

# Fabric of life

» Craft



Farnham Maltings is weaving together its third annual **thread... a festival of textiles** on Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September.

The popular event will showcase the varied ways of working with material. Having begun in 2013, thread... a festival of textiles is now one of the Maltings' biggest craft events with workshops and talks from international textile designers and an impressive mix of stallholders.

Lynsey Nichols, craft and exhibitions officer at Farnham Maltings, said: "We're delighted to have thread back. It's always fantastic to have professional and enthusiast craft and textile makers, learning together and taking away new skills, knowledge and a passion."

The marketplace offers a rich mix of artisan fabrics, sewing kits and haberdashery. Stallholders include independent dressmaking pattern company Gather, Hannah Bass Contemporary Textiles with contemporary needlepoints and Handprinted Ltd with equipment for screen and relief printing, silk painting and plate stamping. Workshops includes a step-by-step guide to making a drum lampshade (with a beautiful print from Jane Warren of Lampshade Loft), a masterclass in printing on textiles

using eco-dyeing techniques from Sarah Waterhouse and an introduction to your sewing machine with Alice and Ginny, resident tutors and authors of *Home Sweet Sewn* and *Sewing for Kids*. Learn to cross stitch a colourful bird from Nancy Nicholson and *Great British Sewing Bee* finalist Lauren Guthrie and husband Ayaz Ghani will show you how to make a snap-frame coin purse.

More inspiration comes Emma Block, a freelance illustrator who has also worked with UNIQLO, Orla Kiely, Anthropologie, Harper Collins and Mollie Makes and runs a popular blog and Etsy. Her talk is aimed at helping budding entrepreneurs set up a successful business in craft and design. The talk will give you an insight into how she has grown her businesses and provide insider knowledge into pricing, social media tips, selling, crowdfunding and branding.

Thread entry is £5 in advance, £7.50 on the door, under-15s free and tickets include entry to both days. Visit [www.farnhammaltings.com](http://www.farnhammaltings.com) or call **01252 745444**.



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