



of  
*Weavers, Spinners  
and Dyers*

# **The Shuttle**

**June 2022**

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>Guild Meeting</b> 'History of Knitting 1800 – 1945' – Joyce Meader
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> August	<b>Guild Meeting</b> To be decided
Sat-Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>Southern Wool Show – Newbury Racecourse.</b>
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	<b>Guild Meeting</b> Social day – to allow members to go to the Southern Wool Show and not miss out on anything at Guild.
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Guild Meeting</b> Delia Salter – Textile Artist. More details to come.
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Guild Meeting</b> Marietta Richardson – Dyer and Spinner. Marietta grows a dyeing garden that is part of the National Garden Scheme. More details to come

## GUILD MEETINGS

The usual agenda for Guild meetings is:

10.00 a.m.	Hall open for sociable crafts
1.00 p.m.	Business Meeting
1.30 p.m.	Show and Tell
2.00 p.m.	Speaker

Some meetings are different, and as such are noted above. Please check so as not to be disappointed.

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.

There will still be some Friday Morning Zoom meetings each month, the precise details are arranged each month. If you want to join any of these, please let Nicky, the webmaster, [kvgwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:kvgwebmaster@gmail.com) know so that she is able to send you an invitation to the events. Thank you.

**Sue Malvern, Speaker Secretary**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We have moved back to printing 'The Shuttle' this quarter. This means that we are limited to here we can print pictures, so it will look a little different to those from the last few quarters. Copies will be available to be collected from Guild meetings but will not be posted.

A copy will still be posted online, but it will have all contact details removed except for KVG email addresses, to ensure members' details are secure.

Please continue to send articles to me for inclusion. You don't have to wait until I start asking at the beginning of August.

**Lynne Harper, Shuttle Editor**

## GUILD DEMONSTRATIONS

*For details of Guild Demonstrations, please refer to the Demonstrations Folder available at the Guild meetings or email Stefanie at [kvgdemonstrations@gmail.com](mailto:kvgdemonstrations@gmail.com).*

If you would like to attend a Guild demonstration day, please sign up in the folder or contact the Demonstrations Secretary by email (If you would like to attend a Guild demonstration day, please sign up in the folder or contact the Demonstrations Secretary by email ([kvgdemonstrations@gmail.com](mailto:kvgdemonstrations@gmail.com))). It is essential that the Demonstrations Secretary knows that you will be attending to ensure that you are covered by Public Liability Insurance. Please note that the KVGSWD will under no circumstances be responsible for any theft, loss or damage caused to **equipment not belonging to the Guild**. This includes use of such equipment on Guild demonstrations. Each Guild Member will be responsible for their equipment. They should check their own house contents insurance policy to see if they are covered for use of their equipment anywhere outside their homes. We have already attended a couple of shows this year but have a few more coming up.

The planned demonstrations for 2022 so far are as follows:

Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup>	White Horse Show, Uffington
Sep 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup>	Southern Wool Show at Newbury Racecourse

**Stefanie Rachmann-Davies, Demonstrations Secretary**

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHAT**

Hello everyone, I hope you are all well and recovered from the many bugs doing the rounds. I have to say I am very lucky and have managed to be bug free this year.

I seem to have been very busy, but I honestly can't say or remember what I have achieved. I have enjoyed the bit of sunshine we have had recently. We have had a few days at the beach as it's our dog's favourite place to go. He loves swimming and riding the waves. We throw sticks in the sea for him, and this can go on for hours at a time. We always think he will be really exhausted for a day or two after a big day out, but it doesn't always work like that and we wonder how much a dog can walk, run and swim.

I went to Wonderwool Wales for the first time, and I felt like a child in a sweet shop. I was so impressed by the whole day and how well it was run. The space was amazing and there was plenty of room in between the stalls and being all on the ground floor it was very easy to get about I was very pleased with my purchases.

Jenny Gribble, Lynne Harper and Jennifer Thompson joined me at the Lambourn show on the 1st of May we were very cold but that didn't stop us having a great day. Lots of people visited us in the craft tent and seemed to take great interest in what we were doing and asking lots of questions.

I come from a large family with relatives all over the world some I have never met and probably don't know about. There was a family Facebook page set up by a cousin of mine many years ago and people have joined us for chats over the years. I have recently connected with a second cousin who is in the UK for a while. It turns out we have a lot in common and a shared interest in crafts. I have introduced her to the guild which she thoroughly enjoyed, and my friends have welcomed her with open arms I'm so glad she has had a wonderful experience here with me.

I hope you all have a happy healthy summer. Bye for now.

**Pat Christmas**

## SHOW-AND-TELL

**March** Jenni P showed us her first skein spun on a spinning wheel. She used natural-coloured blended English wool and produced a finely spun and consistent yarn. I'm sure there will be many more.

Linda Scurr used yarn from her own sheep to make a plain-weave scarf on her rigid heddle loom. The wool was a blend of Jacob, Wensleydale and Poll Dorset.

Linda also brought along a piece of embroidery in the shape of a bell-pull which was the work of late Guild member Janet Waling. It was expertly stitched depicting flowers, butterflies and birds.

Lynne Bond also showed a plain weave scarf made on a rigid heddle loom. The weft was hand-spun merino from a bag of odd bits and pieces in reds and browns bought from the sales table. The warp was dark brown commercially spun yarn.

Rosie Price modelled a beautifully fitted waistcoat knitted for her by Meg Crowther. It was constructed using the patchwork knitting technique with hand-spun merino in shades of blue and purple. Lucky Rosie!

