around 1.30pm to give them a chance to purchase something inspirational from the Sales Table, borrow a book from the library, chat with other members or catch up with their Travelling Book – a good way of getting to know each other. Details of forthcoming events and exhibitions are displayed on the noticeboard as well as any important announcements and the minutes.

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS

We have a varied programme of speakers and activities over the year, with full details available on our website. In the past speakers have intrigued us with a wide variety of subjects including using colour, stitching on plastic, making folk embroidery out of old blankets and creating an authentic 18th century dress. The talks are usually illustrated with slides and/or textile samples. We also run in-house events - our members' workshops and show'n'tell afternoons are always popular. Three to four times a year there are day workshops with visiting or in-house tutors. Our members are given booking priority and sign-up sheets are available at the meetings. There is an additional charge for workshops.

STITCHING GROUP

A number of our members usually meet up to hand stitch together over a cup of coffee in the Coffee Bar at our venue before the monthly afternoon Branch meeting. They meet from 10am and you are welcome to bring lunch or visit a local eatery. Anyone can pop along, there is currently no charge but we do ask that you buy a drink from the coffee bar. For more information contact the Stitching Group co-ordinator via the website.

VISITORS WELCOME

You are most welcome to come to one of our meetings as a visitor to find out more. There is a charge of £5 per meeting. You can attend up to three meetings as a visitor, after that you would need to join us.

JOINING WINCHESTER BRANCH

The annual membership fee, (currently £52) is payable to the branch by cheque or cash on 1 September, with a reduction of 50% if you join from March onwards. The fee is divided between Winchester Branch, the Embroiderers' Guild and the Regional Levy, (South East West – SEW Region). We ask you to gift aid if you are a UK taxpayer as this gives us useful additional income at no further cost to you.

When you've joined we may ask you to help out once or twice a year on the tea rota, sales table or library, or assist in welcoming new members. In time, you may even wish to join the committee! It's a very good way of becoming involved and getting to know people.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

There are numerous benefits to joining Winchester Embroiderers' Guild:

- Attend our excellent speakers' programme.
- Join our informal hand stitching morning before branch meetings.
- Sign up for our workshops with visiting textile artists – these are usually held four times a year. Costs vary according to the course tutor and are on a non-profit basis.
- Participate in competitions, challenges, exhibitions and organised trips.
- Membership of the Embroiderers' Guild (EG), which is the only organisation in the UK that exists to support, educate, promote and inspire new generations in the art of stitch and textile design.
- Receive three issues a year of the EG publication 'Contact', which focuses on members' activities, news and achievements.
- Access to neighbouring embroiderers' guild programmes (Winchester is part of the South East West (SEW) Region of the Embroiderers' Guild), including the annual SEW Regional Event.
- 10% off fabrics at Closs & Hamblin Fabrics (C&H), Winchester on production of a current membership card.
- Other discounts are also available with your EG membership.

YOUNG EMBROIDERERS

The branch also runs two active Young Embroiderers' Groups that meet in the school holidays

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more details or to ask any questions please contact Jennifer Wilks, Chairman on 01489 890163 or email winchesterembroiderers@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you to your first meeting.