

WECS Wardrobe



www.
wofecostume
society.org

Calendar

**Janet Arnold
Study Day
Using the past to secure
our future**

Saturday 7 October 2023
■ Bath and County Club

Uniformly Elegant

Thursday 19 October 2023
■ Trowbridge Museum,

**Christmas meeting
Elite costumed balls
in C19**

Saturday 18 November 2023
■ Bath and County Club

**AGM
1970 'Glam' Fashion**

Saturday 10 February 2024
■ Bath and County Club

**March Study Day
Feathers, fur and skin**

Saturday 16 March 2024
■ TBA



Main image
Glastonbury Diva!
Page 8



Latinx America
Page 6



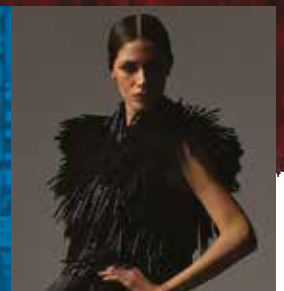
Diva Dior
Page 4



Worth(ing) bothering
Page 5



Feeling Blue?
Page 7



LBD
Page 4



Christmas meeting
Elite Costumed Balls of the C19
Saturday 18 November 2023
14.00 - 16.30

■ Bath and County Club, Queen's Parade, Queen Square, Bath BA1 2NJ
£15 for members - £25 for non-members.

After our usual Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, Ben Wild will give an illustrated talk on Elite C19 costumed balls.

Ben Wild is senior lecturer in contextual studies (fashion) at The Manchester Fashion Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University. As a cultural historian, Ben's work explores, broadly, the nature and role of meaning-making in people's dress and appearance.

Ben also gave a talk at last year's October study day on Medieval influences on today's fashion.



Janet Arnold Study Day

Using the past to secure the future:

sustainability, recycling and mending

Saturday 7 October 2023
9.30 - 16.15

■ Bath and County Club, Queen's Parade, Queen Square, Bath BA1 2NJ

£32.50 for WECS members
£42.50 for non members
Lunches are £10.00

This year's Janet Arnold study day will examine how the fashion world affects our world, and its efforts to mitigate the damage it causes.



Uniformly Elegant
Thursday 19 October 2023
14.00 - 16.00

■ Trowbridge Museum, The Shires. Trowbridge BA14 8AT
£10 members and non-members.

Step back to 1805 as a lady and gentleman get dressed from underwear to outerwear. A light-hearted but informative look at the clothing, the fashions, the social mores and political influences of this time.

Booking via the WECS website or contact Tony Cooper (contact details on Page 8) or www.ticketsource.co.uk/trowbridgemuseum
Afterwards why not stroll round the corner to Parade House, 70 Fore Street, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8HQ, for a sumptuous

cream tea in the elegant ballroom of the Grade I listed townhouse followed by performances from the Jane Austen Dancers of Bath. Details and booking: paradehousetrowbridge.co.uk

AGM
1970 'Glam' Fashion
Saturday 10 February 2024
14.00 - 16.20

■ Bath and County Club, Queen's Parade, Queen Square, Bath BA1 2NJ

Study Day
Feathers, fur and skin
Saturday 16 March 2024

■ Tba



Our speakers and workshop leaders are:

Sarah Delves - Fashion versus the Planet.

This talk takes a look at the fashion industry as the second largest polluter of the environment (who knew!) and the amount of clothes we buy. Sarah will look at the types of fashion from Haute Couture to fast fashion, explore the fashion industry with regard to its impact on the environment and everything within it and then look at the ways we can 'do our bit' to help.

In 2019 Sarah was approached by the Victoria and Albert Museum to join their team as an expert lecturer and has since lectured for the V&A Academy. She gave talks on handbags and compacts at last year's March study day.

Liz Parker – Textile treaties and tentacles: Used clothing horrors and hopes

It is estimated by The OR Foundation that 6 million items of used clothing leave Ghana's massive used clothing market in a single week as waste. Every week. Some of that clothing is ending up buried 15 feet into the sand on Ghana's beaches. This talk will explore how our used clothes end up in these countries, why they are not being recycled and the glimmers of hope from recent European Union proposals.

Liz Parker has twenty years of experience working in the field of fashion and sustainability as a lecturer and activist, notably with the *Clean Clothes Campaign* network.



Elliott Fletcher – Uniqlo's Sustainability Practices

Elliott will talk about the sustainability practices that Uniqlo embraces.

Elliott Fletcher is the Senior Digital Marketing and e-Commerce manager for Uniqlo, the world-wide Japanese clothing company.

Workshops 1 and 2– Masa Morikawa and Katsura Takahashi from Uniqlo and Skye Pennant from the Slow Stitch Club

Masa will lead a workshop on Sashiko and Skye will lead a workshop on decorative darning. Members will be divided into two groups and will swap after the tea break to do the other workshop.