**April** Lynne Harper did an online course on Ply-Split Braiding run by The Braid Society and brought in a selection of sample braids made as a result including an intriguing curly sample. They were mainly constructed using cotton with a necklace made from silk.

Pat Christmas fulfilled a long held ambition to knit socks, though she has fallen into the 'second sock' trap and stopped at one. Members had a few suggestions for the use of the single sock knitted using self-patterning sock wool. Hopefully it will soon have a twin.

**May** Sarah Denly Ball brought in some interesting items from her late Mother's archive, covering a period when, as a young girl, she and a friend did a weaving course with an acclaimed weaver though they were somewhat underwhelmed at the time. Sarah plans to write a piece for the Shuttle about her mother's experience. I'm looking forward to it.

**Lynne Bond**

# GUILD TROPHIES

## Trophies awarded since the last shuttle

*April 2022 meeting:*

June Young Trophy for services to the Guild: Jennifer Thompson & Lynne Harper

*May 2022 meeting:*

Beginner Spinners' Trophy: Jenni Phillips

Beginner Weavers' Trophy: Stefanie Rachmann-Davies

## Upcoming Trophies

*July 2022:* Weavers' Trophy, Spinners' Trophy

It is so nice to be awarding trophies again after the long gap because of COVID although people who have been holding trophies for those two years might be sad to see them moving on! 😞 😞

Lynne and I were totally shocked to be awarded the June Young trophy this year and very honoured. Thank you.

In May we were finally able to award our beginner trophies. The weavers' trophy went to Stef for her lovely red and white checked weaving and the spinners' trophy went to Jenni for her skein of yarn which she had also dyed with black beans, a very pretty grey. Well done to everyone who entered.

The Spinning and Weaving trophy competition has been moved to July for various reasons. These competitions are for the Black Jack challenges. Now that there is an extra month to work on the challenge there is time to join in if you would like to! For more information contact Meg (spinning) and Pat Foster (weaving). I know that there are a good number of people working on these challenges so am really looking forward to seeing a laden table in July.

Jennifer Thompson

# GUILD COURSES

***We are looking for a new Courses Secretary at the moment, so at present there are no planned courses or workshops.***

***If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact Pat Christmas.***

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**

1. **Apologies** - Apologies received from Meg Crowther, Freya Proudlove, Yolande Hadden, Sally Shepherd, Rosie Price, Pat Foster, Julie Boorman, Maggie Mockeridge, Sue Bramwell, Ann Reddan and Sue Malvern.
2. **Quorum** - 27 people attended the AGM which was sufficient to meet the quorum (25 people). AGM chaired by Pat Christmas (Guild Chair).
3. **Chairman's report** - Pat Christmas (Chair) addressed the meeting. (A copy of her report is attached at Annex A).
4. **Treasurer's report** - The treasurer (Janet Dunbar) was not able to attend the meeting in person, but Sue Davies read the treasurer's interim report. (Copy attached at Annex B). The 2020 and 2021 accounts will be audited, and an Extraordinary General Meeting held to obtain membership views/approval.
5. **Appointments** - The position of Guild Secretary is vacant as Julie Boorman recently stood down. Marion Proctor has volunteered to fill the vacancy. In accordance with the Guild Constitution a vote was taken from the Membership, after Pat Christmas nominated, and Nicky Duncan seconded Marion's nomination. The membership duly voted to appoint Marion Proctor, and Marion accepted the appointment.
6. **Other vacancies** - Pat Christmas informed the meeting that the following people have stood down from their positions and the following positions need to be filled:
  - a. Lesley Dunn- Talks and Workshops Secretary
  - b. Marie Fitzsimmons – Demonstration Secretary

Stefanie Rachmann Davies volunteered as Demonstrations Secretary and was duly appointed. The committee has yet to confirm the nomination for Speaker Secretary.

The position of Workshop Secretary and Retreat organiser remain open as no-one has volunteered. Anyone interested in filling either of these positions (either individually or jointly with someone else) should notify Pat Christmas (Chair) by email. If the vacancies are not filled, then the committee will consider the best course of action at their next meeting in May 2022.

7. **The June Young Trophy** - This trophy is awarded in honour of June Young (Roy's wife) to the person/people who have made the greatest contribution to the Guild over the last year. This year the trophy was awarded to Jennifer Thompson and Lynne Harper

for their immense contribution in organising the Guild Exhibition at the Museum in 2021.

8. **Chair's vote of thanks** - Pat Christmas thanked members for their special contributions to the Guild over the last 12 months (as set out in the Chair's Report at Annex A.

**Sue Davies, Minutes Secretary, 4.4.2022**

### **Annex A- Chair's Report for 2021**

Dear members, Welcome and thank you for attending today. We are still being careful around covid and encourage lateral flow testing before joining us here. We are wearing masks near the kitchen area and bringing our own mugs for tea and coffee.

We have had some very interesting speakers and of course have accommodated some on zoom. We have some impressive people with diverse contributions lined up for future presentations.

We eased back into our physical meetings having October and November 2021 to see how it worked for us and thankfully it went according to plan. Some of our members aren't comfortable to attend in person yet so we are continuing our zoom meetings for anyone wishing to attend.

I enjoyed our Christmas party and was delighted to see so many varied entries for the fashion show. I was impressed by the wonderful skills you all have, you produced the most amazing garments, thank you to all who entered. The trophy was won by Eva who spun the wool and Mariana who knitted up a beautiful shawl.

Other highlights must include our wonderful day celebrating with Ruth and hearing all about her day at Windsor Castle receiving her MBE. We had a wonderful day celebrating Kathleen's collection of years of her personal work. There were so many pieces all documented and so very detailed.

