THE CIRENCESTER TAPESTRY PROJECT



INSPIRED BY BAYEUX; MADE BY YOU!

TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF THE **BAYEUX TAPESTRY** TO ENGLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALMOST 1000 YEARS, WE ASKED OUR COMMUNITY TO HELP US CREATE A GIANT BAYEUX-INSPIRED TAPESTRY OF CIRENCESTER LIFE. SCHOOLS, CLUBS, FAMILIES AND RESIDENTS SUBMITTED DRAWINGS FOR THE FINAL DESIGN - AND NOW IT'S TIME TO EMBROIDER IT, USING THE TRADITIONAL STITCHING TECHNIQUES USED IN THE REAL MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECE!

WHAT MAKES THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY SO SPECIAL?



Of course the Bayeux Tapestry is legendary for telling one of the most defining stories in English history: the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and the dawn of the Norman conquest.

But it's not just about kings and battles. Look closely and you'll find homes, animals, trees, fashions, farming and everyday life. It's an incredible time capsule of 11th-century life.

Now it's Cirencester's turn to tell its story, told from 'the bottom up'! Look out for skateboards and ice creams, pets and phones and consider how alien they might look to someone from 1066 ...or 3066!

Cirencester History Festival · New Brewery Arts · The Summerfield Charitable Trust · The Bathurst Estate · Daniel Bingham Foundation · Soroptimist International Cirencester and District · Woodroffe Benton Foundation

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WITH ENORMOUS THANKS TO...

THE CIRENCESTER TAPESTRY PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT, ENTHUSIASM, ENERGY AND EXPERTISE OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH **CIRENCESTER HISTORY FESTIVAL**:

- Everyone who submitted a drawing for our Bayeux-inspired design
- Emily Moss and Maya Warren - festival illustrators
- Beth Alden and Rebecca Shellenberger from New Brewery Arts
- Our wonderful embroidery tutors: Josie and Jo from Stitch Social; Sophie Bowen; Lichen Davenport and Ruth Martin
- Sophie Bowen for leading our dyeing workshop
- The King's Foundation for donating plants from their Highgrove dye garden
- Cirencester College textiles students and embroidery volunteers for dyeing the threads
- Andrew Riddington of Cirencester Workbench for making & customising the stitching table
- Beth Somerville for loaning us her stitching table
- Jenny Bowers for decorating our pop-up window and shop
- The Old Department Store for hosting us
- All of our incredible embroidery expert volunteers

PROJECT SPONSORS:

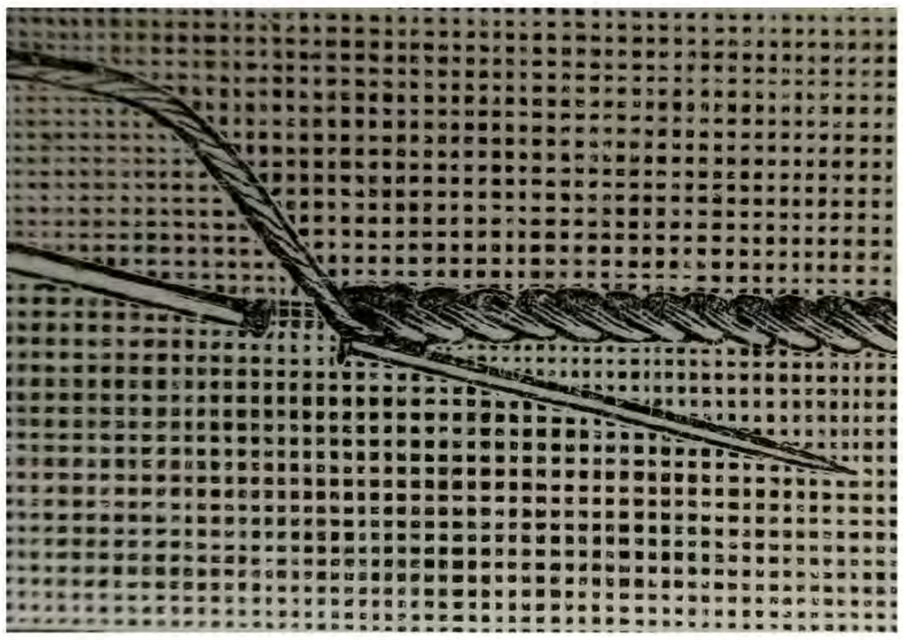
- The Summerfield Trust
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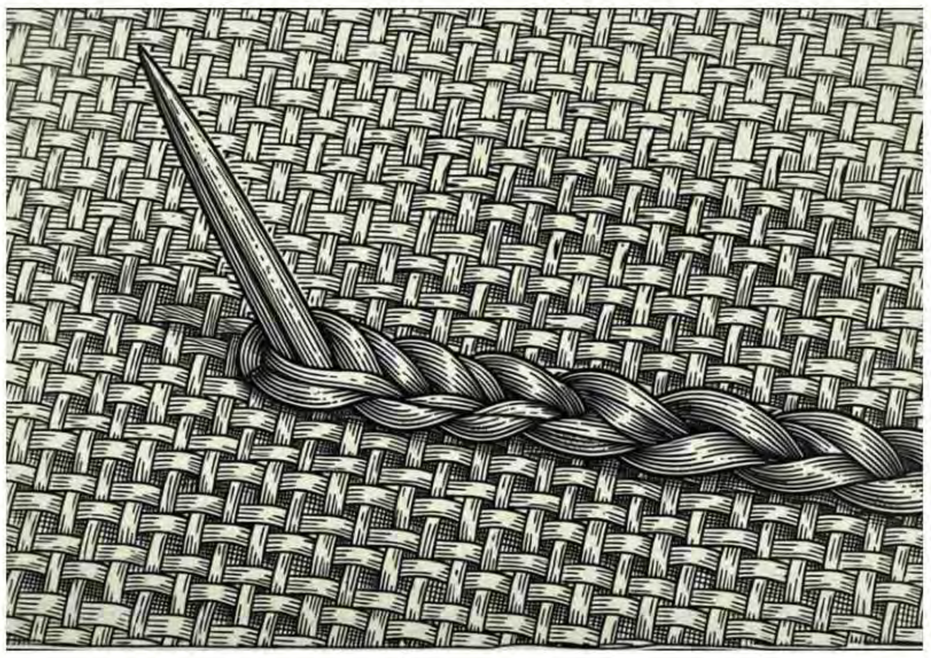
Maya Warren & Emily Moss