Masa Morikawa started his career in 2006 with a small fashion project selling customised jeans whilst studying in Canada. In order to gain sewing skills he started working at sewing factory Benerozo in Kumamoto where he trained for 4 years before moving to the UK in 2011. After working as studio manager for a factory in South London and helping to run a fashion brand, he set up Studio Masachuka Limited in 2012. Masa has recently opened a studio in Ghent, Belgium.

Katsura Takahashi is Head of Sustainability at Uniqlo UK at their Regent Street branch promoting their Sustainability department.

Skye Pennant runs the Slow Stitch Club in Frome and teaches the art of visible mending drawing from traditional techniques such as darning and the Japanese practice of Sashiko to repair clothing in a creative, visible and intentional way. Over the last few years she has worked with brands such as TOAST and The Seam repairing clothing and teaching workshops for wearers all over the UK.

Study Day Programme

9.30 Registration with coffee/tea

10.00 Sarah Delves - Fashion versus the Planet.

11.00 Coffee/tea

11.30 Liz Parker – Textile treaties and tentacles: Used clothing horrors and hopes

12.30 Lunch – raffle before afternoon session starts

13.45 Elliott Fletcher – Uniqlo's Sustainability Practices

14.15 Workshop 1/2

15.00 Coffee/tea

15.30 Workshop 2/2

16.15 Close

Out. & About



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

The Fabric of Democracy: Propaganda textiles from the French revolution to Brexit

29 September -31 March 2024

This exhibition explores printed propaganda textiles over more than two centuries, from the French Revolution to Brexit.

Curated by design historian Amber Butchart.



Beyond the Little Black Dress

until 29 October 2023

■ National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF
info@nms.co.uk
0300 123 6789
www.nms.ac.uk



From design classics to cutting-edge catwalk creations, Beyond the Little Black Dress deconstructs this iconic garment and examines the radical power of the colour black in fashion.

In 1926 Coco Chanel designed a simple, short black dress. Considered radically modern, it disregarded convention in its design and shade and was hailed by US Vogue as “the frock that all the world will wear.” The little black dress became a wardrobe staple and a blank canvas for future generations to reflect broader political and cultural shifts, challenge social norms around race, gender and sexuality and reflect evolving ideals of beauty and identity.

Keep Calm and Wear it Well

Fashion of the 1930s

16 September 2023 - 31 August 2024

■ Chertsey Museum, The Cedars, 33 Windsor St., Chertsey, Surrey KT16 8AT
Chertseymuseum.org



The 1940s was a tumultuous decade, characterised, in the first instance, by the Second World War (1939 – 1945). The State involved itself deeply in ordinary people’s dress. The wartime period and the years that followed are characterised by government policies such as clothes rationing, the Utility Scheme and the Make-Do and Mend campaign. These sought to control the acquisition and care of clothing, its price, quality and, to some extent, look.

Thirsty for Fashion

until 5 November 2023

■ Killerton House, Killerton Parklands, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon, EX5 3LE
nationaltrust.org.uk/Killerton

The ‘Thirsty For Fashion’ exhibition at Killerton explores circular fashion from the 18th century to the present day. Items from the National Trust’s fashion collection, highlight some of the techniques used to repair and reuse clothing throughout history.

Work from contemporary designers and makers also feature, showcasing modern techniques for a more sustainable and circular fashion industry.



Out and About is published in good faith, but please check details before making a special trip.



Style and Society: Dressing the Georgians

until 8 October 2023

■ The Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA
www.rct.uk

This exhibition reveals how the Georgians ushered in many of the cultural trends we know today, including the first stylists and influencers, the birth of a specialised fashion press and the development of shopping as a leisure activity.



History Highlight Festival 2023 - Fashion!

18-21 October 2023

■ Trowbridge Museum, The Shires Shopping Centre, Court Street, Trowbridge, BA14 8AT
01225 751339
trowbridgemuseum.co.uk

Introducing the Museum's first ever Highlight Festival which promises a jam-packed programme of talks, workshops and performances. This year's History Highlight is Fashion, inspired by Trowbridge's rich textile heritage.

The brand new, four day festival culminates in Fashion Forum, a day of engaging talks and performances all inspired by clothes, textiles and their designers.



Why do we wear clothes?

until 29 October 2023

■ Worthing Museum, Connaught Theatre, Union Place, Worthing BN11 1LG
01903 206206
wtm.uk



The exhibition showcases the original artwork for Helen Hancock's book, which she wrote for 7-9 year olds: *Why Do We Wear Clothes?* There will also be items from the museum's historic dress collection.



■ V&A Dundee

Tartan

until 14 January 2024

A radical new look at one of the world's best-known textiles.

