



of  
Weavers, Spinners  
and Dyers

# The Shuttle

## December 2022



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Guild Meeting</b> January half day workshops. <b>10.30 – 12.30</b> Morning Workshops <b>13.30 – 15.30</b> Afternoon Workshops More information later in the Shuttle
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Guild Meeting</b> <b>AM:</b> Social <b>PM: Connecting Threads.</b> A talk by <b>Sharon Kearly</b> encompassing Weave, stitch and dye, based on research at Devizes museum.
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Guild Meeting</b> <b>AM:</b> Social <b>PM: From Sheep to Shop.</b> A talk by <b>Linda Scurr</b>
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>Guild Meeting &amp; AGM – Shared Lunch</b> <b>AM:</b> AGM <b>PM:</b> Social
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Guild Meeting</b> <b>AM:</b> Social <b>PM:</b> tbc <b><i>PLEASE NOTE 'MAY' 2023 MEETING IS THE LAST WEEKEND OF APRIL DUE TO HALL BOOKING ISSUES.</i></b>

## 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**

## 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).*

By the time you read this the demonstration season will be over for another year, but there will be more again next year. 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.

**Stefanie Rachmann-Davies, Demonstrations Secretary**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hello everyone, I hope you are all well and not getting too many colds as the winter is now here.

It seems ages ago we said goodbye to our Queen she was a strong wonderful woman who dedicated her life to our country and its people. She will be missed and has the respect of so many people all around the world. She will never be forgotten.

My sock knitting is progressing very slowly as I keep getting distracted by other crafts and I can't knit when I am around my friends as I keep going wrong.

I have been thinking about our exhibition and looking for ideas to inspire me. I spend a lot of time on Pinterest and have seen some amazing ideas so hopefully I can find something to add to all of your wonderful pieces of work.

I now have a hackle and absolutely love using it I am currently blending fibres to make a cardigan I am using greens and golds and hope to start sometime next year along with a sleeveless jumper in reds and purples. The wool is spun now but I'm a bit afraid to start, but I will! My poor granddaughter is still waiting for a blanket I keep ripping it out and changing my mind about how I want to do it. I started crocheting it then I thought I would knit it and now I am crocheting it. I will be glad to finish it.

Chain plying looks so difficult, but I have had a go and need quite a bit more practice but I'm not sure if I really like it yet perhaps when I have got used to it, I may change my mind and I'm not sure about the best way to use it. In my mind I thought I would use it for all projects but not so sure now.

We had a wonderful break in Devon in February. We stayed in a dog friendly pub which was very cosy in the evenings and of course the dog loved it as he was so tired from all the swimming in the sea. We are so lucky in this country we have beautiful scenery and can always find little gems of places tucked away where you don't always expect to find them. It's too early really but I wish you all a very happy Christmas and new year. Look after yourselves.

**Pat Christmas**

## **SHOW-AND-TELL**

I was only able to get to one meeting this quarter but at least it was a full show and tell table. I'll try to do better for the next meetings so keep bringing along your amazing makes.

**September** There were no Show and Tell items this month.

**October** Rosie brought in a colourful pile of knitted corner-to-corner squares (64 in all) waiting to be made into refugee blankets. There was also a red and turquoise knitted chenille scarf. She also showed us two pairs of patterned socks knitted in a Katia yarn which cleverly allows for two identical socks to be knitted by including a short stretch of contrast yarn at the point where the second sock should be started.

Lynne Harper showed us her completed quilted seat cushion woven in British wool using a technique allowing for three layers to be woven at the same time. The layers were joined at intervals to form the channels for stuffing and in such a way that the channels formed by the top and middle layers were offset against those formed by the middle and lower layers giving a thickly padded cushion with no flat spots. The cushion was finished off with an inkle braid trim and is much loved by her cat.

Marion Proctor wanted to use some of her hand spun yarn. She used a pattern from the Ashford website to knit a boomerang shawl. The yarn was a mixture of merino dyed by Marion and a merino/silk mix in shades of blue, pink and purple.

Anne Reddan showed us a length of twill woven in Ashford mercerised cotton in shades of lime green, blue and orange. The fabric will be made into large shopping bags. Anne found the details for this project in a copy of The Wheel magazine from Ashford. Her yarns were not all of the correct thickness

required but with careful planning she was able to produce enough fabric for two bags.

Finally, this month Jenny Gribble wanted to have a go at weaving with linen and has woven a twill tea towel in yellow, red, beige and orange linen.

**Lynne Bond**

## **GUILD TROPHIES**

### **Trophies awarded since the last shuttle**

<i>October 2022</i>	Hawkridge Trophy:	Sue Bramwell
<i>November 2022</i>	Dyers' Trophy:	Marion Proctor

### **Upcoming Trophies**

*December 2022:* Christmas Trophy (for 'Fashion Show')

It has been a real treat to see so many entries for the latest trophies. As I've said many times before, we have such talented members in our guild, and we rarely get to see the wonderful things they produce so to have so many items on the tables for the last two trophies was brilliant.

In October the Hawkridge trophy for an item made from Jacob fleece was won by Sue Bramwell with her beautiful cardigan. The Hawkridge trophy is awarded every two years and has always been for an item made from Jacob fleece. In two years time we are expanding this to include any British breed, particularly any breed that is endangered.

In November the dyers' trophy was won by Marian Proctor for her dyed fibres. It was very interesting to see entries that were chemically dyed and also naturally dyed. There were some quite delicious colours on the table.

The next trophy is the Christmas trophy. Awarded for the winner of the Christmas fashion show at our Christmas meeting. As always, I am really looking forward to seeing members wearing their items. After that there will be a few months before any more trophies are awarded. The first one of those will be in April when the June Young trophy will be awarded to a guild member for service to the Guild and voted for by the committee.

