



The Shuttle

March 2026

kennet-valley-guild.com



@kennetvalleyguild

Guild meeting dates for your diary 2026

Sat 4th April / Guild Meeting

AM: AGM followed by a shared lunch

PM: Social

Sat 2nd May / Guild Meeting

AM and PM: A social day with an opportunity for newer members to 'watch and have a go' and for spinners, knitters to demonstrate these skills.

Sat 6th May / Guild Meeting

AM: Social

PM: TBC

Guild Meetings 2026



The typical agenda for a Guild meeting is:

10.00 am	Hall open for sociable crafts
1.00 pm	Guild Business Meeting
1.30 pm	Show & Tell
2.00 pm	Speaker

Some meetings are different, and as such are noted above. Please check to avoid disappointment.

Members are requested to follow any requests with respect to social distancing, masks and similar. Please help your Committee by putting your own and your neighbour's chair away at the end of the day.

Thank you - The Speaker & Workshop Team

Chairman's Chat

Hello Everyone,

Have I really been Chairman for 11 months? The time really has flown past. I was Chairman back in the early 2000's and I remember then that someone walked out in disgust saying they really couldn't belong to a Guild where the Chairman was suffering from a total lack of reality. 20 or so years on I am no better but would like to assure everyone that I am NOT suffering from a lack of reality, I'm just enjoying myself!

My approach to spinning, weaving and dyeing is to have fun. I do have a serious side but having fun is my priority. There's nothing better than crafting with friends. Especially if it involves cake! I want the Guild to be a happy fun loving family. Of course we can take our skills seriously but Guild ethos says we need to share our skills and learn from one another. We do need to pass our skills on to the next generation. I hope that in 2026 we can spend more time doing just that. If you want to learn something or share a skill please do shout out.

What a hoot.

At the December meeting I decided we should mix people up so that people got to speak to one another outside of their usual huddle. Let's get to know one another better etc. As an ice breaker we could do a quiz I thought - Gill writes a really good one for us every year. . . This went really well until I lost the quiz answers.

We had lots of entries for the Christmas fashion parade. Well done everyone. And of course we always have an excellent shared lunch. Thank you to everyone who made it a success.

January meeting was just a wee bit on the chilly side with the hall heating being somewhat non-existent. I hope this won't be an ongoing problem. 4 guild members volunteered to run mini-workshops. Boro Bags, Braiding, Book Marks and Christmas Puddings. All were very well run and enjoyable. So thank you to everyone that made this happen. I joined in with and enjoyed the Boro course fiddling about with bits of material to make a small bag/purse. Currently this is still a work in progress and has been added to my UFO (unfinished objects pile). I'm not giving up. I will get back to it soon.

Summer is just round the corner and we have so many fun things to look forward to. More speakers, more opportunities, demonstrating at shows and events. Lots of wool shows to go to. If you are going out and about somewhere and have room in your car please consider taking someone with you.

Linda Scurr - Chairman, Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers.

Chairman still chatting...

At our February meeting, we had such a good talk given by Nick Harrington-Smith from Alpaca Evolution.

Before the talk I let rip with a totally OTT outburst about being quiet and not interrupting the speaker. I do apologise. But it did work! We had so many people this month and it doesn't take much for people with hearing problems to be overwhelmed even by a whisper if you are whispering closer to them than the speaker. Ditto the odd click from a spinning wheel or clatter of knitting needles. I would like to thank everyone who stopped spinning, put their knitting away listened intently and didn't interrupt.

Nick gave a very good talk about his Alpacas. His dislike of the show circuit, and disappointment about the quality of yarn he had received back from one particular mill. It was interesting that his focus is on breeding for colour and micron count. I share his concern that if you breed too many what do you do with them? Put them down, sad if they are young and healthy or re-home them not knowing if they will go to good homes. Like Nick I have far too many sheep wandering about that are past their sell by date in terms of growing a useful fleece but they are family so I try to breed selectively to maintain a steady number. (Not helped this year by Geoffrey demolishing a fence and making his own lambing plans) The past year has been very bad weather-wise so my sheep have eaten me out of house and home.

Nick brought a selection of dyed tops/roving, knitting kits and a basket full of commercially knitted socks along with him. There were a lot of people gathered round eagerly adding to their fibre stashes. Lots of happy faces.

alpacaevolution.co.uk

One to Watch - Sheep Detectives

When you keep sheep you begin to understand how they think.