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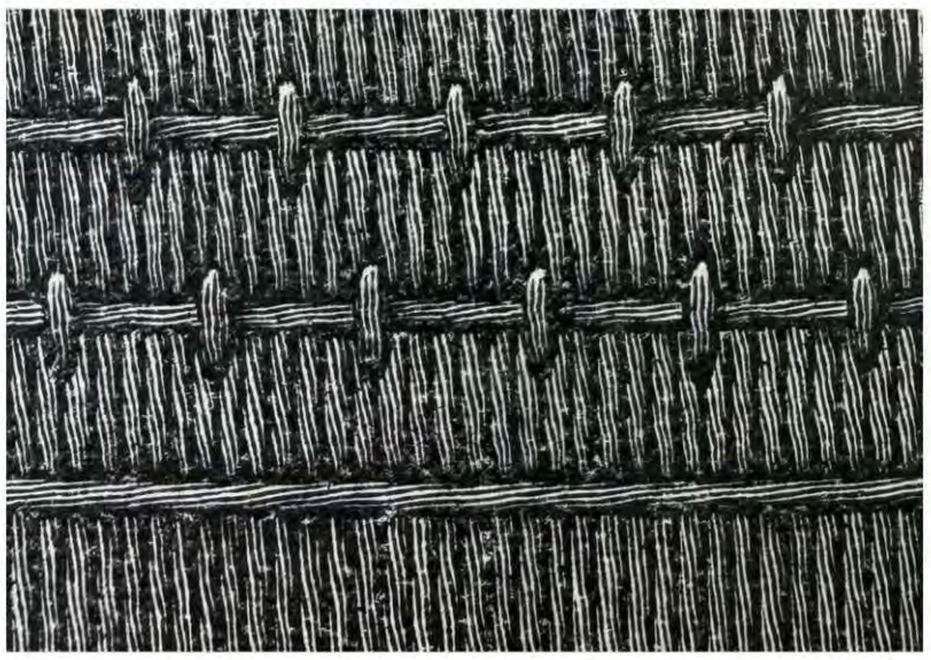
THE REAL BAYEUX TAPESTRY USES THREE MAIN STITCHING TECHNIQUES - STEM STITCH, SPLIT STITCH, AND WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS BAYEUX STITCH. SPLIT AND STEM STITCHES ARE USED FOR DETAIL AND TEXTURE WHILE BAYEUX STITCH IS USED TO FILL IN LARGE COLOURED SECTIONS.



STEM STITCH is used for outlining and lettering. Bring the needle up through the fabric, then make a small stitch forward along your line. Before pulling all the thread through, bring the needle back up about halfway along the previous stitch, keeping the working thread consistently to the same side to give a slight diagonal effect to the stitches. Continue this way to create a smooth, slightly twisted line.