I have had lots of feedback from many of you telling me how much you have enjoyed catching up with friends after lockdown; it's great to see you all chatting and enjoying yourselves.

I would like to welcome all of our new members and I hope they learn from all of you who have made my fibre journey so inspiring and encouraging.

The committee have been extremely busy and working very hard to keep things going. I would like to thank them all.

Nicky for her fabulous zoom meetings and making us lots of tea and coffee and keeping the kitchen under control. Sue has been so reliable sorting the raffle and organising the buying of the tea and coffee and also for all her help with the finances. Pam has organised the membership renewal and sorted emails to send out to you all. Lynne has been doing a fantastic job on the shuttle, exhibition and giving me lots of advice and help. Janet has kept our finances up to date and always has such marvellous ideas. What would we do without Roy he does so much behind the scenes and we really appreciate everything he does; and Dennis does a great job of running the sales table, again, it's very much appreciated.

I want to give special thanks to Lesley Dunn and Julie Boorman who are both standing down from the committee you have both worked very hard for us and thank you for your dedication to our guild.

Thank you to Rosie and Pat Foster for running the weaving group and Meg for all her help to anyone needing good advice and for helping Rosie with her charity work. Jill Meadows has been helping by knitting for Rosie's charity so thank you for that.

Jennifer Thompson has done a fantastic job on organising the trophies and working so hard with Lynne to organise the exhibition.

Thank you to Stef for volunteering to organise demonstrations and to Marion Proctor for volunteering to be our new secretary.

If any of you have any suggestions, we would like to hear about them and please feel free to talk to anyone on the committee.

I look forward to next year and seeing all the wonderful creations you will all produce. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support for our fabulous guild.

**Pat Christmas, Chairman April 2022**

### **Annex B- Interim Treasurer's report 2021**

***PLEASE NOTE: Due to the absence of the Treasurer, it has not been possible to audit the accounts for 2021. The Committee has agreed that the accounts will be audited as soon as possible. An Extraordinary General Meeting will be called to approve these and the 2020 accounts, at a later date. The report is therefore interim and for discussion only.***

<b>INCOME</b>				
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Notes</b>
40th Anniversary Celebration	746.00			
Apron Sales	430.00			
Courses	891.00	1258.50		
Donations (Other)	23.40	123.75	51.00	Sale of alpaca fleeces via Pat Foster
Entrance Fees	1740.90	514.00	270.00	
Equipment Hire	88.00	35.00		
Equipment Sale	100.00	100.00		
January Workshops	82.00	59.00		
Journal Subscriptions	264.00	16.00		
Membership Fees	1315.00	1118.75	1119.80	
Melanie Venes Donations	216.00	19.90		
Raffle	322.80	113.00	73.50	
Retreat 2020		1852.00		
Sales Table	199.95	110.80	95.18	
Swap Shop	7.50			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6426.55</b>	<b>5320.70</b>	<b>1609.48</b>	

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Notes</b>
40th Anniversary Celebration	671.50	29.28		
Affiliation Fee	396.00	180.00	168.75	AGWSD reduced levy to £2.25 for 2022
Aprons	350.00			
Birthday Card Inserts	34.00			
Cakes	90.00			
Courses	829.73	827.38		
Donations to Charity	55.00			
Engraving	12.00		70.00	
Fill the Gap Cards	270.00			
Guild Exhibition	68.20		35.90	
Hall Hire Guild	1089.00	297.00	234.00	Oct/Nov/Dec only
Information Leaflets	54.00			
Journal Postage		44.26	17.04	
Journal Subscriptions	544.00			No Guild group subscription for 2022
Membership Fees	15.00			
Melanie Venes Donations	45.00			
Other	47.15	46.69	35.00	
Printing		2.40		
Postage	21.56		13.02	
Refreshments	39.09			
Retreat 2020		1802.00		
Shuttle	570.00	130.00		
Speakers	854.68	458.00	565.00	
Stationery	73.00	28.00		
Thank You Gifts	90.00			
Trophies	55.00			
Website			226.80	Website domain fee Jul 2021 – Jul 2024
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6273.91</b>	<b>3845.01</b>	<b>1365.51</b>	



## Linda's Rules of Demonstrating

It is fair to say that some demonstrations are better than others. Outside of guild I demonstrate each year at my local flower show, local agricultural show, The Thames traditional boat rally, and a farm park open day in Kent.

I have strict criteria for demonstrating:

- Bacon Sandwich
- A pint of something cold
- A piece of cake
- Possibly an ice cream.

I have done 2 demonstrations so far this year. One was really good and the other wasn't and the less said about that the better. For a start there were no bacon sandwiches! My Mum always said if you can't think of anything nice to say then don't say anything. I spent the day demonstrating with Lynne and Jenn at this event and they were fantastic company so that is good.

For my 2nd demonstration Rosie and I set off early to go to Woodlands Farm open day in Kent. This is an amazing farm on the outskirts of Greenwich. Why so far away you may be wondering. It is a long story. I met up with Bill and Jean Skidmore at the Newbury coat back in 2011 and we have been having adventures together ever since! We went to an event in London which involved having cows on the front steps of St Pauls Cathedral and bringing rush hour gridlock to the roads. You can't park a car in the middle of a yellow box, and you can't jump a red set of traffic lights but if you are half a tonne of cow, you can do whatever you like. There were several cows and none of them liked the yellow boxes so they all stopped for a look. The lights went red, green, red, green and there was a lot of mooing and pooing and bemused motorists. A few glasses of wine into the event and I met with Maggie Jones who invited me to go to her inner-city farm and without having the common sense (or sobriety?) to ask where it was, I just said yes.