A film is about to hit the big screens in May called Sheep Detectives.

Starring Hugh Jackman, it's based on a book called Three Bags Full.

It is written by Leonie Swann who has obviously spent a lot of time conversing with sheep. If the film is anywhere near as good as the book you will never see sheep in the same light ever again!

Genres: Cosy Crime / Comedy / Mystery

Release date: 8th May 2026

Guild Talks & Workshops

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the programme of talks and workshops we are putting together as our second year of programme planning begins. We are approaching potential speakers/tutors for 2026/2027 and already have several recommendations to follow up.

Whilst we have some of our own ideas we would always welcome your suggestions, whether that is from talks you have attended or workshops you may have done elsewhere. The programme is for all Guild members so we aim to create a programme that will appeal to as many people as possible.

Any suggestions would be welcome so please speak to myself, Jennifer Thompson or Lynne Harper. Thank you.



The 2026 programme list will be available online asap. Please use the QR code to view the Diary and Events page on our web site, or via kennet-valley-guild.com/diary-and-events

Anne - Programme Team Lead

welcome

to our new Guild members

A very warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the Guild since the last Shuttle was published.

Please look out for Iona, Emma and Vivella at Guild meetings, introduce yourself and have a chat.



Iona

Emma

Vivella

Trophy News - Go on, have a go!

The June Young Trophy

The next trophy will be the **June Young Trophy**, given by Roy in memory of his wife and voted for by the Committee.

It's for a member who has shown exceptional service and commitment to the Guild. Although the Committee have the vote for this one, you are very welcome to suggest members to them who you feel have demonstrated this.

If you have someone to nominate, please let Linda or any member of the Committee know as soon as possible.

The Weavers Trophy

To be awarded at the May meeting 2026, the **Weaving Trophy** will be for anything woven in the last year. It can be woven on any type of loom and be made using any material.

The Spinning Trophy

For the **Spinning Trophy** we're going back to basics in the hope that lots of you will feel inspired to enter.

This year the trophy will be for a 3 ply yarn. For any new members, a 3 ply yarn in spinning terms isn't the same as a commercial 3 ply yarn. 3 ply refers to the number of singles plied together to form the final yarn. It can be any thickness from a fine lace weight to a super chunky.

It doesn't need to be a huge skein, just a good sample.

It would be interesting if the skein was labelled with the type of fibre used.

It would also be very useful if you could note on the label the WPI (wraps per inch) for the singles and the WPI for the final yarn. This will enable other spinners who might want to replicate the finished yarn.

As always, the yarn can be spun on a wheel, e-spinner or drop spindle.

This trophy will also be awarded at the May meeting. Many thanks and I look forward to seeing lots of entries in May.

Jennifer

Guild Trophies Coordinator

Ed: We're well into 2026 now and I'm sure you've all got lots of textile related dates marked on your calendars for the year ahead.

If you've been on a weaving, spinning, dyeing or related crafts adventure recently, please tell our Members all about it in the June Shuttle.

See the back page for details of how to submit your article. Thank you!

Christmas Trophy Fashion Show



It was really good to see so many people entering for the Christmas fashion show and also that there was a lovely mix of old and new members taking part. Hopefully the photo will give you a glimpse of the beautiful items, spun, woven, dyed and knitted, made by our very talented members. The winner this year was **Theresa**, wearing her beautiful knitted sweater that she designed herself.

Inspired by Nature

Theresa explains, *“The jumper design is inspired by all my favourite things in nature, I made it during the summer when everything was so bright and colourful and all the flowers were in full bloom. I was regularly visiting parks and forests and it brought me so much joy to sit outside on a bench knitting away watching the world go by. The base yarn is Norwegian wool and the colour work was a set of merino mini skeins I won in a raffle at a yarn festival along with a few oddments in my collection, I loved the pastel colours and knew that I wanted to attempt my first fair isle project with them.”*

January Show & Tell



◀ **Syd.**
'Coatigan'.
A UFO from Sarah's Mum. Finished by Syd.
Knitted in Herdwick and Swaledale wool. There was just enough to finish it with a bit of joining needed for the last bits! Syd says that it is VERY warm.



◀ **Jenny.**
5 scarves made on a Samplet loom.
Practicing even edges and using materials from stash.



▲ **Syd.** Sleeveless pullover. Shetland fleece, scoured, carded, spun, dyed, knitted. A very cosy garment.

▶ **Maureen.**
Passementerie braid made on an Inkle loom after a talk at Hants Guild by Elizabeth Ashdown.