SPLIT STITCH is used for detail and texture. As with stem stitch, bring the needle up through the fabric and make a small stitch forward. Bring the needle back up through the centre of the previous stitch, splitting the thread as you come through. Continue along, keeping the stitches small and even.



BAYEUX STITCH is used to fill in larger coloured sections with an economical use of wool. Begin at the top with a long stitch to the bottom and bring the needle up just to the side of your first stitch, ready for a second parallel long stitch – this time from bottom to top. Continue like this until the space is filled and tie off the wool. Next, lay long threads across these stitches at right angles. Secure these threads with small couching stitches at regular intervals, staggering their position on each row.

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SOME STITCHING EXAMPLES FROM THE REAL BAYEUX TAPESTRY FOR INSPIRATION:

















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THE DYEING PROCESS

WE HELD A NATURAL PLANT DYEING WORKSHOP WITH SOPHIE BOWEN AT NEW BREWERY ARTS TO DYE OUR WOOL EMBROIDERY THREADS – USING MANY MATERIALS AND METHODS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY.

EXTRACT VS. EXHAUST

WHEN CREATING NATURAL DYE VATS, THE INITIAL IMMERSION YIELDS THE STRONGEST PIGMENT – THE EXTRACT – WHILE SUBSEQUENT IMMERSIONS IN THE REMAINING LIQUOR CREATE SOFTER EXHAUST SHADES. TO FURTHER EXPAND THE PALETTE, MODIFIER BATHS WERE USED: VINEGAR (ACID) TO BRIGHTEN HUES, SODA ASH (ALKALINE) TO SHIFT SHADES, AND IRON SHAVINGS TO 'SADDEN' OR DARKEN COLOURS INTO MUTED, EARTHY TONES.

BLACK HOLLYHOCK
(ALCEA ROSEA)

PART USED:
DARK FLOWER PETALS

FIRST DYE BATH:
DEEP PURPLE AND DUSTY INDIGO

EXHAUST: SUBTLE LAVENDER AND SLATE



ONION SKIN
(ALLIUM CEPA)

PART USED:
DRY OUTER SKINS

FIRST DYE BATH:
BRILLIANT GOLDEN-AMBER

EXHAUST: WARM BUTTER-YELLOW

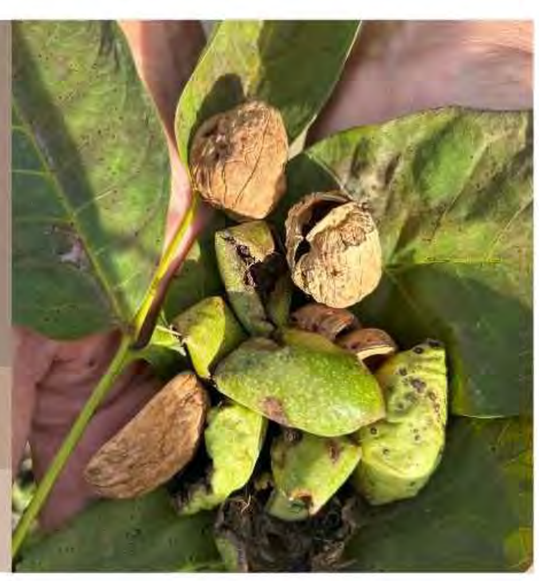


WALNUT
(JUGLANS REGIA)

PART USED:
GREEN OUTER HUSKS

FIRST DYE BATH:
DEEP, EARTHY WARM BROWN

EXHAUST: SOFT TAN AND BUFF



WELD
(RESEDA LUTEOLA)

PART USED:
LEAVES & FLOWERING STEMS

FIRST DYE BATH:
VIBRANT, CLEAR YELLOW

EXHAUST: PALE LEMON AND STRAW



BLACK TEA
(CAMELLIA SINENSIS)

PART USED:
DRIED LEAVES

FIRST DYE BATH:
WARM TAN AND COPPER-BROWN

EXHAUST: SUBTLE CREAM AND BEIGE



DAHLIA
(DAHLIA)

PART USED:
FLOWER HEADS

FIRST DYE BATH:
PALE SAGE GREEN

EXHAUST: PALE SILVER BLUE



MADDER
(RUBIA TINCTORUM)