And, having said yes.....I have been going for a number of years now and the reception we get on arrival is all smiles and waves, so warm and friendly. We are always made to feel welcome. We are spoilt rotten. A volunteer is assigned to make sure we are well catered for, Excellent Sausage baps, good cake and due to the strength of the cider a large bottle usually gets sneaked under the chair to take home without me even noticing.

This year was so busy. I did a quick calculation and estimate that there were probably 3000 adult visitors plus children so probably close on 10,000 spectators. All were interested in what we were doing and also interesting to talk to. So many people asked genuine and sensible questions. Very few said anything daft about sleeping beauty!

Sadly, we were so busy that I didn't get time to see the Manx sheep. The farm has offered me a couple as their flock is too large. Discussions are ongoing! Watch this space. I did manage to go round the plant sale and found 2 Marsh marigolds. Something I have been wanting to put in my pond for ages.

Anyone can come out demonstrating with the guild. You don't need to be an expert in fact it is much better if you aren't. You just have to be willing to chat to people and enjoy the atmosphere. I would like to encourage everyone to have a go. You may only know the basics but that is already way more than most of the public and they will be genuinely interested in what you are doing.....you spend the day crafting alongside friends.....and don't forget, bacon sandwiches are much better in the great outdoors.

Linda Scurr

### Some Weaving Humour

Why are weavers such good story tellers?

They have a lot of yarns

How did the weaver feel when a cow ate her warp?

She was udderly beweft.

What did the reed say to the weaver?

You sley me.

A rigid heddle weaver and a multi-shaft weaver were both going to a Guild meeting. The rigid heddle weaver was slower. Why did she get there first?

Because the multi-shaft weaver **OVERSHOT** the exit.



**March Show and Tell**



**Some of Kathleen's Work**



**Beginner Spinners' Trophy**



**Beginner Weavers' Trophy**



**Refugee Items knitted since March**





**Pacha Pads**



**Do you know this Man?**

**Fleece to Pleats with Paul Henry**



**Paul with various modern samples**



**Samples from 1750**



**Prehistoric Textiles  
Workshop**



↪ Workshop in progress  
↩ Sprang pouch

**Self-spun and  
woven Quilt in  
Malvern Quilt show**



**Maximo  
Laura**

## ARTICLES

### From Fleece to Pleats with Paul Henry – Kilt Maker Extraordinaire

What a wonderful Guild Saturday it was, with excellent attendance and faces that we hadn't seen in the flesh for over two years! It felt like a grand reunion. Paul Henry was the icing on the cake. His Fleece to Pleats talk has us all enthralled from start to finish. He looked very dapper in his kilt and waistcoat, and we knew that we were in for a treat.

Paul's interest in textiles began aged seven when he learnt to knit and crochet. He was sewing his own shirts by the age of twelve. Twenty years ago he began working with tartan and kilts and after a few years became extremely interested in the entire fleece to fabric process and so started with fleece and spindles.

**Sheep:** The fleece of the Derbyshire Gritstone produces the perfect yarn for kilt fabric. Originally people would take the fleece from the ground and spin it. Paul often picks wool off fences when he's out for a walk so he can spin it on his drop spindles; he's often seen on a train or tube journey spinning away with his fluff.

Paul loves working with Jacob wool because of its tonal range. When the wool is separated into light, dark and mixed strips this sequence works very effectively as a striped warp. The natural progression is to add more bands across the warp to create checks which form the basis of a 'tartan'.

**Tartan:** The first tartan we know about in the UK is a small black and white check, discovered in the Falkirk area in the early 1950s by roadworkers. They found a Roman pot full of coins, stoppered by a roll of cloth which has been dated back to 200-300 AD. It's of local origin and woven from undyed black and white wool.

Tartan became an English word in the mid-1400s for a woollen fabric. It probably came from the French word tiretaine meaning 'Tartar Cloth' (strong course fabric) which in turn came from Old French tirt (kind of cloth) and ultimately from Medieval Latin tyrius (cloth from Tyre). It has been suggested that tartan may be derived from modern Scottish Gaelic tarsainn, meaning 'across'.

Tartan is woven in uniform squares in each piece. This uniformity can be 2x2, 4x4, 6x6 or 8x8 to achieve the desired effect in different scales. The colour combinations are endless. 2 colours create more of a check but add a third and fourth colour and it takes on the look of what we recognise as tartan.

**Scottish Highlands:** Historically, each area in the highlands had different weavers, dyers and plants so the colours of the area found their way into their weaves. The highland clan chiefs would have worn different colour clothing and so the clan names became associated with tartans. If you were supporting a clan you would wear the same colours as the chief but not necessarily a tartan. For instance, the chief of Clan Grant, asked his supporters in battle to wear red and green.

**Kilts:** The word 'kilt' probably came from Scandinavia, deriving from the Ancient Norse word *kjalta* meaning pleated.

The early kilts were probably a large woven blanket cut in half (plaid). The Gaelic word for a blanket is plaid. Underneath the kilt was a nightshirt which came down to the knees and known as a *laine*. The blanket was wrapped around the body and the excess thrown over the shoulder. It was weighty and quite dangerous for the workers especially on machinery and so later the excess fabric was cut away and created what we know as a kilt.

A kilt is made from 8 to 9 yards of fabric and weighs around 4lbs. Most kilts have a sett size of 6-8", some however have a sett size of up 24" which requires a very wide loom. It is possible to make a kilt with 4 yards of fabric with the pleats being deeper.