February Show & Tell 2026



Anne with her scarf woven on a rigid heddle loom. The scarf is woven from yarn bought from the Sales Table.

After testing in bleach, Anne determined that the fibre was probably wool with a cotton thread running through it. The finished scarf is soft and warm. worsted, chain ply.



Kat with five items! Three wet felted pieces, some of which were made using her secret

Santa gift from the Christmas meeting.

Kat is learning to knit and this mouse is her first item!

There is also a 13 strand braid started at the January mini workshop. Can you spot it?



Jennifer with two knitted cowls for soldiers in Ukraine. Both knitted with wool from Linda's rescue flock.

The first one was knitted after adapting Meg's pattern to suit the wool and her knitting tension. It is knitted on a circular needle. The second one is virtually the same pattern but adapted to be made on straight needles after a request from someone who doesn't knit on circulars.

Syd with her first woven sampler from the weaving course. ►



Trixie wearing her cardigan made from a fleece bought at the August fleece sale. Trixie has written an item for the Shuttle about this.

She is holding her bag started at the Boro mini workshop in January.



Sad News

So many of our treasured Guild Members seem to have left the Guild recently and flown off to spin clouds in heaven. Sadly Heather Godfrey passed away at the end of December and will be missed by so many people. Heather and Viv, her sister, were regular Guild members until they could no longer drive.

They still kept in touch with what was happening at Guild and wrote to me saying how much they had enjoyed our Exhibition.

I went to Heather's Memorial Service which was beautiful. Someone brought Heather's spinning wheel into the church (that was so emotional) and there was a display of some of the wonderful items she had made over the years. It was a lovely service and the sun shone.

Every grave had a small patch of snowdrops which I know Heather, as a keen Gardener, would have loved.

I will miss you Heather.

Linda Scurr

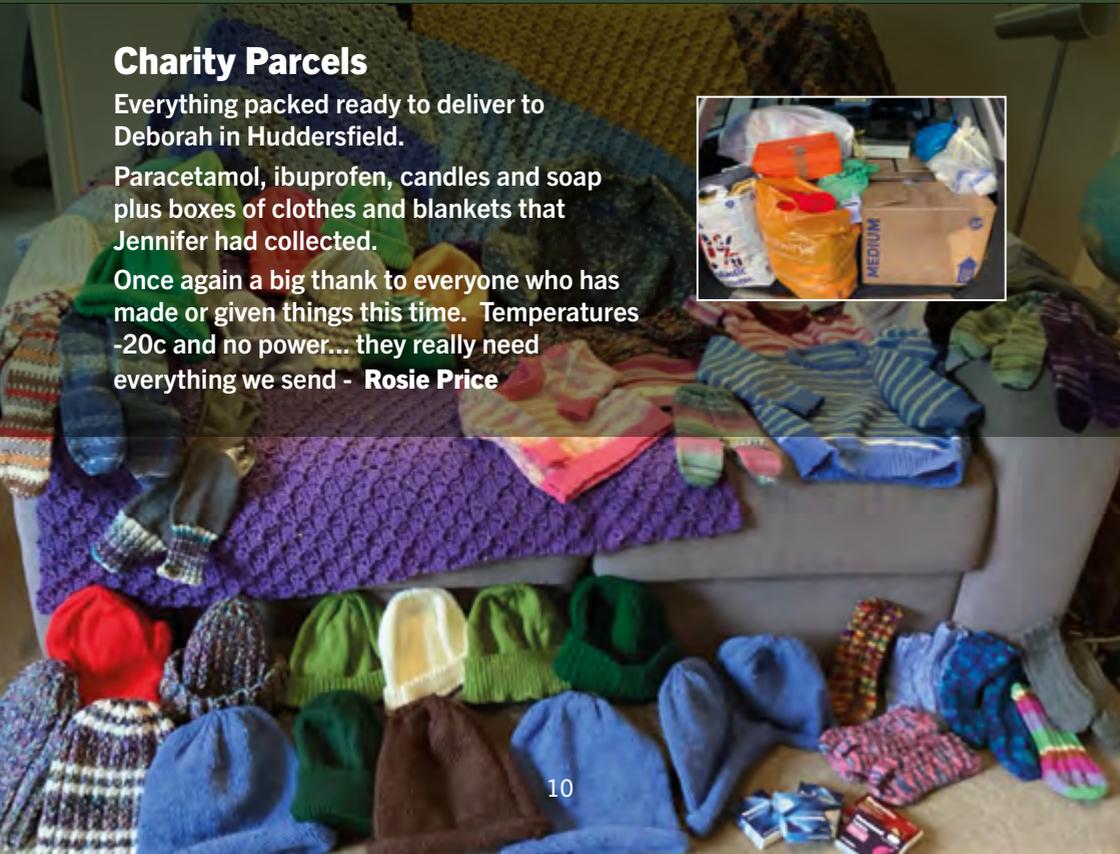


Charity Parcels

Everything packed ready to deliver to Deborah in Huddersfield.

