



of
Weavers, Spinners
and Dyers

The Shuttle

September 2022

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 1 st October	Guild Meeting Delia Salter – Textile Artist. More details to come.
Sat 5 th November	Guild Meeting Marietta Richardson – Dyer and Spinner. Marietta grows a dyeing garden that is part of the National Garden Scheme. More details to come
Sat 3 rd December	Guild Meeting Christmas Meeting, chat, and ‘Fashion Show’
Sat 7 th January	Guild Meeting January half day workshops. 10.30 – 12.30 Morning Workshops 13.30 – 15.30 Afternoon Workshops More information will be available in meeting

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 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.

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)). 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 everybody, I hope you are all well and coping with the heatwave I prefer to sit in the shade and spin or knit or have a glass of wine or all three.

It seems ages ago that I last wrote in the shuttle so I will start as far back as the Jubilee and all the celebrations that went along with it. We had a marvellous street party in the cul-de-sac where I live. All the young families were brilliant at setting it up and providing entertainment for the children. You never know what goes on behind closed doors and as I was chatting to a young lad it turns out that he is a magician and produces apps for magicians for his job. I asked if he would show us some tricks and he told me he is a member of the magic circle. He was very entertaining and showed us some amazing tricks. I always thought he was such a quiet boy shy boy it just shows how wrong you can be. We had several BBQs that weekend it was great to catch up with family and friends. I was exhausted by the end of the weekend but had such a marvellous time it was worth the late nights.

I have caught up with a group of friends who are all keen crocheters and knitters I had forgotten how they are all expert cake makers too and put on a wonderful spread at our little catch ups. I'm afraid when it's my turn to host it will be shop bought cakes. I have enjoyed attending the weavers' group and have had a go with a Lucet thanks to Sal for helping me with it and also Lynne helping me with some circular weaving so I have learnt more new things and look forward to making something with both crafts.

I don't know where to start with the wedding! I went to the hotel the night before with my daughter and we met up with the bride to be and her family for a lovely meal in Richmond where the atmosphere was very jolly and holiday like and got us in the wedding zone for the next day. We had beautiful views of the Thames from the hotel. I was so excited to start the day. The wedding was just family I was surprised at how emotional the day was, but I think with smaller weddings that can be the case. The bride looked absolutely stunning, and my son brushed up well too. The food was delicious, and we had plenty of champagne throughout the day. The speeches were brilliant and think most of us had a little cry during the speeches and the wedding ceremony. The day ended with dancing (for the youngsters) and me chatting to anyone who would listen. It was a really happy day and our football team won so that made my son's day. Look after yourselves in the heat.

Pat Christmas

SHOW-AND-TELL

June There was a definite 50's theme to some of the items on show this month to fit in with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Rosie brought in two delicate and beautifully preserved silk dresses which she had worn as a toddler. One was embellished with embroidery which she thinks may have been done by her mother. There were also some black and white photos of her taken at that time.

Sal Shepherd sent in a colourful fair isle button-through waistcoat along with a folder of 50's patterns and Meg Crowther sent in a navy striped child's jumper with motifs on the yolk which had been knitted by her mother. She still has the original pattern.

Coming a bit more up-to-date Marion Proctor showed us a 70's style batwing sweater which she started as a lockdown project. It was knitted sideways from cuff to cuff using two different sized needles to give an unusual textured surface.

Jean Hills has been crocheting cute bags in the shape of dogs' heads. They came from a booklet called Joseph Bear Designs which includes other animals. So far

Jean has made a Husky, a Poodle and an Old English Sheepdog. Her next project is a Cockerpool.

Lynne Harper was inspired to make a windmill with woven triangular sails after watching Linda Scurr using her Triloom which can be used to weave a triangular shape using a continuous thread. Lynne's sails were woven from ribbon and yarn and were mounted on a piece of dowel much like the colourful plastic seaside versions. She thinks this will make a good mini workshop so watch this space

Last, but not least, Nicky has been exploring the theme of the upcoming exhibition, Circles and Spheres. She has made two colourful wet-felted circular bowls formed round some pizza base packaging to separate the layers. These were then pummelled into bowl shapes before being dried and embellished with needle felting.

July Having described her exploration into prehistoric textiles in the last Shuttle, Anne Reddan has been continuing the theme by experimenting with making fibre from nettles. She showed us the result – a small bobbin of green twine made from the outer layer of the plant stems which were dried then softened and twisted into strands and still retaining the soft green nettle colour. Anne hopes to do further studies into this subject which we look forward to hearing about in the future.

August This month saw the culmination of the Blackjack challenge with the presentation of the Spinners and Weavers trophies to the members who best interpreted their Blackjack brief. Some had gone on to produce articles based on their samples.

Lynne Harper, who won the Weavers' trophy, made a 'Hobo' bag to her own design using green, rust and white tencel, woven in large checks to emulate patchwork which were the requirements of her cards. She lined the bag with a toning rust-coloured cotton.

Rosie Price had to incorporate stripes, more than one fibre and knitting into her woven challenge and used the resulting fabric to make a waistcoat in shades of grey/blue/white. The yarn was a mixture of wool, cotton and possibly a man-made fibre acquired by Rosie many years ago from Woolfest. She wove the waistcoat in one piece using a double weave structure.

