

# WECS Wardrobe

Summer issue 2019

£7.50: Free to members

**weecs**  
west of england  
costume society



www.  
wofecostumesociety.org

## Calendar

### Janet Arnold Study Day: Breaking the Mould?

Saturday  
5 October 2019  
■ Bath

### Visit: Dents Glove Factory

Tuesday  
10 September 2019  
■ Warminster

### The Glove Story

Saturday  
16 November 2019  
■ Bath

### White Embroidery Accessories in the Victorian period and AGM

Saturday  
8 February 2020  
■ Bath



Main image

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Study Day Page 2



**Ab Fab at Fifty**  
FTM exhibition Page 4



**Seeing double**  
Fashion Museum Page 3



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**Quantity and quality**  
Trowbridge Page 3

## WECS events

# March Study Day Breaking the Mould? Freedom and restraint in Victorian dress

Saturday 5 October 2019

9.30 - 16.45

■ Widcombe Social Club,  
Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA

For a fuller article on the speakers and content of the Study Day, please see the Spring issue of *Wardrobe*, or look on the website [www.wofecostumesociety.org](http://www.wofecostumesociety.org)

On street parking at the Widcombe Social Club is very limited. You'll see from the map that it's a very short walk from train and bus stations. The nearest longer stay car parking is Southgate Shopping Centre.



NOTE the  
change of  
venue

## Breaking the Mould Programme

- 9.30** Registration with coffee
- 10.15** Veronica Isaac - 'Celebrating the Individual': An Aesthetic Approach to Freedom
- 11.15** Coffee
- 11.45** Susanna Cordner - how developments in underwear impacted on women's social experience
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.15** Kat Jungnickel - "One Wants Nerves of Iron": Cycling, Convertible Cycle-wear and Courage in late Victorian Britain
- 15.15** Tea/Coffee and Raffle
- 15.45** Edwina Erhman - Rubber: from forest to fashion
- 16.45** Close



## Visit to the Dents Glove Factory

Tuesday 10 September 2019,  
11.00 and 14.00

Get yourself there visit

■ Dents Glove factory, Furnax Lane, Warminster BA12 8PE

A "get yourself there" event has been arranged to Dents glove factory in Warminster. There will be a talk about the factory and how the gloves are produced with a tour of their small museum which includes some of the coronation gloves made by them. Afterwards a tour to their factory shop is almost as informative.



A ladies' cream silk knitted single mitten, 1905/10, 15 inches long, with an intertwining ribbon pattern. Made by W. Ball and Son, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. Past

Master John Wood was chairman of the Company and the glove was donated by him to the Glovers Company in 1960.

© The Worshipful Company of Glovers London

## The Glove story Christmas meeting

Saturday 16 November 2019,  
14.00 - 16.30

■ Bath Bowling Club, Pulteney Road, Bath BA2 4EZ

Speaker: Rosemary Harden

The Fashion Museum in Bath is custodian of one of the best collections of gloves in the world and over the last two years Rosemary Harden, curator of the museum, has worked with the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London to bring together this precious collection under one roof.

A selection of these gloves is now strategically displayed throughout the current exhibition *A History of Fashion in 100 Objects*. Rosemary will tell us about the amazing stories of these gloves and show how a functional item of clothing can also be a work of art.

The visit will last around an hour and a half and will be limited to 12 people per tour. Because numbers are limited, there are two tours: one at 11 am and the other at 2 pm. Places will be allocated on a "first come" basis at a cost of £5 per person for members and £10.00 for non-members. Please complete the enclosed booking form, stating which of the tours you wish to go on. Please note that this visit is not bookable on-line.

It may be possible to arrange another visit at a future date if this one is over-subscribed.