Paracetamol, ibuprofen, candles and soap plus boxes of clothes and blankets that Jennifer had collected.

Once again a big thank to everyone who has made or given things this time. Temperatures -20c and no power... they really need everything we send - **Rosie Price**



Articles & Reports

A trip to Wingham Wool

Author: Hollie Gavin

Linda and I were fortunate enough to be invited for a private tour and shopping opportunity at Wingham Wool Work, now based in Berkeley Heath. Many of you will know Wingham from their years in Yorkshire, but since relocating to a site just north of Bristol - around 75 miles from our Guild - they've continued to be a beloved source of fibre for spinners, weavers and other fibre based crafts alike.



Despite the blustery, rain-soaked weather, our spirits were high. We broke up the journey with a stop in Tetbury at The Royal Oak, where a delicious pub lunch and a cosy open fire set the perfect tone for the afternoon ahead.

From there, we travelled on to Wingham and were warmly greeted

by Ellie and Tom, who have recently taken over the business from Tom's parents, Alan and Ruth. With retirement treating them well, the next generation is now proudly carrying the Wingham legacy forward.

Stepping into the warehouse felt like entering a fibre lover's paradise. One entire wall is lined with dyed merino roving in every shade imaginable - truly a woolly pick 'n' mix. Alongside it sits Wingham's collection of custom blends, ranging from merino-silk mixes to beautifully balanced natural colour blends.



Large tubs overflowing with British wool invited us to explore their rich textures and subtle natural hues. For those seeking something more exotic, there were speciality fibres too, including yak, camel, and an impressive variety of silks. The space is also stocked with Ashford equipment, dyes, and a wide



assortment of fibre-craft accessories. While Winghams currently limits visits to “click and collect” orders, Ellie is working with their local Gloucester Guild to trial small group visits similar to the one we enjoyed.

We’re hopeful that our Guild will be next in line for this exclusive experience - and we’ll be sure to keep you updated.



In the meantime, if you are in need supplies for your own projects, Wingham’s have a comprehensive website: **winghamwoolwork.co.uk**

You can also visit them at their stand at the upcoming **Wonderwool Wales** on 25th-26th April 2026.

Martha's Cardigan

Author: Trixie Holmes

At the fleece sale in August 2025 I managed to buy myself a beautiful dark Shetland fleece and attached to it was a little label that gave the sheep's name, Martha, and a little bit about her. She was born in 2018 and doesn't like her feet being clipped!



I practically threw my money at the poor woman and her husband who were selling the fleece and very excitedly took it home, where I used what I'd learned at Linda's talk to get it ready for spinning.



What followed was my kids friends being terrified of finding a large sheep fleece drying over the bath and then filling the utility room with boxes of wool once it was dry!



Not managing to get all the lanolin out on the first go, I again asked Linda's advice and she advised me to spin it in the grease! Not something I'd done before but I was willing to try anything to get it spun and begin knitting. This actually worked really



well and I was able to wash each skein once it was plied and get it ready to work with.



I still have some fleece to spin and I'm shocked at how far one fleece went. Not quite enough for another jumper but a scarf or pair of socks might be in the making.



I'd knit for a while then try and get another skein ready before I ran out, so some juggling of tasks was needed but it seemed to work well, and I'm so proud of the finished cardigan!



I love how the natural stripes and differences in colour came through because I didn't separate the greyer wool from the black to get a deliberate soft change in shades.



3D Crochet Workshop

In January we held a series of mini workshops and I had the good fortune to be joined by a small group to learn 3D crochet. It's really called Amigurumi but



there are too many vowels for me to pronounce that!

Unlike normal 'flat' crochet; where you make a slip knot and a foundation chain, in 3D crochet you make your foundation chain inside the slipknot. This is called a magic ring.