**Jennifer Thompson**

### **Thoughts on Guild Competitions by Linda Scurr**

I have won the Hawkridge challenge far too often over the years and, as I really hate polishing silver, I was delighted that Sue Bramwell won the challenge this year. Well done, Sue. I loved the garment you made it was beautiful and such a worthy winner. The guild sets a number of challenges each year and it is nice to support the various classes. Not

only does it push you into stretching your talents by actually making something, it is also a nice way to honour some of our much loved members who have donated the trophies over the years. It really doesn't matter if you don't win. It is nice though for the winner if they win a big class.

## GUILD COURSES

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

### Welcome to New Members.

Welcome to the following members who have joined the Guild since the last Shuttle was published. Watch out for them at meetings, and please talk to them and introduce yourselves to them.

Carol Kennedy	Anne-Marie Howe	Andrew Lo and family
Claire Watson		

*NB, thanks to Heather Godfrey for her suggestion to include this section in 'The Shuttle'*

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

## ARTICLES

### Attic Window Quilt

It all began with a holiday!

Earlier in the year we had a weeks holiday at Axmouth. The lady who owned the cottage was very keen on Patchwork.

There were lots of examples of her work on the walls. I have never been keen on that medium as I thought it very time consuming and fussy. However, there was one item that attracted me like a magnet. I questioned the lady about this, and she said that it was very easy!

When I got home, I kept thinking about it and decided to have a go. As I had no idea how to start, I thought that I would get a book on the subject. None available. So, YouTube was my next port of call. There were several options – all very Americanised - note I spent

quite a time getting to grips with the world of Attic Windows. The first thing I had to get was a panel for the background.

I trawled the internet for something that we would like to look at - should I be able to complete the work (I was rather dubious about that!) discarding all Disney and Santa pictures, of which there were many. Lots of phone calls were made to run a decent picture down. Eventually, on the internet I came across a lone picture of a scene reminiscent of places we visit in Cornwall. That was it! I bought it.

My next problem was to decide how many panes I wanted to make, bearing in mind the size of the panel. I elected to do 3 x 4 i.e. 12 panes, which I thought was quite enough to start with. A certain amount of maths was required to sort that one out. I had to strategically cut the panel, not destroying the overall look of it, so that my panes were whole sizes.

I then had to bite the bullet and cut them out, making sure they were very accurate. Job done, I had to start assembling them.

My main difficulty was that although YouTube had explained how to build each panel, they just said join them up! There was very little information on how to do it! I had to sit back and work that one out. Using the photo of the one I had seen at Axmouth, I could see what was required, and got them assembled.

YouTube didn't mention putting a frame on or using some wadding at the back of the work. I managed to crack that one. The border I used was much better for several rows of stitching, which 'plumped up' the frame and made it seem more finished.

After about 3 months work, I got it completed and, although to a casual observer, it looks ok, on closer inspection, I could have done better!

I wrote myself some instructions in case I want to have another go. Will I? - who knows..

It's surprising what an unexpected interest a holiday brings!

**Marion Moulder**

## **Textile Narratives from a Northern Land**

I was really looking forward to this talk by Delia Salter and it didn't disappoint. I absolutely love Iceland. I am going there again in December, and I can't wait. The scenery there is like nothing I've ever seen before. I have only been in Winter (I adore the snow!) and there is a stark beauty to the landscape. The lava fields covered in snow were the inspiration for a tweed wrap I wove.

I enjoyed seeing Delia's pictures of Northern Iceland - a part I haven't visited yet, but I would love to go one day. I would also love to visit in Summer when I believe the lichens on the lava fields are spectacular. Delia spoke about her month-long residency in

Blönduós. This followed her Masters degree in Textile Arts. In her earlier career she was a quilter, exhibiting at major shows and giving talks and workshops but after falling in love with wool during her Masters course she decided to focus on indigenous wools from Iceland, Shetland and Scandinavian countries.

The residency sounded like a marvellous experience and there is a lot of information online for anyone who is interested. It 'seeks to promote an atmosphere of creativity, experimentation and reflection for artists and scholars working inside the textile field'.

On one of a number of arranged visits to interesting places she visited the 'wool washers'. It takes wool from 97% of farms in Iceland and washes and prepares it for internal use and for export. It was interesting to hear that all sheep are brought indoors in October because of the weather (although presumably they are hardy breeds). The lambs are born in May indoors and only go outside once they are strong enough since it can still snow in May.

Delia brought along examples of her work, and they were quite intriguing. There are different aspects to her work. A mixture of felted knitting incorporating found treasures, many from the tide line; felted pieces joined by knitting; knitted, found, fishing line; felting incorporating knitted fragments and felted bowls, many of which represented the lava fields, and which blended natural and dyed fleece. There was also a body of work based on Odin's ravens, Huginn and Muninn. Their names in Old Norse mean Thought and Memory/ Mind. This work had gaps, holes and unfinished edges representing our thoughts and memories as we get older - I'm sure some of us could really relate to this!

Delia had used local flora to dye some of her fibre and interestingly hadn't used a mordant. Blue Lupin flowers gave a pale green, a difficult colour to get from natural dyes (although I have to say that I have had beautiful greens from mint). The Lupin leaves, surprisingly, gave a neon yellow. Horsetail gave a pale yellow, and Beech and Angelica also gave yellows. One of my favourite pieces was a black bowl with a vibrant yellow inside.

Delia and the three friends she went to Iceland with for the residency now exhibit together and have an exhibition called 'Echoes of Iceland' at the Allen Gallery in Alton, Hants from 5th November until 15th January.