A kilt has pleats as we all know, but interestingly many different looks can be achieved depending on which colour the pleats are folded on. Sometimes white, red, yellow, blue or whatever colour the maker decides to pick out from the cloth; it all makes a difference to the finished effect of the movement in the pleats.

The inside of a kilt is lined with a plain fabric or in Paul's case, one that reflects the owner of the kilt, for instance football, cats, pheasants & partridges...whatever takes the client's fancy.

It takes Paul between 25 and 30 hours to make a kilt and it's almost entirely sewn by hand with the exception of the waistband which is machine sewn.

Paul brought a huge selection of fabrics to show us. From heavyweight wool tweed and worsted through to fine silk tartans, the tables were a sea of colour and texture.

He also brought along two original pieces of fabric from 1750.

The Victorians created a series of 'dress' tartans with a lot of white in them. These were created for wealthy men who of course, never got their hands dirty. Tartan was extremely popular in Victorian times as both the Queen and Prince Albert loved it.

Paul's explanation regarding colours and dyes was intriguing. He explained that in the 20s 'modern colours' were actually old, 'new colours' were known as ancient and in the 50s browns and greys were known as 'reproduction colours' or 'weathered'.

Royal Stewart tartan was created for the visit of George IV to Edinburgh in 1922. Subsequently people wore this tartan to support the king. This tartan endures and is the one you'll see on biscuit tins and all manner of Scottish tourist souvenirs.

There is a Scottish Register of Tartan with so far over 7000 tartans registered. <https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/index>

Many charities and business organisations have had their own tartans created and registered including Fair Trade, Harley Davidson, The Scottish Wild Cat Society and many more.

In summary, Paul's talk provided us all with the inspiration for further research into the subject of checked fabrics from the UK and other areas in the world and we look forward to seeing him again in the future.

For further info about Paul and his work, check out his web site. <http://paulhenrykilts.com/>

**Nicky Duncan**

## **Hamish Goes Shopping**

After a challenging few months Hamish took the opportunity to take some time away in Wales. Driving down to the hotel in Abergavenny on Thursday morning he and P headed to Llangorse Lake for a gentle stroll around. P found a sword firmly wedged in a large stone but, in spite of a lot of effort, he was unable to pull it out. Further walk around watching the paddlers in their kayaks and on paddle boards Hamish found the holiday home dedicated to the gnomes he is knitting for the Imagined Landscapes Year of Gnomes knit - a - long.

The following day Hamish and P headed to the coast visiting Porthcawl and Barry to rekindle memories of P's childhood. The wind was wicked and cut straight through them.

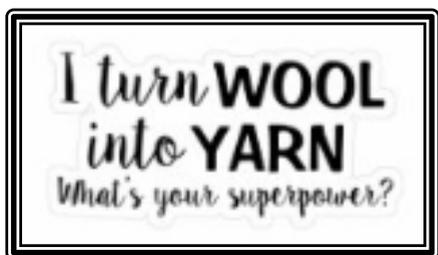
On Saturday P headed to Tredegar to visit his friends whilst Hamish headed to Builth Wells to see his and to visit Wonderwool. Leaving the hotel 4 ladies got into a large 4x4 next to Hamish's car "I know where they are going!" quipped P. It is a long time since he was able to attend due to the pandemic, so Hamish took a large bag .... just in case. Luckily the wind had died down somewhat and, although not warm, the cattle sheds in which the show was held were comfortable.

Hamish's first port of call was to John and Juliet Arbon, to avail himself of one of their "show specials" and a goodly amount of Pearl coloured alpaca supreme with plans to dye it. John and Juliet have announced their retirement, but John will continue to check on his fabulous machines regularly and to attend shows as well as popping in every now and then. He is also planning to work with Garthenor as a consultant.

Having started in hall 2 Hamish decided to walk up and down the aisles in an organised manner so as not to miss any stalls. He came across Ian Tait with his fabulous spindles, the Threshing Barn, Cat and Sparrow, the Shetland Sheep Society, Hilltop Cloud and Wingham Woolworks amongst many smaller sellers and crafts people. He was quite overwhelmed with the selection of hand dyed yarn, felting, project bags, spinning and weaving equipment, wood and ceramic items. Sadly some smallholders were unable to attend as they were unwell with Covid.

Moving into the other halls Hamish came across Eve, who used to belong to the Guild, working in the Air Ambulance stall which made a healthy total of £1842.03 from yarn and books donated from their stashes. She was close to Salina whose artwork features knitters and sheep. Hamish introduced her to our own Linda Scurr as Salina has never drawn Wensleydales..... we wait and see if this comes to anything.

Although there were some spots that were busy the show was, overall, quite well spread out and Hamish was delighted to "bump into" people he hadn't seen for so long including a Scottish friend he met in Shetland who was visiting Wales for the first time as well as friends from other spinning groups. Kennet Valley was also well represented, and Hamish sat for his lunch with Pat and met Lynne and Jenny at Wingham Wools passing others at various points along the way. Although he did not spend tooooooo much Hamish returned to his hotel with his small haul of John Arbon and Hilltop Cloud fibre and some new buttons. He was tired but feeling the world is, at last, getting back to a semblance of normality.



## Wonderwool Wonderland: A newcomer's perspective

This was my first time at the Wonderwool event and wow! I was lucky to be invited along with friends from the spinning group. The metaphor of a kid in a sweetshop is well used. I can't say I felt like a kid, but the array of colours and textures, of crafts and equipment was certainly enticing. My favourite knitting subject is socks and, as sock knitting seems to be the in-thing at the moment, the choices of colour and yarn mix were vast. It was hard to keep control and not be tempted to buy one of everything! But I resisted. With a house already full of yarn and projects ready to go, a couple of balls was enough. However, I was tempted by a pattern for a long cardigan knitted in alpaca, which has now been added to the project queue.