Then you pull the 'tail' to tighten up the circle and work double crochet stitches around in a spiral, increasing at 6 (usually) different points around the circumference. Now the possibilities are endless - by increasing and decreasing you can make any shape you like. We made small Christmas puddings to hang on the tree:

Jackie Bakmand



Boro Workshop

I want to say how much I enjoyed the Boro workshop last month.

A relaxing change from the craziness of sewing pantomime costumes for the Kintbury village production in February.

Lynette Newey



Lambing 'Tails'

Author: Linda Scurr

Here we are lambing again!
Last year was a steep learning curve.
We lambed our Manx Loaghtan
sheep for the first time and had to
deal with one way fencing. This was
a totally new experience.

In the past we have always bred big
sheep producing big lambs. Small
lambs escape out of the field in the
middle of the night and somehow
never work out how to get back into
the field. I ended up camping in their
field and running about all night
reuniting lambs with their mums.

As we live in the middle of nowhere
I thought there was little point in
getting dressed for this task and ran
around in nothing more than a pair
of wellies. Then a military helicopter
from Benson flew over! Just imagine
that conversation. Why is there a
naked woman holding a lamb in
the middle of a field at 2am in the
morning?

All lambs survived this ordeal but
suddenly became the size that says
I can get my head through that gap
in the fence and then get stuck. This
became another time consuming
exercise. Thankfully all lambs



survived both one way fencing and
head stuck fencing. We vowed never
to lamb again!

BUT... We made a mental note
though that if we did decide to lamb
this year it wouldn't coincide with
Wonderwool so we planned to have
lambs in May. Stupid because that
coincides with lots of other events
I wanted to go to. So much for our
plans however!

Geoffrey the ram had other ideas
took the fence down and acquainted
himself with several ladies so we may
be having lambs in March. Keeping
our fingers crossed we don't... I do
love my sheep!

If anyone wants a job running round
a field in the middle of the night in
March catching lambs please feel
free to volunteer!

Ed: if you've been on a weaving, spinning, dyeing or related crafts
adventure recently, tell our Members all about it in the June Shuttle.
See the back page for details of how to submit your article. Thank you!

Spinning the Dog Vol.3

Author: Linda Scurr

My first article was about spinning the fur from my brother's dog and knitting a scarf for his partner.

Volume 2 was spinning enough to weave a scarf for my brother. Volume 3 and hopefully the final chapter for now is a knitted bear also made from dog fur. I still have enough fibre left over for at least two more projects but spinning dog fur is an outdoor job so no further updates on this madness until the end of summer.



Don't blame Linda if you spend too much!

Linda's discovered a really good charity shop in Lymington run by Oakhaven Hospice. It's dedicated to all things crafty. It's full of irresistible things that are so hard to leave behind. You have been warned.

oakhavenhospice.co.uk/shop/

A shout out for Wonderwool Wales 2026

This year it's the 20th Anniversary of this fabulous show at the Royal Welsh Showground. Visitors come from far and wide for this one and we love it! Check out the web site for info and tickets. 25-26 April '26.

wonderwoolwales.co.uk/

Craft Socials

Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers normally meet at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the 4th Saturday of the month.

It is called "Weavers' Chat" but braiders are welcome with inkles, marudai etc and lace makers with pillows, as these are all forms of weaving.

All Guild members are very welcome to come along to see what we are doing and find out what weaving is all about.

All meetings run from 9.30am -1.30pm.

Subs: £4.00 towards the hall hire fee.

Dates for 2026:

March 28th, April 18th, May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th, September 26th, October 24th all 9.30-1.30 and November 28th 9.30-4.30.

Please let me know if you are coming so that there is enough milk, biscuits and maybe cake!

Thank you.

Rosie Price

Aldbourn Braid Days

Dates for 2026 are April 12th, June 7th, August 16th, October 4th and December 6th. All are Sundays.

The cost is £8.00 per head per day. Biscuits, cake and hot drinks are provided free of charge.

Contact Sally before coming to check availability, or speak to her at Guild.

Aldbourn Memorial Hall SN8 2DQ

Thank you. Sally Shepherd

Moulsford Spinning & Craft Group

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Moulsford Pavilion from 6.30pm - 10pm.

There are usually spinners, weavers, felters, a basketmaker and knitters there so do come and join us.