**Jennifer Thompson**

Delia gave a most interesting talk on her residency in Iceland, where she spent a month with three other artists at The Textile Centre in Blönduós, in the north of the country. Delia gave a slide show to accompany her talk which helped to convey the area she was staying in.

Delia began with quilting until she decided she had tired of it, and then to do an MA course in textile, for two years at UCA in Farnham, from 2016-18. She applied to The Textile Centre in Blönduós, and was accepted soon after, and joined three other artists.

She stayed at the Centre which used to be a Girls School until 1976 when it closed and became the Textile Centre, where people from over the world are accepted on a residency

for a month. The aim of the month is to share individual skills and create a collaborative environment for significant professional development. Delia explained that there is one road that encircles the country from where she landed in Reykjavikto, and then travelled northwards to Blonduos, which is situated on the River Blanda.

The Centre stands facing the River Blanda and has offices on the ground floor and the studio and bedrooms above. Delia is hoping next time she goes she will have a bedroom facing the river and not the car park! The Centre has everything they needed for spinning, weaving or dyeing. From her bedroom was just twelve steps to the studio. Anything left behind from previous artists was for others to use. Delia found a black fleece which she chose to use herself.

So far north the sun never sets at that time while she was there at the beginning of May, so, at times, they had to remind themselves at midnight, to stop working and go to bed! The windows in the Centre face north, so, often they viewed the sunsets. The countryside has no trees. The mountains were still snow-capped. There were wild blue lupins growing, which Delia used to dye with. She found the flowers produced a pink then a greenish-blue dye. The lupin leaves made a yellow-green. Also birch leaves gave a yellow-coloured dye. These she incorporated into a felting to represent Oden's two ravens, Huginn and Muninn. Huginn and Muninn would fly round the world collecting Thoughts and Memories. Delia's small pieces depicted Thoughts and Memories. Delia told us that in the month she was there, the lupins started as very small plants, and by the end of the month the lupins had flowered, due to the length of daylight.

During the time she stayed, she was taken on visits. Two small towns; a farm where they saw the sheep indoors, which are kept indoors through the Winter and Springtime till the ewes have lambed, due to the harsh winters; and a geyser which was spewing extremely hot steam. They also saw where fleece were collected and washed four times, then sorted and sent either to the Continent or the UK for carpet making. She was shown how fish skins were used from the Fisheries, and turned into something akin to leather!

They were taken to be shown a tapestry, which in the end will be 46 metres in length. It is called The Vatnsdæla Saga. It was designed by the University of Iceland Art students and begun by a Johanna Palmadóttir. It tells of the saga of Vatndalur, a family history of the Hof, of fate, love, honour, perseverance and valour against enemies. The saga was written in 1270 AD. Many artist residents and local people are taught to help stitch the tapestry. Delia regrettably did not do so. Delia's interest lies with the natural world around her. She had some of her work to display which was very interesting. There were a number of felted bowls which had black within, depicting what, where and why. She incorporates very loose knitting with felting. Some large pieces had interesting felted smaller felting depicting snow lines of the mountains. A bowl showed the snow sides of the mountains. Another incorporated knitting to reflect the lines of snow on the mountains. Delia said that with her knitted pieces she washes to felt them at 30 degrees in the washing machine.

She had, to show us, two small notebooks with ideas she collects before she goes to Centre, which she has done four times already, then she goes to see what inspires her. She is hoping to return next year, and also to Shetland from where she has discovered she has way-back ancestors. We wish her luck.

Lesley Dunn

## Hamish meets Hamish

Hamish has had a busy summer involving a rather rushed trip north, first to Livingston (near Edinburgh) then to Aberdeen where he lived in a flat, discovered Aberdeen Beach (well worth a visit) found two lovely wool shops and even got to meet with his cousins for lunch on three occasions. Although he missed Unravel, Hamish was able to attend Wool @Portsoy <https://www.facebook.com/woolatportsoy/>, an event he had read about but decided was just too far to visit. It was a super event just slightly smaller than Unravel, but with different vendors and he may have bought some wool and a new handmade ball winder. P and J had gone to a cafe at the harbour for an enormous bacon sandwich and were truly shocked when Hamish appeared with so little in his bags. Portsoy is the film location for the new version of Whisky Galore and is a place with which Hamish has long had associations.

Although he was very busy for the first few weeks Hamish decided to have a day's respite and visited the Grampian Guild. It was a hot day with temperatures up to 29 degrees, much nicer than the 40+ degrees his friends down south were suffering. Everyone moved outside but soon had to move back inside as the heat level rose. What a lovely group of ladies they are in this Guild, and he was made most welcome. At this point he had no spinning with him, but Ingrid from the Guild kindly lent him a lovely wheel, hand made by a local man, and some fluff to spin.

As things progressed Hamish was able to get away to Shetland - not such a long journey from Aberdeen. This was a smaller event than in past years as it was their first since the pandemic but although there were fewer and different events there were also about half the usual number of visitors. This time he went with three friends who had not visited Shetland before and he enjoyed seeing their excitement, wonder and delight at visiting the islands. Again, Hamish signed up for a class almost every day but this time decided to take a stacking rings workshop at Shetland Jewellery <https://www.shetlandjewellery.co.uk/>, fused glass at Glansin Glass on Unst <https://www.glansinglass.co.uk/> and a shawl pin whittling workshop with Cecil Tate from Paparwark <https://www.paparwark.co.uk/>. Those of you who know him know that Hamish doesn't do woodwork! Other classes he attended included making "Thrummed Mittens" with Helene Driesen, "Traditional Fair Isle Thumb Gussets and Ribs" and "Knitting Without a Pattern Da Shetland Wye" with Alison Rendall.