However, more than just the yarns for crafts I already do, knitting and crochet, what was even more absorbing about the show was all the other possibilities and crafts to try. For some I really don't think I have the artistic skills or the patience, but they were still lovely to see, for example, flowers made from felt that looked almost real. It was just amazing to see the creative things that craftspeople can do. Even with knitting and crochet, which I've done for most of my life I saw ideas I had not thought about or known about. An amazing table runner created by a student at the Carmarthen School of Art in a simple black and cream narrow striped garter stitch, but with subtle raised black stitching so that from one side it just looked like a narrow-striped runner but viewed from the other direction, words appeared. I also found out about Tunisian crocheting, which I had never heard of before and am now exploring.

Stallholders were happy to talk about their crafts and give advice. I was given a demonstration of a Brinkley loom using unspun fleece to create a beautiful textured pattern to the weave. Weaving is a craft that I'd like to try so it was useful to get some ideas and see the different types of loom that can be used. So many different crafts were represented, not just those using yarns, but there was also leatherware, clothing, ceramics and others. The food on offer was also excellent and a good range to suit all tastes and requirements. We went to No Bones Jones, vegetarian and vegan.

So it was more than a show; there was a real sense of a community of like-minded people, whether knitters, spinners, weavers or felters, it didn't matter. Everyone was able to appreciate the skills and creativity of each other's craft. If you haven't been then I would thoroughly recommend this as an interesting, educational and inspirational day out. So look out for it in 2023.

**Kim Aling**

## **Prehistoric Textiles Workshop at the Berrycroft Hub?**

Wrapping up warmly one morning I made my way to the Berrycroft Hub for a workshop on Prehistoric Textiles. Run by Sally Pointer, an educator on Historical crafts and heritage, we began the day with refreshments and introductions in a heated classroom and then made our way to a large barn heated by a wood-burner in one corner. The glow of burning timber was welcome but I was glad to have dressed warmly for the occasion.

We sat round a large table, the centre of which was piled with examples of fibres, cloth, and modern-day interpretations of prehistoric textiles and containers. There were also bone needles, cordage and flints to examine and Sally explained that she would demonstrate several textile skills throughout the day, and we were encouraged to select the those that we most wanted to practise without feeling that we needed to have a go at everything. After a PowerPoint presentation showing the development of early yarns and clothing, we had a demonstration on how to make cordage from flax fibres. Then it was our turn to have a go and it didn't take long to develop a rhythm of twisting and turning the fibres to make a length of cord. We used the flax dry, just damping it with wetted fingers as it was being twisted, this was in contrast to lime fibre which had been dampened before use. I preferred the flax but was able to make a short length of cord from both fibres.

Sally demonstrated Sprang weaving, although unlike the weaving we are more familiar with, there are no weft threads, the process relies on manipulating the warps and not losing track of where you are. We were urged to insert safety lines after every row, thank goodness, as I lost track of the number of times I had to backtrack and repeat a section. Sprang looms had been made out of lengths of curved willow branches and were pre-warped ready use. I enjoyed the process of Sprang weaving and we were all impressed by how much it can stretch once off the loom, making it ideal for bags and items of clothing.

After lunch, we were shown how to make a bone needle and chose a piece of pre-cut bone to practise on. Flints were used to shape the bone which needed regular dipping in warm water to rinse off the shavings and dust. Needle shapes began to appear, and we had opportunity to use a pump drill to form the eye of the needle. This is an early form of drill which can also be used to create a spark for a fire. The eye of my needle was tiny, so I tried to enlarge it with a pointed piece of flint, but it wasn't pointed enough, and the needle broke into two. At home with the remaining piece of needle I made a small hole with an

awl but again the needle snapped. All is not lost though as I have a couple of pieces of reindeer antler at home so will be able to practise on these.

We had a demonstration of netting, but no one followed this up as we were all too intent on making needles and completing our Sprang weaving for it to be cut from the loom before the end of the day. Mine was half finished and in the process of bringing it home it became tangled, so I took it apart and started again using a tapestry frame and soon had a small bag to show for my efforts.

I thoroughly enjoyed this workshop and have since bought a copy of 'Sprang Unsprung' by Carol James which contains clear instructions and illustrations for getting started in this technique.

Sally is an experienced and patient teacher, and we all had an enjoyable time. There were nine people in our group, including archaeology students, re-enactors and some, like myself who were interested in learning a little about our ancient history. The Berrycroft Hub is based in the village of Ashbury, between Swindon and Wantage and it has an excellent website which is regularly updated with workshops.

Berrycroft Hub [https://www.berrycrofthub.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](https://www.berrycrofthub.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)

Sally Pointer <https://www.sallypointer.com/> . She is also on YouTube.

Steve thanks everyone for making him welcome. We thank him for visiting us with his talk.

**Anne Reddan**

## **Maximo Laura**

I had a trip to the Maximo Laura exhibition at Denbies Vineyard in Dorking. I can only say it was totally amazing. I like bright bold colours and all of the exhibits fitted that bill 100%. We had a really good talk about these tapestries at guild a few years back so to see more of Maximo's work and have Della, who organised the exhibition, there to explain about each one in detail was fascinating. What I assumed was top stitching over the top of the tapestry was in fact, and even more impressively, a 2nd layer of weaving. Alongside the more usual square and rectangular were two figures which were well over 6ft tall. Apologies Maximo, I thought they were a bit frightening.

