



Embroiderers' Guild

sharing opportunities for discovery and creativity

MARLBOROUGH & DISTRICT BRANCH

Cllr. Jane Scott
Wiltshire County Council
Trowbridge.

January 12th 2012

Dear Cllr. Scott,

I write as Chairman of the Marlborough and District Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. The Embroiderers' Guild is over 100 years old and this branch has been in existence for over 30 years, and has currently some 77 members who live in Northern Wiltshire.

We have learned with dismay that it is to be proposed to close Urchfont Manor and sell off the buildings; this will be a disaster.

Urchfont has been a centre of excellence for learning new skills across a range of activities for very many years. In particular, from the special position of our Branch members, it has provided the opportunity to learn new techniques from some of the most talented tutors, to keep up to date with new trends in textiles, and has enabled many of our members to achieve qualifications in a range of specialist subjects through City and Guilds and other similar organisations. The end-of-course Open Day has been an annual event much appreciated by the many visitors who come to admire and appreciate the work of the students, enrol for future courses, purchase essential materials which can only otherwise be obtained by mail order, and enjoy the beautiful buildings and gardens where all this learning takes place.

There is no other comparable facility in Wiltshire. What Urchfont offers cannot be measured in money terms alone, and, on behalf of the Branch, I do urge the Council to think again, and maintain this incomparable jewel for the benefit of future generations of students.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Miles
(Chairman, Marlborough & District Embroiderers' Guild)