The Shetland Guild held their exhibition and teas over 4 sessions this year instead of just

one and this was much more relaxed offering Hamish the opportunity to catch up with Guild friends and their news. "The Happening" was also held at Ollaberry, a good distance from Lerwick but well worth a visit to see their lace haps and other local crafts. Whilst Hamish was at the Guild teas his friends had been to Whalsay for a taster class of various Shetland techniques and told them Hamish was on the islands, so he was invited to their "tak dy sock" (knit and natter) evening on the Monday evening. The weather decided not to be welcoming but they all caught the bumpy ferry and were rescued from the wind and rain at the other end by minibus to be taken up to the hall. Here everyone was encouraged to take part in a true knitting circle - an ongoing community initiative where knitted panels were joined together by knitters standing in a circle. This proved a little challenging as the participants next to you either side were knitting at different speeds to you, but it was good fun. Another damp night greeted the quiz night at the brewery where Hamish's team obviously didn't have enough alcohol as they did not fare very well at all. One of Hamish's friends had commented that it would be good to see Shetland in different weather and her wish was granted when a force 9 Gale hit on the Friday. The planes were cancelled but the ferry still ran.

K brought Hamish's Louet Victoria wheel north and on his second visit he took it to the Guild where it was of great interest as a small portable wheel they had not seen before although several of them had small wheels made by the same local man who had made the one Hamish had borrowed. On this occasion there was no heating, the caretaker couldn't be contacted and as it was October the temperatures had dropped. This may sound familiar to Kennet Valley members. As he now had his own wheel Hamish returned the borrowed one to Ingrid and met her Hamish. A delightful, enthusiastic, and huge black cockerpoo.

### **Dyeing at Pat's House**

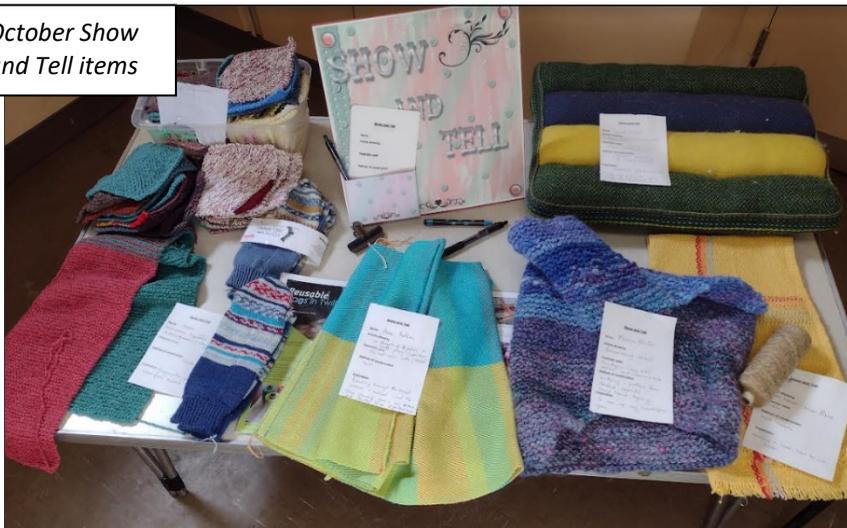
Back in August I organised a day for members to come to my house for a day of dyeing fibres. I usually dye on the hob, so it was great to learn the steamer and microwave methods.

Pat Foster and Meg were so helpful on the day and showed us the various ways of dyeing. Pat showed us space dyeing using the steamer. We watched Meg dyeing silk using the microwave method. Jenny and Marion tried both methods I hope they enjoyed it and learnt some new ways of dyeing. Marion made a scarf with the fibres she dyed it looks lovely and I feel inspired to make one too. Jenny tried the sprinkle method in the microwave.

I hope everyone enjoyed it I certainly did and would love to organise another one.

**Pat Christmas**

October Show  
and Tell items



Gill presenting Sue with  
the Hawkridge Trophy



Anne presenting  
Marion with the  
Dyers' Trophy



Hawkridge Trophy entries



Dyers' Trophy entries



Marietta

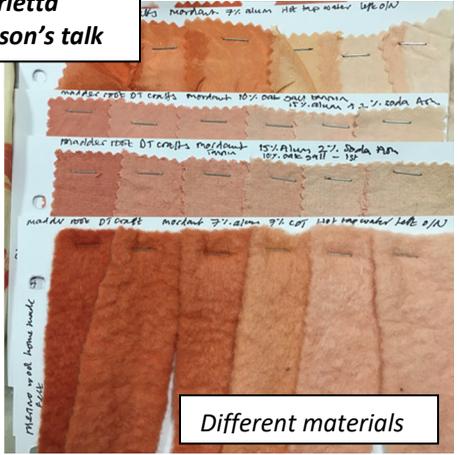


Sample skeins



Colour samples

Marietta Richardson's talk



Different materials



Some of the charity knitting





*A Van Full of Wool*



*Paul and Rosie at Halifax Mill*



*Rosie at Freya Jones*



*A Good Yorkshire Breakfast!*



*A Woollen Cloud*



*Worldwide SPIN IN PUBLIC*



*Samples of Delia Salter's Work*



*Marion's Attic Window Quilt*

*Part of the Knitting Circle*



*Hamish in Shetland*



*Shawl Pin*

## WORLDWIDE SPIN IN PUBLIC DAY

Court Hill is a fantastic tearoom on top of a hill with far reaching views just outside Wantage, a place called Letcombe Regis to be precise. I thought it would be the perfect venue to sit and spin for Worldwide spin in public day which is always the 3rd weekend in September every year.