**Linda Scurr**

## **I would like to announce ...That I have no idea what I am doing!**

I bought myself a new notebook recently which quite aptly said on the front cover I would like to announce ...That I have no idea what I am doing. That sentence sums me up nicely!

A new member from another guild phoned me recently to see if I would mentor her through the Certificate of achievement. She doubted her ability because she was in awe of what all the guild 'experts' were making. For the benefit of new members, I am a long-standing guild member and deemed to be an expert! For the benefit of such new members I would also like to put the record straight.

30 years ago I got some sheep, this led on to me learning to spin and this in turn led on to me learning to knit. OR should I say the realisation that I couldn't knit. My first bit of lumpy bumpy spinning was knitted into a scarf that I am still immensely proud of. What people don't realise is that I would clumsily knit a few rows and the more proficient guild members would kindly Un-knit it to remove all my mistakes. 90% of my knitting was unpicked and redone by a whole host of wonderful guild members to whom I am eternally thankful. 30 years on I can honestly say that my knitting skills have improved.....not one bit.

Spinning has improved but is still not perfect by any means but the joy of making wool, sitting daydreaming, and spinning with friends is more important to me than the end result. Bad spinning makes excellent garden twine!

Having learnt to spin I took on the task of learning to dye. Oh, I am so good at this! I have dyed the cooker green and dyed the bath blue and red which received comments from David to be careful I didn't have a bath, sit on the dyed bits and come out looking like a baboon. To this day I still make a mess when dyeing. I can't let science measuring and calculations get in the way.

I would like to announce that I am also now an expert weaver. So expert in fact, that at the February Weave meet I warped up all wrong and had to scream for help. I hung on to one end of the warp and Vanessa hung on to the other while Lynne carried the loom from one end of the warp to the other. That really isn't how you are meant to do it! How daft was I then to say at the March meeting don't worry everyone I am going to concentrate this time. I know what I am doing. I didn't need the help of Lynne and Vanessa..... I needed help from a whole load more people. I was in a right pickle. Vanessa, Lynne, Dennis, Jenny, Meg.....et al!..... (Thanks to all of you) Warp untangled I thought I had it sussed and would like to apologise for my expletive when the realisation dawned that I was still in a mess. Yet again I had tied the warp on at the wrong end! Some people just don't learn.

So, the moral of this story is that it doesn't really matter what you make it is the people alongside you while you make it that really do matter. It is their camaraderie, encouragement, help, and giggles that makes our guild such a good one. The lumps and bumps in your spinning are not flaws, they make it designer yarn. The dye will eventually come off the cooker and bath and my weaving has a way of holding itself together even if the end result isn't what I first intended.

Once upon a time I was a clueless newbie in awe of what the experts were making. Sometimes the newbies will make something and the old timers will look on in amazement and learn something new themselves. However, you look at it and whatever you make spinning, weaving and dyeing has a way of becoming addictive and greatly enjoyable. Whatever you want to achieve, there will always be someone in the guild that can help you. The guild is there for passing on expertise, sharing ideas and problem solving. So, ***I would like to announce.....I have no idea what I am doing, but I am having fun,*** especially if it is alongside other guild members and there are a few biscuits dotted around!

**Linda Scurr**

## **Malvern Quilt Show**

Yesterday (14th May), Freya, Lynne and I went to the Quilt show at the Three Counties show ground in Malvern. Usually, we go to the one at the NEC but we knew that our favourite fabric seller wasn't going to be there but was going to be at Malvern so we decided to go there instead.

What a glorious journey we had over there. The hedgerows were festooned with blossom, the verges abundant with wildflowers and the myriad greens of the new Spring foliage were a wonderful sight. To add to all this beauty, it was the most beautiful sunny day.

The stalls inside the show were interesting even to a non-quilter like me. A few things just happened to jump into my bag even though I hadn't intended to buy anything. Just a few more projects to add to my list!

What was really nice was that it didn't feel crowded and there was plenty of space to get to the stalls and the stall holders were very friendly and happy to chat about their products. Coffee breaks and lunch were taken outside in glorious sunshine with a wonderful view of the Malvern hills. Plenty of seating and some great fellow crafters to chat to.

After lunch we finished looking round the stalls and then went to look at the quilt exhibition. It was quite hot in the exhibition marquee but there were plenty of comfy seats to sit on. In fact, it was so peaceful that I could have nodded off!

I think that I am quite a patient person but the patience it must take to piece and quilt the large quilts is phenomenal. There were some absolutely fantastic quilts but there were two that we particularly liked.

The first was made in merino wool and the maker had spun and then woven the fibre before appliquéing the shapes onto the background. The weaving was tabby, and the shapes were simple, but the stitching was beautiful and neat, and the overall effect was stunning.

The second quilt made us chuckle although I certainly could relate to it! It was a group quilt and depicted moods and feelings about the menopause. Funny and serious at the same time.

A last cup of coffee and ice cream sitting out in the sunshine and back home after a very, very enjoyable day. We will certainly go there again.

**Jennifer Thompson**

## **Charity Donations**

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who brought knitted items and yarn to the March meeting. I have been working my way through the yarn since and Meg has finished the Norwegian style jumper and cardigan. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March Hermes should have delivered our 15.5kg parcel but didn't 😞. I sent a letter to Interparcel CEO listing contents and how many hours it took to make!! Amazingly on 19th April it was delivered!! A very worrying time.

I had the following from Trish at Christian Hope International.