Moulsford Pavilion, The Street, Moulsford, OX10 9JD

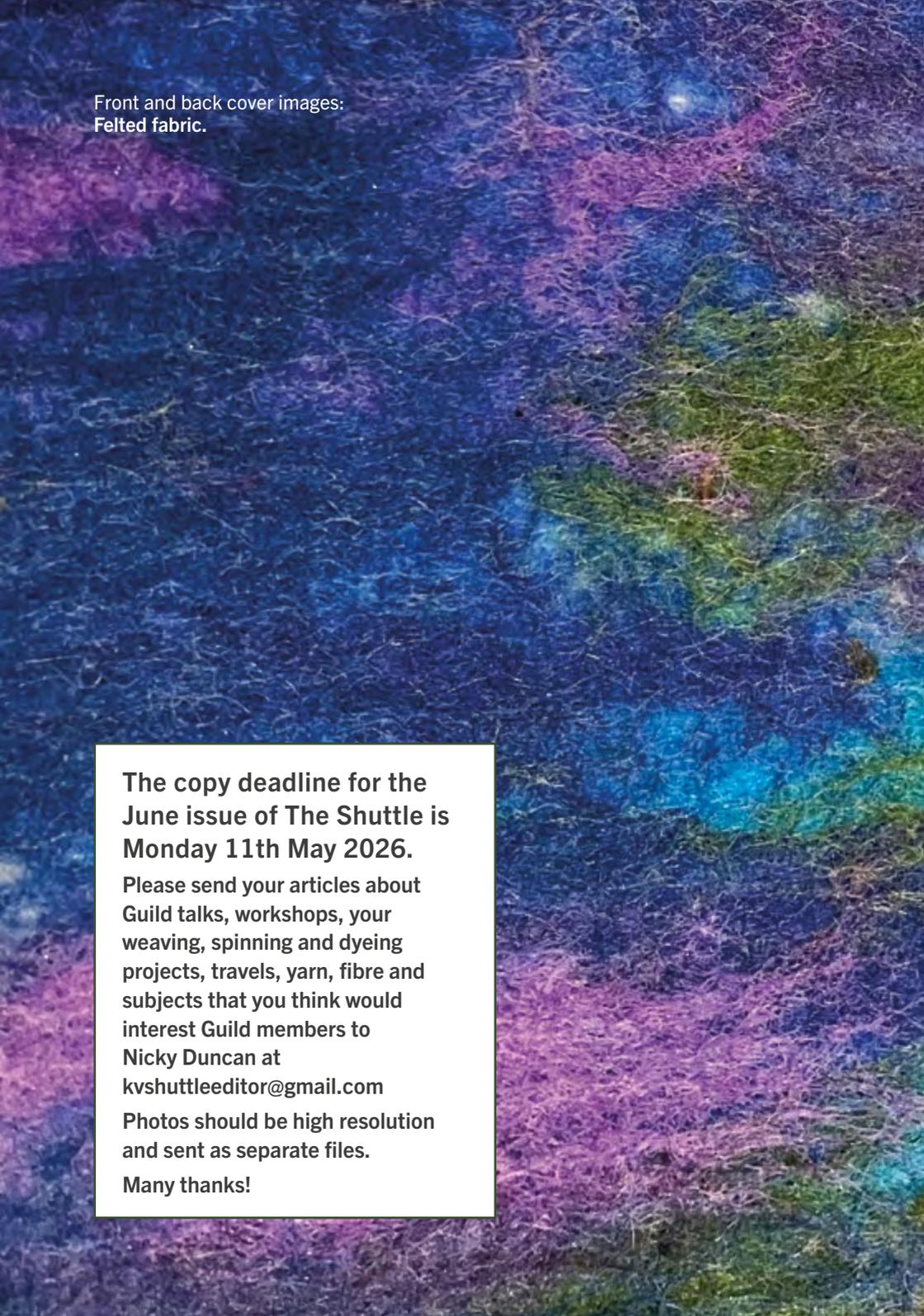
Thank you.

Linda Scurr and Rosie Price

Newbury Crafters

Newbury Crafters normally meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ from 2 - 5 pm. Come along to this social afternoon with your own craft project and meet people with other craft interests for an exchange of ideas.

For more details contact Sue Davies.



Front and back cover images:
Felted fabric.

**The copy deadline for the
June issue of The Shuttle is
Monday 11th May 2026.**

**Please send your articles about
Guild talks, workshops, your
weaving, spinning and dyeing
projects, travels, yarn, fibre and
subjects that you think would
interest Guild members to
Nicky Duncan at
kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com**

**Photos should be high resolution
and sent as separate files.**

Many thanks!