Nine of us turned up, Chris Fletcher, Rosie Price, Jane Soffe and her granddaughter Kaitlin, Lynne Bond, Jean Hope, and Jean McVeigh, Sue Malvern and myself. We sat in the courtyard in full sun, out of the wind and in between eating cake and chatting did a bit of spinning. It was lovely to catch up with guild members that I haven't seen in ages.

Visitors to the Café wandered over to see what we were doing. Unlike demonstrating to the masses at shows there was a much more relaxed atmosphere with ample time to chat to everyone.

Two men on bikes wanted their picture taken alongside us to show their friends what Spinning really means, the ancient art of making wool and not going flat out on a bicycle not getting anywhere. They were certainly getting somewhere they joined the Ridgeway at Avebury I think they said, anyway, some far flung place and were headed for Watlington. Probably a distance of some 50 miles and much further than most of us would even contemplate driving. Never in a million years could I go that far on a bike. At least they would burn off the calories. The cake slices were enormous.

We all agreed that we'd had a wonderful time and resolved to do it again soon. Why wait till worldwide spin in public day next year when the cake is that good. The Café manager was really friendly, and said we would be welcome back any time and he would make room for us inside the Café if the weather was bad.

**Linda Scurr**

## YORKSHIRE

I don't know if I should call this article 'The Great North Run' or 'Help my fridge is on the ceiling!' In September, Rosie and I went to Yorkshire. My lovely cosy little van Timmy, affectionately named after Shaun the sheep's little brother was gutted out and stuffed to the rafters with bags of fleece. There was only just room left inside for Rosie and me to climb in the front and the fridge was indeed on top of the bags touching the roof.

We set off early with our first stop being at Wingham Wools where we met up with Ruth and Alan for a slight spot of indulgence in the pub and of course a wee bit of retail therapy. Honestly, we were very restrained. Everything was going well until Timmy van disgraced himself by backing over Ruth and Alan's garden bench! Oooops Naughty Timmy! SORRY! Ruth and Alan say hello to everyone.

We carried on North but got to Bridlington too late to drop the fleeces off with Paul at Halifax, so we had a bit of a wander around Bridlington in the daylight. Our last trip there a couple of years ago had been after dark and in the rain. We both decided then that we didn't like Bridlington but this time we could see where we were going and enjoyed exploring. We booked into a hotel that Paul had recommended called The Lobster Pot, we ate to a standstill and had an early night.

We spent 3 hours with Paul and his wife the next day wandering round the mill with Paul demonstrating what all the ferocious bits of machinery do. Paul started the ball winding machine to show us how balls are wound, gave us a demonstration on how to dry skeins in the Microwave and how to spin rope using a power drill. It was a fantastic experience. We also looked in his shop and saw his stash of wool for sale. Don't tell anyone but we did come home with some woolly goodies.

We managed to do a bit more sightseeing. We went to Flanborough Point to see the Flanborough Lighthouse made out of chalk, which I had seen on Telly only two days earlier. We also went to Frazeburgh which has a really good tearoom and beach. Another run round the harbour in Bridlington where we saw some really cute little birds called Turnstones. Of course being by the seaside we had to have fish and chips, and managed to rush into a restaurant for fish and chips moments before they were due to close. They fed us provided we could pay cash as the till was already closed. Very good fish and chips! Having righted the fridge, we purchased some fish to bring home. I bought a very large crab and Rosie got some Kippers. On the way home I could hear my van thinking I thought they unloaded everything, but I still feel heavily loaded. Probably due to the big dinners, full cooked breakfast and the fish and chips consumed by his two passengers. Not to mention a small amount of wool!

Paul has phoned to say there was 250 Kilos of fleece in the sacks we left him. I feel another trip coming on soon to collect the wool when it is spun with an onward trip to the weaving mills in Wales. It is all a good adventure.

### Wool for sale!

Paul at Halifax spinning mill has a vast quantity of wool (a shipping container full) for sale at very affordable prices. I showed some at the October meeting and quite a few people were interested.

I have tried dyeing some and it dyed really well using Ashford acid dyes. Next, I am going to try weaving with it and will experiment with it to see how well it felts. Hopefully I will have done this by the time this article goes to print in December. The wool is 80% wool and 20% nylon and comes in white, very pale pink and red. There are various thicknesses. The cones I showed at guild were about 12 wraps per inch. I am planning a bulk order to save on postage or collect some next time I am in Yorkshire so if anyone is interested, please let me know asap. It would be nice to help out and reduce his stash.

## **Southern Wool Show – Sept 2022**

At the beginning of September Rosie Price and I once again set off for Newbury Racecourse on the Friday afternoon to set up the Guilds stand for Southern Wool. Once again, we had a really good space in the foyer of the second building so that we were spoilt for choice on how to set up. We ended up with two tables for the display and then a third table with chairs around it for our 'take a break' area, which was a new venture for this year. Everyone that we saw was looking forward to the show opening on the Saturday morning, after two years of disruption and limited stall numbers it was good to feel as though things were back to normal.

On the Saturday morning we were straight into our routine with customers coming to see us as soon as the doors were open. With the help of Gill Meadows, Heather and Viv on the Saturday and then Jean Hills, Pat Christmas, Gill Meadows and Lynne Harper on the Sunday there were plenty of guild members to chat to everyone. We had lots of enquiries about our meeting dates, and I understand that we had several people turn up to the October meeting, so I think we can count the stand a success purely based on the potential new recruits. The 'take a break' area seemed to be success as well, Gill Meadows sat there knitting squares and had plenty of people joining her to do a bit of knitting with her and chat about the guilds' charity projects. All the members who helped out over the weekend had plenty of opportunity to go around the show and have a good look at the other stalls and everyone seemed to come back with bags of purchases, although some people were a little reticent about showing what they had bought. I'm not sure whether it was guilt or embarrassment about how much they had spent?

