

New Community Textiles Festival Launching In South East London

A new community festival is launching this summer, celebrating the diversity of South East London, and the common thread of textiles and sewing in our cultures. The festival will feature free and low cost craft workshops, a textiles market, an exhibition of textile art, and activities for children.

South East London is home to a wide variety of people from different cultures and backgrounds. The area also has a rich history, and military associations with Greenwich and Woolwich Arsenal. The Wool & Textile Festival aims to highlight the cultural significance of textiles to the area and the people who live and work here. We want to bring the different communities together, and showcase the importance of textiles, and the variety of textile based small businesses, designers, and makers in the area.

Led by felt artist Viv Cameron, and printed textile designer Beki Gowing, a small group of Greenwich based crafters and designers have created the festival in collaboration with Woodlands Farm, one of London's few urban working farms. As well as a chance to explore the farm, visitors can attend an upcycling workshop, learn how to crochet, or join artist Caroline Hands in making a community quilt. There will be stalls from local yarn store Yarnarama, embroidered silk accessories from The Silk Puppet, fabric jewellery by Just Rocks and Coral, and the gallery will feature work by acclaimed artists including Linda Irving, Caroline Hands, and Rob Jones of Romor Designs. There will also be Knit & Natter sessions, yoga for creativity, and family friendly workshops covering everything from felting to willow weaving and tote bag printing.

Organiser Beki Gowing runs the textile studio Print & Press London from Thames Side Studios in Woolwich. She explained, "South East London has a fantastic creative community, with so many pockets of people creating beautiful and exciting work. We wanted to find a way to promote local textile designers and businesses, and to showcase the importance of textiles to people who may not think it's 'for them'. This is first and foremost a community festival, organised by people who live and work in the area, and we would like to invite everyone to come and celebrate South East London with us – you might even find a new hobby!"

The festival will run on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July from 11am to 4pm, at Woodlands Farm on Shooters Hill. Entry is free, although some workshops may have a small charge or donation to cover costs. There is some parking on site, or the farm is on a number of bus routes and within walking distance of Welling and Falconwood Station (both zone 4).

When: Saturday 30th June to Sunday 1st July, 11am to 4pm

Where: Woodlands Farm Trust, 331 Shooters Hill, Welling, DA16 3RP

More information: www.southeastlondontextiles.wordpress.com

Contact: Viv Cameron selwatinfo@gmail.com, Beki Gowing beki@printandpresslondon.co.uk



SATURDAY 30TH JUNE & SUNDAY 1ST JULY | 11AM - 4PM

SOUTH EAST LONDON

WOOL & TEXTILE FESTIVAL

WORKSHOPS | MARKET | ART EXHIBITION
TALKS | CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

WOODLANDS FARM, SHOOTER'S HILL

WWW.SOUTHEASTLONDONTEXTILES.WORDPRESS.CO.UK