*Dear Rosie, Thank you and everyone else for the enormous parcel of knitwear, all of which is greatly appreciated especially gloves and larger sizes. God bless you all.*

*Trish*

I have done some mittens for the next parcel. Due to foot problems and Covid I wasn't able to be at the April meeting but what a wonderful collection of jumpers, hats, baby cardigan, squares and shawls from Gill and Sue and scarves from Jan plus blankets from Meg and Jenn was brought on Saturday. Once again thank you and I hope to get it parcelled up in the next few days and sent off NOT with Hermes or Evri, as they now call themselves.

Christian Hope are now working at their depot 5 days a week getting shipments ready for Mission Without Borders who are delivering to Moldova for the Ukrainian refugees.

Whilst looking for a cardigan to wear at the meeting I realised how many hand-knitted cardigans and jumpers I have that have not been worn in years! I will sort through, and they can go with the next parcel. If you feel like a sort out, I will be happy to send them with mine. Every little helps whether it is for the refugees, the elderly at the Royal Berks, prem babies or the rough sleepers.

Right back to the knitting, a premature baby outfit would make a change! Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

**Rosie Price**

### **The joy of owning a soup maker.**

The joy of owning a soup maker is chopping up the vegetables, pressing the GO button and 20 minutes later pouring out perfect soup! The joy of weaving in the garden, listening to the skylark, soaking up some early Bank holiday sun means you forget all about the soup maker!.....Where is the tin opener when you need it?

I am sat trying to renovate a piece of weaving that was meant to be for the guilds black jack challenge. For those that don't know you pick 3 cards at random and then weave something relating to the 3 cards. Usually something weird and wonderful but in my case I am more likely to produce something wacky, wild and wonky.

My cards were crammed and spaced in the warp, bright colours on a white background and regular spots..... Life is too short to weave spots. I went into panic mode thinking Fan reeds and double-cloth but Rosie came to the rescue with a few very helpful pointers. Nobody came up with a solution for the white component. I don't like white.

Liking a challenge, I decided to spin and dye the yarn. I spun plenty but my aversion to white meant I got carried away with the dyeing and then had to spin some more white.

I warped up at the weave meet with lots of people helping. Dennis said I have no idea what all these gaps are about and to be honest Dennis neither did I.

As I began to weave the white started to disappear and what I am looking at now bears no resemblance to the brief. I am seriously thinking of dunking the whole lot in a pale yellow dye bath and doing away with the white totally!

Thank goodness the deadline was moved on a month to the June meeting. There is plenty of time to go back to the drawing board and start again.

All is not lost, sometimes the journey is better than the destination. I have had a lot of fun along the way and with a bit of luck I can salvage something.....I know it is a Folderol = a useless showy object.

Off to eat soup!

**Linda Scurr**

## **Pacha Pads**

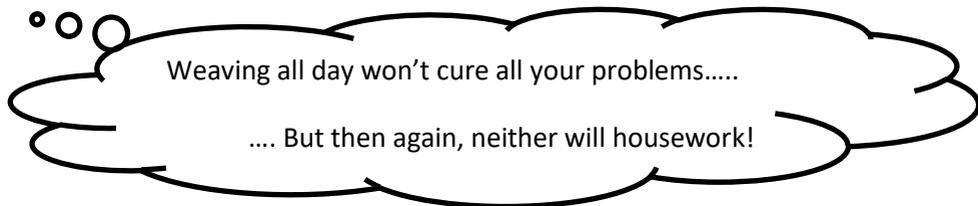
I thought that I would put this in the Shuttle in case any members who are interested in making things for the refugees might like to make these. A member of another group that I belong to was making them and brought some to show us and it seemed to be such a good idea and, I'm sure, a godsend to any of the unfortunate women who have to flee.

The Pachamama Project is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation growing a global network of volunteers to make reusable sanitary pads for refugees around the world dealing with period poverty. The Pachamama team has a mission to combat period poverty in refugee crises and make sure having a period is not yet another challenge for these vulnerable people.

Period poverty is the lack of availability and access to sanitary products, normally due to financial constraints. This causes many women to resort to using scraps of tissue, or even socks, which can lead to infections.

For more information go to the Pachamama Project website, <https://www.thepachamamaproject.org/index.html> or find the instruction video on Youtube, <https://youtu.be/zRARMGYL4mw>.

**Jennifer Thompson**



# CRAFT SOCIALS

## Aldbourn Braid Days

Aldbourn Braid days almost started again this December, but with the onset of the new variant and worries about infection it was felt necessary to cancel. Hopefully we will see this change in the new year – watch this space.

Please contact **Sal Shepherd** for details

## Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers normally meet at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the last Saturday of the month from 09.30 – 13.30. **The next meeting will be 25th June 2022.** Other dates for 2022 are 30th July, 24th September, and 22nd October. All meetings from 9.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. The final meeting for 2022 will be 26th November from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with a shared lunch. £3.00 to cover the cost of the hall.

It is called “Weavers' Chat”, but braiders can come with inkles, marudai etc and lace makers with pillows as it is all weaving. In fact all Guild members are very welcome to come along to see what we are doing and find out what weaving is all about. We are now all very busy working on the Black Jack Challenge, but that shouldn't stop you coming along if you aren't taking part in the challenge, bring whatever you are working on.

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

**Rosie Price** -

## Moulsford Spinning & Craft Group

In normal times we meet on the **2nd Thursday of every month** at Moulsford Pavilion. (This is different to pre-covid) There are usually spinners, weavers, felters, a basketmaker and knitters there so do come and join us.

For more information contact **Linda Scurr** or **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**

**The copy deadline for the September 2022 issue of the Shuttle is 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The email address is kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com**

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