Along with the usual display of members work we also had a selection of scarves and hats that were made from the Regent St fibre that Rosie managed to get donated to us and I am pleased to say that we were able to sell a few and gave the money to Nick to add to the money they had collected for Naomi House.

At the end of the weekend we were all tired, but very pleased with the success of the weekend, both from the Guilds point of view but also for Nick and his team, which brings me to a new challenge.

### **Yarn Bombing**

When chatting with Nick at the end of the day the subject of yarn bombing came up and Nick asked if we could arrange it for next year's show. The committee have discussed the request and Rosie and I have been asked to try to coordinate something for the 2023 show. If anyone has any ideas about things we could do please let Rosie or myself know and we will start working on a plan in the new year. One of the things we would like to do is to be able to take as many of the items as possible at the end of the weekend and use them towards the Charity projects. That means that a lot of the items will need to fit into the 6" square basis, so strips that are based on multiples of 6" and triangles that would also fit

within that. One of the main things that we will have to sort out is permissions, Nick (I hope) will be communicating with Newbury council, and we will have to negotiate with the Race Course. I seem to remember there is a statue of a race horse outside the building which I am sure would be desperate to wear a scarf and possibly a blanket for the weekend..... Watch this space for updates on this challenge, I think it will be fun

to do, but we just have to get all the boring technical bits sorted out. If there is anyone who thinks they have the right contacts to help out on this side of things Rosie and I would be grateful to hear from you.

**Meg Crowther.**

## **CLOUDS**

One thing leads to another! I was in my village hall the other day admiring the woollen clouds dangling from the ceiling. They make me smile every time I see them. They were installed on my recommendation to tackle the poor acoustics several years ago and they do a very good job.

My village hall recommended them to another hall and that hall in turn recommended them to another hall. Thanks to me the clouds are spreading nicely. I telephoned the manufacturer asking if they did small clouds because I love them and really wanted one of my own. The company was amazing and said no they didn't make small clouds but would make me one specially.....

About a week later my cloud arrived and I am so happy, even if it is a bit bigger than I could have hoped for. It was neatly packed in a box surrounded with wool felt scraps as packaging and I can't wait to think of what I can use them for.....

I don't stand to make anything from recommending these clouds, but the company is a family run business and so nice and friendly. They are using and promoting British sheep's fleeces from rare and coloured breeds the wool board doesn't want, so if anyone knows of a hall with high ceilings and bad acoustics let me know.

**Linda Scurr**

## **Braids 2022 Conference**

After many challenges over the last 2 years, the fifth International conference on Braiding was due to begin on 14th August. I had agreed to take equipment to Denmark, so I drove from Kelbrook to Svendborg via Felixstowe, the Netherlands, Germany and into Denmark.

After taking the overnight ferry, I drove to Tilburg in the Netherlands where there is an amazing Textiel museum. It began with the process of taking fleece and turning it into cloth following each process with old machinery on display. This then moved into the gallery and workshop where Resident Artists design and undertake their weaving.

Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take any photos of this area but there were some handlooms and then a room with 6 modern dornier looms that were weaving some amazing fabrics. I was also able to see the original steam engine in a spotlessly clean room and then in a further part of the museum there were a number of jacquard looms that are still used for weaving linen. It was just wonderful and worth another visit.

After staying in a bed and breakfast house near the German border, I drove to Bremen. I had planned to explore Bremen but it was far too hot, so I just went to the hotel and checked in. I had a short walk in the evening to go and find food although the restaurant I found did not have any air conditioning, so it was a little hot. The third day was a long drive through Germany to Svendborg so I was delighted when I finally arrived. I was able to check in and enjoy a dinner with two friends from the USA that I hadn't seen since 2019 in Iga, Japan.

On Sunday the conference began with registration followed by meet and greet and dinner so we had a chance to say hello to people we have not seen since the last conference. We also got to see the Proceedings of the conference for the first time. What an amazing book with so much of interest to keep us busy for months. It was a delight to be in Svendborg with lots of like-minded people.

The facilities were great with everyone staying in the hotel, a large room for lectures and a host of rooms for our workshops.

The weather was unseasonably warm, but we all made the best of the weather and it helped when we had to walk between buildings within the complex. Katia and her team had organised a very busy programme for the week starting at 8.30 on Monday morning. Katia gave the welcome address, and this was followed by a lecture.

*Conference Venue - Photo by Martin Foulkes*



Following the morning lectures, we had workshops which were either two days or one day and with so many choices, we all had the chance to either extend our knowledge in one subject or try another. My first workshop was on marudai braiding with Makiko Tada. Makiko had been unable to travel from Japan, so we had the workshop via Zoom with Makiko in Tokyo and the students in the room. The facilities provided by the hotel for this were amazing and it made it much easier to conduct the workshops this way. Makiko may have been in Japan, but we had the opportunity to try lots of different braids, 8 on the first day and then several more on the second day.

On Wednesday, following the lectures, we all had the chance to take a tester session and I chose to try Nalbinding. Ilta Hamari, the tutor was patient and made the process seem



*Ilta Hamari and Nalbinding  
Photo by Martin Foulkes*

so simple. After 3 hours, we had learned two stitches, how to finish and how to start. She recommended that we do a little every day to make sure the muscle memory was created so I have followed her advice and done some each day. It turns out that we use our thumbs as the gauge, and I have a very big thumb so my stitches are quite large – I can see me using thick yarn for the foreseeable future.

In the afternoon, I went on the excursion to the linen museum. We viewed the house which is still occupied and then went into the museum. It was small but very interesting and they have a number of jacquard looms still weaving some amazing designs.