PART USED:
ROOTS

FIRST DYE BATH:
RICH BRICK RED & TERRACOTTA

EXHAUST: SOFT ROSE PINK AND BLUSH



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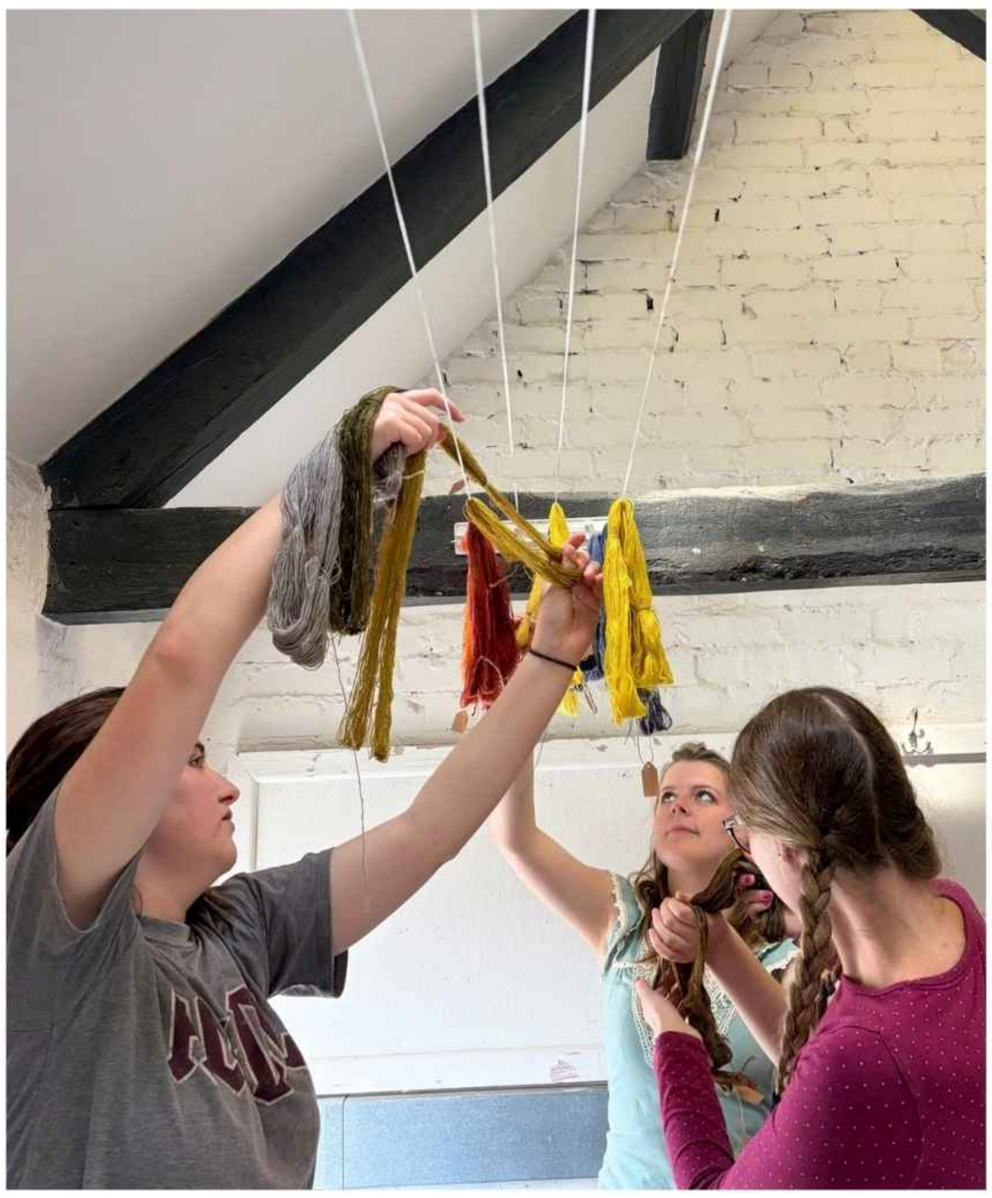
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THE DYEING PROCESS

CIRENCESTER COLLEGE TEXTILES STUDENTS WORKED ALONGSIDE SOME OF OUR MOST DEDICATED EMBROIDERY VOLUNTEERS.









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WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK

THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE CIRENCESTER TAPESTRY PROJECT. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK – IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT AND HELPS US IMMENSELY:



GOT 5 SECONDS? PLACE A **STICKER** IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN ON OUR LAMINATED FEEDBACK SHEETS.



WANT TO SHARE MORE? LEAVE US A NOTE IN OUR **VISITORS' BOOK** – DON'T FORGET TO LET US KNOW WHERE YOU'VE TRAVELLED FROM TODAY!



ENJOYING THE WHOLE FESTIVAL? SCAN ANY **QR CODE** AROUND THE ROOM TO TAKE OUR SHORT DIGITAL SURVEY.

HUGE THANKS FOR BEING PART OF OUR STORY!

From the Cirencester History Festival team

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