Tartan celebrates the global story of a unique pattern - how the rules of the grid have inspired creativity from the everyday to the sublime.

The instantly recognisable symbol of Scotland, a global textile of tradition, rebellion, repression and fashion, tartan has connected and divided communities worldwide, inspiring great works of art as well as playful and provocative designs.



■ V&A, London

Fashion Tour

until 31 December 2023

Christmas break 24 - 26 December
12.30-1.30

Immerse yourself in the V&A's world renowned fashion collection, which covers changing shapes and tastes in style.

From beautiful 17th century fashions to contemporary, cutting-edge designs and haute couture, no great outfit is complete without exquisite accessories such as jewellery, gloves and handbags.

Please note that public tours can be busy and popular, please consider waiting for an alternative tour if the group numbers are beyond your personal comfort



■ V&A, London

Diva

until 7 April 2024

Diva celebrates the power and creativity of iconic performers, exploring and redefining the role of "diva" and how this has been subverted or embraced over time across opera, stage, popular music and film.



■ V&A Dundee,
Riverside Esplanade,
Dundee, DD1 4EZ
vam.ac.uk

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

Above: Portrait of Adalina Patti by Frank Winterhalter, about 1865-70. Reproduced courtesy of Harewood House Trust



MODA Ahoy! Latin American and Latinx Fashion Design Today

until 12 November 2023

■ The Museum at FIT
227, West 27th Street
New York City
10001-5992

The exhibition features creators from Latin American countries as well as designers of Latin American heritage living and working in the United States and Europe, who are often referred to as Hispanic, Latino or Latinx. Featuring more than 60 objects from the museum's permanent collection, including many new acquisitions, the exhibition rejects the notion of a singular Latin American style, to focus instead on the diversity of talent present today in Latin America and its diaspora.



Street Cred over 200 years

Alfred Gillett Trust to open new museum in Street, celebrating 200 years of shoemaking and Clarks Shoes

■ The Grange, Street.

The Alfred Gillett Trust has announced plans to build a new museum and archive in Street, the village where the Clarks shoe story began.

The museum, set to open in 2025, will be located at the Grange and feature a collection of museum objects and archive material ranging from 200-million-year-old fossils to 200 years of shoemaking and Clarks shoes.

The Trust has been providing access to this remarkable collection through exhibitions and loans to other museums since it opened in 2012. In 2019, the Trust acquired ownership of the historical collection on the history of Clarks shoes, which paved the way for the new museum.



ECHO Wrapped in Memory

14 October 2023 - 25 February 2024

■ ModeMuseum, Nationalestraat 28, 2000 Antwerp

“ECHO” reflects on the intimate connection between clothing and memory through the lens of Louise Bourgeois, Simone Rocha and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.



The Missing Thread

@ Eileen Perrier 1 'Afro Hair and Beauty', 1998.

The Missing Thread

21 September - 17 January 2024

■ Somerset House,
Strand, London WC2R 1LA
www.rct.uk

This major new exhibition will explore the story of Black British fashion, chronicling the shifting landscape across 50 years and the contribution Black British culture has made to Britain's design history. Celebrating the unique impact of a largely unseen generation of Black creatives, The Missing Thread will examine how culture, politics and socio-economics shaped Black style – and, in turn, mainstream fashion.

Collection by Colour: Blue



until 24 September 2023

■ The School of Historical Dress
52 Lambeth Rd, London SE1 7PP
theschoolofhistoricaldress.org.uk

In addition to the exhibition, The School of Historical Dress will also be holding a four day event 'The Patterns of Fashion Festival' on the 1-4 December, to be held at Conway Hall in Red Lion Square, Bloomsbury and at their School in Lambeth Road, Waterloo.

There will be presentations, dressing demonstrations, an exhibition and tours of the school, celebrating the work of Janet Arnold and the publication of all six books in her *Patterns of Fashion* series in colour editions by the School. In addition they will be announcing their new series of books, the 'Case Study' series, together with the new annual School of Historical Dress Awards.



Timeless

Exhibition by Blanka Matragi in Prague.

By Caroline Bartlett

until 31 December 2023

■ Municipal House, náměstí Republiky 5, Praha 1, Prague, Czech Republic

open: 10.00-19.00

Contact: +420 222 002 101

info@obecnidum.cz

Last year when Peter and I were in Prague we visited Obecni Dum (the Municipal House). This sounds like a town hall but in fact it is a concert hall with a range of exhibition rooms and rooms which can be hired for parties, meetings etc. We purchased a joint ticket to see the Mucha Exhibition (our original reason for visiting) but which also included a guided tour of the building – definitely worth it if you love Art Nouveau, and a ticket to visit an exhibition called *Timeless*. *Timeless* turned out to have a huge number of beautiful dresses, original design drawings and photographs and even jewellery designed by Blanka Matragi. It was absolutely stunning. I had assumed that this exhibition had closed by now but I see it is in fact still on until 31st December 2023. Well worth a visit for anyone planning to go to Prague – there are also two gorgeous restaurants in the building as well!