Thursday and Friday saw more workshops, mine were with Carol James on sprang lace. I have been doing sprang for a little while now but having Carol in the room to help was just wonderful and I feel that I have a better understanding of the cloth now.

To complete each day, there was a further lecture after the workshops and then, after dinner, another activity whether it was the bazaar, a cruise or the farewell dinner. The food in the hotel was great with buffets at breakfast and lunch and dinner served in the evening as well as refreshments near the workshop rooms so we were spoiled. For those that wanted to, there was swimming in the sea and cycling if you borrowed a bike from the hotel.

The highlights were breakfast, lunch and dinner where we could talk to other participants and catch up with old friends. It was a wonderful mix of people who have been to previous conferences and those attending for the first time so it was a great opportunity to meet many gifted people. Many, many thanks to Katia Johansen and her team, Marianne Lund Rasmussen, Joy Boutrup, Kate Farcinsen and Ane Rasmussen for all the work they put into making this conference special.

**Debbie Richardson**

## **Charity Knitting**

First a very big thank you to all of you who have made the things for the latest deliveries.

On Tuesday I went to the Royal Berkshire hospital with a large bag of shawls, baby blankets, cardigans and hats. I was very lucky to meet Sukhi Sidhu who is the Voluntary Services manager. She thanked me very much for our donation and said how impressed she was with how skilled we are! She also said what a difference it makes to the patients.

Hopefully next time we will have some knee rugs and I am on my second prem baby cardigan.

On Thursday Parcelforce collected our 13.25kg box for Christian Hope International at Romford, blankets, jumpers, cardigans, hats gloves etc. all to be sent to Romania and Moldova for the Ukrainian refugees. On Monday it was delivered!! Not everything went to Romford this time as I couldn't get it all in. I already have 3 bags for the next box

Also on Monday, I was given a bag of knitted gloves & hats plus toys that the lady wanted to go to the Ukrainian children which I thought was lovely.

Please keep knitting and crocheting whether for at home or abroad everything is really needed at the moment especially with the cold weather coming. Thank you.

**Rosie Price**

### **Abingdon Traditional Craft Fair**

The Fair is held in the old Abbey Buildings. Since it was relaunched a few years ago with a traditional theme, the organisers offer two spaces instead of one, for half the fee, to crafters to demonstrate and let people have a go. I was then offered more extra space for Guild members to demonstrate spinning.



Many thanks to Lynne Harper and Jennifer Thompson, who came on the Friday, and Linda Scurr and Janet Dunbar who came on the Sunday. (Two Oxford Guild members came on Saturday which was a Guild Day.)

The wheels attracted a lot of interest with children over the weekend and lots of them had a go as well as adults.

I was demonstrating weaving on a four-shaft loom and a rigid heddle loom and let a few people have a go. We did not have as much space as in previous years, but I was relieved not to have to go up and down steps between my tables. We had to draw people's attention to the uneven floor. No one fell over fortunately.

**Angela Pawlyn**

I hadn't been to Abingdon Craft Fair for several years and was pleased to see this year that it wasn't as cold and draughty as I remembered it. Angela's stall was lovely.

There was a good range of stalls, and I spent a lot of time on one stall selling wooden print blocks where the stallholder was so generous with her help and advice that I now have more confidence to have another go at stamping. A revelation to me was a magic formula that turns acrylic paint into a dye medium to use on cloth.

There was a wonderful 'A' shaped table lamp which had been wrapped in wool to form the lampshade. Watch out Roy I might be asking you to put your woodworking skills to good use.



*Janet and Linda demonstrating*

A young lady on a stall opposite us was using an old Singer sewing machine to prick holes in copper foil to make beautiful leaf skeletons. Stall holders demonstrating their skills adds so much more to a craft event. We met so many fascinated and interesting people. The highlight of the day was spending time with Angela and Janet. It was so nice to have time in between demonstrating to relax and chat.....

and, of course, eat cake!! A nice big gooey slice of chocolate orange cake.

**Linda Scurr**

## **Marietta Richardson's Talk, Sat 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Marietta is a natural dyer, spinner and knitter and belongs to the London Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. She is an enthusiastic gardener and grows many plants that she uses to dye fabric and yarn.

The daughter of a talented dressmaker she had access to many unusual textiles and gained skills in sewing and knitting but it was working with wool that inspired her to learn to spin. She was given a South Downs fleece and had to learn to sort it and prepare it for spinning. She joined the London Guild of WSD and then learned to dye the wool with natural dyes, using Jenny Dean's book "Natural Dyeing" and Golden Rod from her garden. She produced some pleasing colours and began to experiment with different dye plants. She tried growing and using Madder, Weld, and Indigo among many other flowering plants in her garden in Hackney and quickly realised that some natural dyes are not colour fast.

This led to many experiments with mordants and different temperatures and times for heating the fibres. Marietta started the Association's Certificate in Dyeing and went on to attend many courses on dyeing in this country and abroad. In Laos she went to the Weaving Centre and learned to dye silk and do Ikat weaving.

Marietta showed us many samples of her dyeing and also some beautiful jumpers using her own dyed and spun yarns, her enthusiasm for her subject inspired me to have another go but to make better notes of what I am doing and maybe I will produce more colours from plants in my garden.

**Marion Proctor**

## **Dye it Yourself Socks**

I've been knitting socks for myself and family members for many years nearly always using dedicated sock wool. I fondly remember my first pair in a giraffe-like print by Opal which came in a kit with a set of dpn's. My workmates looked on in bemusement as I clicked away in my lunchbreak wondering why I didn't just go to M&S. I didn't even try to explain.