## 2020 AGM and White Embroidery Accessories in the Victorian Period

Saturday 8 February 2020  
14.00 - 16.30

■ Bath Bowls Club, Pulteney Road, Bath BA2 4EZ

Speaker: Heather Toomer

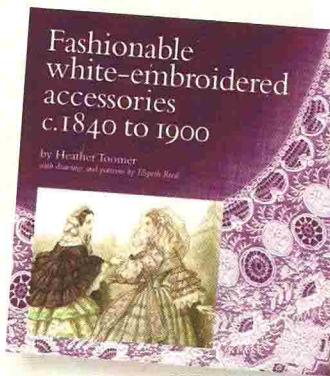
Heather Toomer, a long-standing member of WECS, joins us to speak on the subject of her latest book, *Fashionable white-embroidered accessories: c. 1840 to 1900*. A fuller introduction to the talk will be found in the Spring issue of *Wardrobe*.

The editor regrets an error in the spring issue of *Wardrobe*.

Advertising Heather Toomer's talk for the AGM on 8 February 2020, we inserted the wrong photograph.

The one shown was a lovely C18 kerchief but it should have been something from 1840 and on.

If you'd like to learn more about lace before Heather's talk, dip in to her latest book.



## Out & About

### Fashion Museum

■ Fashion Museum, Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath BA1 2QH  
01225 477789  
www.fashionmuseum.co.uk

### Glove Stories

until 1 March 2020

The splendid glove collection of the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London is now housed at the Fashion Museum. 400 years of glove history. Highlights include beautiful embroidered gauntlet gloves from the 1600s, a curious pair of gloves in a walnut shell from the 1830s, and the Duke of Edinburgh's carriage-driving gloves.



### Collection stories Little and Large

from May 2019  
In the Collection Stories gallery will be *Little and Large*; a glimpse of the Fashion Museum's enchanting collection of antique dolls displayed alongside beautiful life size

fashions from the same historical period.



Weave that Mary Quant fabric!



■ V&A Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL  
www.vam.ac.uk

### Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams

until 1 September 2019

*"There is no other country in the world, besides my own, whose way of life I like so much. I love English traditions, English politeness, English architecture. I even love English cooking."* Christian Dior



Christian Dior with model Lucky, circa 1955. Courtesy of Christian Dior.

Tickets are generally sold out, only very few available.



Yellow ankle boots in Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) lined with cotton jersey, Mary Quant, 1967, London. Museum no. T.591: 1&2-1992.  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

### Mary Quant

until 16 February 2020

"The whole point of fashion is to make fashionable clothes available to everyone." Mary Quant

### West of England Festival of Textiles

6-28 September 2019 Thur -Sun, 10.00 - 16.00  
(except Friday 6 Sep: 17.00-19.00)

■ Drawing Projects UK, Bridge House, 10 Stallard Street, Trowbridge, BA14 9AE  
60s design icon Mary Quant, Marks & Spencer, Gor-

Ray - just some of the many discerning clients of the once booming textile industry in Trowbridge.  
How were new collections created in a fast-paced factory environment? Who bought the cloth and how was it used? What did it take to become a designer in the British weaving industry?  
WEFT tells forgotten stories of the people working in Trowbridge mills creating intricate designs for a global market, together with cloth examples from the collection. To celebrate the rich weaving heritage, the Museum has invited local weavers to use the collection to inspire new work. The new work will be on display and for sale.

■ School of Textiles, 14, Market Hill, Coggeshall, Essex CO6 1TS  
The School of Textiles is a long way from the South West but is worth keeping an eye on if one happens to be in that corner of the UK.

There are lots of interesting talks and events, these are two for this autumn.



SPECIAL STUDY EVENT  
**Silk by candlelight**  
Leaders: Kate Wigley & Mary Schoeser  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
5.00pm - 6.00pm

TALK  
**Sandersons: how new fabrics evolve**  
In aid of Breast Cancer Care  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
10.30am - 12.30pm

### Southern Counties Costume Society

www.sccostumesociety.org.uk

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
**Edinburgh visit**

A two day trip to Edinburgh to visit the exhibition *"Wild and Romantic Visions of Scotland"* produced by two of our AGM speakers, Rosie Waine and Peter MacDonald at the National Museums of Scotland. There will also be a chance to visit the museum's costume store.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February  
**AGM and Spring Study Day 2020**

Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall, Main Road, Itchen Abbas Advance notice - save the date!

## Donations

Tony Cooper

Lindsay Evans-Robertson was personal assistant 1961-66 to John Cavanagh who designed royal wedding dresses for the Duchess of Kent 1961 and Princess Alexandra 1963.