Timeless represents an exhibition mapping the 35-year-long career of the fashion designer Blanka Matragi. All of the exhibited pieces are the result of the designer drawing inspiration from the elements of nature. This inspiration and innovative thinking were also reflected in her use of the latest technologies, materials and the use of inspiration by 3D effects

with illusionist elements. Whether you like fashion or simply all forms of art, this exhibition will surely tantalize your senses! Apart from clothes, other various pieces such as glass, porcelain, sculptures, chandeliers, jewellery, and graphics are exhibited as well. An explosion of colours and ideas!

Diva! At the V&A

Report by Ann Brown

On a trip to London recently I did my usual thing and went to the V&A to view the most recent exhibition, which at present is "Diva". Included in your visit you receive a headset which bursts into sound as you approach the various displays. The Diva experience covers mostly women from the worlds of opera, stage, popular music and film starting with opera from Adelina Patti in the mid C19 to the most recent popular singers of today along with costumes of each artist featured. As you go to the second floor with C21 artists, the music gets louder but you can turn the volume down on the headset! All the artists featured are or were iconic performers in their own right. There are film clips shown of the "Divas" performing mostly of their most famous parts including Greta Garbo saying "I want to be alone".



The list of the Divas featured is endless and the costumes iconic. It is well worth a visit if you are in London and it is on until April next year. It was one of the best exhibitions I have seen for a while and because of the timed entry, controlling the numbers at one time, there is space to enjoy each beautifully displayed exhibit.

WECS Work Experience

As you know, WECS has been on a recruitment drive for fresh people to help running the Society. We're doing well - and there's only one slot left to fill.

Angela Bailey is offering to mentor a new **Chair** in good time before she steps down. It's an exciting position with lots of opportunity to take WECS forward in all sorts of directions.

If you want to have a think about it - contact Angela direct.

Keep Wardrobe full!

What have you been doing, reading, discovered online?
Tell us so we can share.

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

Where words can lead you...

We received an email from Billie Brown, who loves etymology and especially the derivatives of names of garments. Her brother in law in Ontario shares her love of word research and the item which resulted in the discussion in the letter below (slightly edited) was the French Hood, leading onto the word CRAPE.

Dear Billie,

We checked on Google for French Hood - Finely pleated Edge-Definition and found an extensive article by Sarah Lorraine, "Reconstructing a French Hood" in the 1545 French Hood Diaries and a reference to Margo Anderson's "Tudor Lady's Wardrobe Pattern".

As to vocabulary this word family originates with the Latin word CREPARE, to rattle, creak, rustle etc. In modern French CRÉPU refers to frizzy hair, CRÉPITER means (of a fire) to crackle, CRÉPITEMENT refers to the pitter-patter of hail or the rattle of machine gun fire. CRISPUS in Latin meant curly (hair), hence the modern French CRÉPU.

One of my reference books says the English CRAPE for fabric was a 14th century introduction. The etymology would be CRISPUS>CRESPE>CRÊPE, anglicised to CRAPE. I wonder if Chippen had curly hair? Incidentally CRINOLINE also derives from Latin via Italian and French, Latin CRINIS meant hair, LINUM meant flax, hence CRINOLINO and CRINOLINE.....etc...etc....

*Love
Helen and Bill.*

WECS Committee

Chair

Angela Bailey, The Victoria School House,
Henrietta Road, Bath BA2 6LU
07887 851410
chair@wofecostumesociety.org

Treasurer

Sarah Bartlett, 4 Cotley Place, Heytesbury,
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 0HT
01985 840624
treasurer@wofecostumesociety.org

Secretary

Tony Cooper, 52 The Common, Broughton
Gifford, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8NA
01225 782711
secretary@wofecostumesociety.org

Booking Secretary

Ann Brown, 29 Thompson Road, Wells,
Somerset BA5 1FB
01749 670557
bookings@wofecostumesociety.org

Membership Secretary

Annie Rose, 5 Clarendon Villas, Bath,
BA2 6AG
07747622481
membership@wofecostumesociety.org

WECS Wardrobe Editor

Vibeke Ormerod, 40 Victoria Road,
Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1ET
editor@wofecostumesociety.org

Webmeister

Tony Cooper, 52 The Common, Broughton
Gifford, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 8NA
01225 782711
webmaster@wofecostumesociety.org

Members

Andrea Bartlett, Trowbridge Museum, The
Shires Shopping Centre, Court Street,
Trowbridge BA14 8AT
Andrea.Bartlett@trowbridge.gov.uk

Caroline Bartlett