This summer one of my granddaughters, Pippa, requested a new pair of Nana socks but had very specific colour ideas. Despite rifling through my stash and looking online at the many options available nothing seemed to light a spark with her. On one of my internet searches I came across Regia Sock Wool for Hand-Dye and thought this might be a fun way to spend an afternoon. It cost just under £5 for 100gm skein so, if it was a complete disaster, we hadn't splashed out too much.

I already had a lot of dyes, so Pip chose two shades from the Landscape Dye range. I persuaded her that narrow stripes in her chosen colours would be the best pattern for a first attempt then set about planning how to achieve it. Firstly, I sampled the yarn, knitting a few rounds on my usual 2.5 dpn's. I then measured the yarn needed for three rounds (approx 225 cms). I rewound the yarn on my warping board to give me a skein of 450cms - three rows of each colour.

Next time the family were visiting the sun was shining so we set up an old camping table in the garden and mixed the dyes. The yarn was laid on cling film for wrapping once the dye was applied. Application was done using a cut up sponge scourer, colouring half the skein in one colour and the other half in the second colour. We left small areas undyed to give a slightly mottled effect. The skein was then wrapped tightly in the cling film and wound into a spiral to fit into the old preserving pan I use for dyeing. I set the yarn on a trivet so that it was steamed rather than boiled for thirty minutes, then left to cool completely before



*Dyeing in process*



Final dyed yarn

unwrapping and rinsing. The resulting yarn was very bright – I think I could have reduced the concentration of dye we used.

The socks have now been knitted and will be presented to Pip next time I see her. I'm not sure the colour is quite what she had in mind but we both enjoyed the exercise and it's whetted my appetite to try dyeing more sock yarn.

Lynne Bond

## Roy's Challenge from the last Shuttle

Apologies from the Editor for a typing mistake in the Wordsearch. There were actually only 21 words, as Zucchini had been misspelt in the grid as Zuccfini.

Sadly, only one person sent in an answer for the wordsearch, that was Lesley Dunn. She got all of the 21 out of 22 on Roy's list that she could have done, and also found a few others. Congratulations to Lesley.

The words (including the misspelt one) were:

Blanket	Degree	Destination	Device	Equipment	Gallery
Grandmother	Holidays	Kentucky	Miniature	Palace	Playground
Raccoon	Reader	Settlement	Sheep	Shield	Splendid
Symbol	Towel	Upright	<i>Zucchini (Zuccfini)</i>		

Lesley also found Leg, Gems, Rat, Neck

## CRAFT SOCIALS

### Aldbourne Braid Days

**The next Aldbourne Braid Day is 4<sup>th</sup> December with a shared lunch, which is the final date for 2022.**

The cost is £8.00 per head per day. Biscuits, cake and hot drinks are provided free of charge. Please contact me for directions and so that I can keep an eye on numbers.

Next year's dates are not yet available, but keep an eye out in the next shuttle.

**Sal Shepherd -**

# CIRCLES & SPHERES

## AN EXPLORATION

Wednesday 23rd August 2023 - Sunday 17th September 2023

Our theme for 2023 includes ideas and concepts that will showcase our skills across all of our disciplines; so whether you're a weaver, spinner, dyer, or all three, we hope you'll be inspired by some of the ideas listed below.

### DISCIPLINES AND OBJECTS

Hanks of handspun fibre.  
Knitting in the round with handspun fibre.  
Hand dyed handspun or dyed commercial yarn.

Woven fabrics featuring dots and circles using hand dyed, handspun or commercial yarns.

Tapestries and/or other wall hangings in circular shapes using hand dyed, handspun or commercial yarns.

Embroideries: using hand dyed yarns or backgrounds focusing on circular themes.

Mobiles: with spheres and circles, donut shapes made with hand dyed, woven or handspun elements.

Bowls: woven, spun and knitted, crocheted, dyed and felted.

Christmas baubles: lace, woven, handspun, knitted, crocheted, dyed and felted.

Buttons - Dorset.

Jewellery: hand dyed, felted balls

Circular bags or cushions: woven, spun, knitted, crocheted, dyed.

### INSPIRATIONS

- Life and time cycles  
The cycle of a dye plant - samples from different stages of the plant's growth.
  - Dye and spin fibres and embroider a life cycle e.g. a butterfly.
  - Seasons of the year. Maybe four woven panels or four skeins or four tapestries or four dyed items
  - Day and night
- Planets: be inspired by a sunrise, sunset, Saturn, the moon etc.
- Windmills
- Wheels
- Flowers, seeds, seed-heads
- Cakes, biscuits
- Cups, saucers, plates, tins
- Crop circles
- Stone circles like Stonehenge, Avebury etc
- Whirlpools
- Sport - balls, rings
- Interlocking circles
- Radial patterns
- Dream catchers
- Pom-poms
- Umbrellas.

### Let's get started!

August 2023 seems like a long way off, but in creative time, it's not. Consider how colour, texture and scale could inspire you to get started on your exhibit(s).

The main thing is that we all enjoy the creative process and have fun! The Guild intends to run some Circles & Spheres themed workshops and challenges in 2022/23 for you to enjoy.

### Need help?

Have a chat with Nicky or email [kvgwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:kvgwebmaster@gmail.com)



[kennet-valley-guild.com](http://kennet-valley-guild.com)

## 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. There are no more meetings in 2022, but they will start again in 2023. **The next meeting will be 28th January 2023.** Other dates for 2023 are 25th February, 25th March, 29th April, 27th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 23rd September, 28th October and 25th November. All meetings from 9.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. The final meeting for 2023 will be 25th November from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with a shared lunch. £4.00 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.

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 March 2023 issue of the Shuttle is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The email address is kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com**

Website: [www.kennet-valley-guild.com](http://www.kennet-valley-guild.com)

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