Lindsay was a man of great experience and an erstwhile member of the Committee, one of the Society's leading lights in its early years and early last year he donated well over a hundred books to the Society. These have been on sale at most of our events ever since (a few still remain so don't miss them). Lindsay's instructions were that WECS could do whatever we want with the proceeds – currently standing at about £344. Whilst they could simply be absorbed into Society funds, the Committee feels that those proceeds should go to fund a specific project such that Lindsay's generosity may be acknowledged in a tangible way.

We believe the most suitable project at the moment is the conservation of a collection of fashion dolls at the Bath Fashion Museum with a price tag of £400. The Committee intends to donate Lindsay's money together with a small top-up from the Society to the Museum specifically for the conservation and on condition that Lindsay and the Society are credited.

If you have any thoughts about projects that are appropriate for WECS to support in the future then please convey these to any member of the Committee.



■ Blandford Fashion Museum, Lime Tree House, The Plocks, Dorset DT11 7AA

Blandford Fashion Museum was mentioned in an article in the latest Dorset Magazine, featuring some of their costumes and displays and mentioning three of their trustees, who all volunteer their expertise and knowledge to the benefit of the museum and its collection.



wrong address and image in the spring issue. Luckily, I think most of our members know how to find the museum.

## The Jazz Age

Until end of September 2019  
Tuesday-Friday 11-5

■ Totnes Fashion and Textiles Museum, Began House, 43, High Street, Totnes TQ9 5NP

The editor regrets having given the



## Wild and Majestic Romantic visions of Scotland

until 10 November 2019

■ National Museum of

Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh nms.ac.uk

Dramatic highland landscapes, heroic histories, tartan and bagpipes are among the defining images of Scotland for many people around the world today. This exhibition considers the origins of these ideas and explores how they were used to represent Scotland around the world.



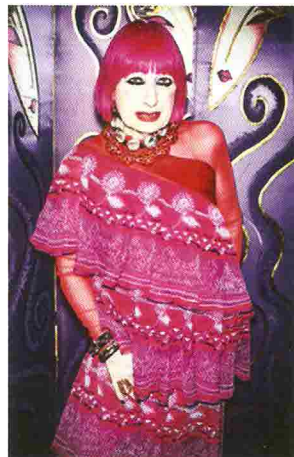
■ Fashion and Textile Museum, 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF  
www.ftmlondon.org  
Info@ftmlondon.org



## Weavers of the Clouds: Textile Arts of Peru

21 June - 8 September 2019

For decades, designers worldwide have been influenced by the traditional textiles of Peru. Weavers of the Clouds explores the processes and practices of both historic and contemporary Peruvian costume via garments, textiles, photographs, tools, illustrations and paintings, dating from pre-Hispanic to present day.



## Zandra Rhodes: Fifty Years of Fabulous

27 September 2019 – 26 January 2020

Open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11am – 6pm  
Thursdays until 8pm  
Sundays, 11am – 5pm

The acclaimed British designer Dame Zandra Rhodes DBE founded her eponymous fashion house in 1969 with a small collection. Her prints were Pop Art-infused commentaries on the world of Sixties Britain; the designer felt that there was inherent structure within the pattern that could work with and enhance the shape and construction of a dress.

In celebration of fifty years of the Zandra Rhodes' label, the Fashion and Textile Museum presents *Zandra Rhodes: Fifty Years of Fabulous*. This retrospective will highlight 100 key looks, as well as 50 original textiles.

## Sewing and Pattern cutting

Workshop with Liz Booty

Small friendly classes  
Plenty of help and advice  
No previous sewing experience necessary

On Thursdays, the next four week course starts on Sept 19, 26 and Oct 24, 31

Contact Liz Booty, The Old Brewhouse, Limpley Stoke, Bath BA2 7FR  
01225 722208 or 07775997376  
lizbooty@icloud.com

## Copy for the next newsletter to Vibeke Ormerod by 20 October please

With this Autumn issue of the magazine you should have:

● Booking forms for October Study Day  
Christmas meeting and Dents Glove Factory visit.