Meg Crowther started on her challenge of bright colours on white background incorporating regular spots and some sparkle by trying to weave with linen on her rigid heddle loom. After several false starts due to tension problems she abandoned the linen and rethreaded her loom with purple, white and blue cotton using the resulting large check fabric to make a shoulder bag. She also

made an inkle braid in the same colours for the sides and handle and constructed a Celtic knot style clasp from a Lucet braid.

Jennifer Thompson had to use similar hues, ribbon and double weave for her challenge. She developed her sample into a back support cushion in shades of pink with the double weave forming channels for stuffing.

Linda Scurr used a rigid heddle loom to produce her Blackjack sample to include a crammed and spaced warp, bright colours on a white background and regular spots. She used handspun and dyed merino to weave a brightly coloured scarf with large gaps which became her regular spots.

There were three other Show and Tell items unrelated to the Blackjack challenge.

Jean Hills was inspired by Joyce Meader's talk on the history of knitting to knit a Victorian cape in red with a black trim. She even supplied her own dressmaker's dummy to display the cape to great effect. The pattern comes in three sizes and Jean plans to knit all three.

Lynne Harper is working on a set of cushions woven in wool using a triple weave construction to produce a double layer of offset channels for stuffing. She has also made a long length of inkle braid to edge each cushion.

Linda Scurr is getting ahead with some ideas for the next Guild exhibition which has a theme of circles and spheres. Using her wet felting skills, she made a picture of a multicoloured sunburst formed from coloured locks set against a black background. She has also felted a sphere in blocks of primary colours.

Lynne Bond

GUILD TROPHIES

Trophies awarded since the last shuttle

August 2022 meeting:

Weavers' Trophy: Lynne Harper

Spinners' Trophy: Anne Reddan

Upcoming Trophies

October 2022: Hawkridge Trophy

November 2022: Dyers' Trophy

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

Well, it was worth the wait! After a number of postponements, we finally had the two

BlackJack challenges for weaving and spinning. Many thanks must go to Pat Foster and Meg for organising them.

It was wonderful to see so many entries. I don't ever remember having to get out two large tables before! The entries were amazing. So many people working right outside their comfort zones. Both judges said that they had the most difficult job choosing the winners because the standard was so high. Because of this it was decided to also award Highly commended certificates.

The winner of the weavers' trophy was Lynne Harper. Anne Reddan was highly commended.

The winner of the spinners' trophy was Anne Reddan. Lynne Bond was highly commended.

Congratulations to the winners and well done indeed to everyone who entered.

The next trophy to be awarded will be the Hawkridge trophy in October. This trophy was donated by Gill's father-in-law, Tony Meadows. He bought twelve Jacob ewes and one ram so that Gill would have fleece to spin. The trophy is for anything made from Jacob fleece so, all of you Jacob aficionados in the Guild, now is the time to start spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting etc and we look forward to seeing lots of entries in October.

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.

THE BLACKJACK CHALLENGE

Weavers' BlackJack

The Kennet Valley Guild has played the BlackJack game several times in the past and has just completed the game for 2022. Previous games were for weavers only. This year it covered spinners as well and Meg Crowther has written an article about those inputs.

The rules were as follows. The game started in January 2022. The coordinator was Pat Foster for the weavers. It is played as follows.

- The coordinator holds a total of 74 cards each with a characteristic of a woven piece written on it, for example, Use Linen, Overshot, Fancy yarn.
- Each person takes 3 cards (at random) and looks at them. Sometimes one card stands out as unusable with the other two and that one can be returned, and another card taken.
- The whole group discusses what might be done and that member will go away and weave whatever they like, driven by what the cards say.

The contributor can just do small samples or a larger project, set of hand-towels, a runner, scarf, whatever. A display of samples for the Guild was shown at the August Guild meeting (06/08/22). That gave each contributor 6 months to come up with a weave which fits their cards. One rule is that the contributor needs to weave one sample for the Group archives. There were 12 contributors in the weaving section and the results were very varied. The 12 samples are shown in Figures 1 and 2 which gives some idea of the variety presented. What impressed me is that various entries nonchalantly used very difficult techniques. A good example is Carol Hubbard who dyed her own yarn (turquoise no less, a very iffy dye) and managed to get the weft dyes placed on the weft yarn exactly right. Speaking as someone who has tried that several times with little success, I can only applaud. Some entries used knitting while Linda Scurr used felting to produce an interesting object.

I should add that Lynne Harper was awarded the Weaving Trophy and a Highly Commended certificate was awarded to Anne Reddan. In fact, I rather think like Alice in Wonderland, everyone should have been awarded a prize.

Pat Foster.

Spinners' Blackjack

Back at the beginning of the year, when the weavers started their Blackjack challenge, I made a passing remark at a Zoom meeting that there was no reason why the spinners couldn't take part in their own version. A bad case of open mouth, put in foot. I had no idea that by making that comment I would end up organising the spinners' Blackjack challenge.

Imagine a list of 75 different weaving challenges, varying from types of yarn, weaving techniques through to colour variations and inspiration, you name it, and it was most likely on the list. Then take that list and try to convert it to spinning techniques. I didn't know that I knew that many different ways of spinning! After a day searching through all my reference books and then another day of tweaking and I managed to produce 75 options.

From there it got quite a bit easier, everyone who wanted to join in selected numbers/cards at random between 1-75 and they were given the corresponding descriptions from the list. A few adjustments were made as, from a spinning point of view, some of the combinations were not compatible and for beginners there were some items

that were too complex. Whilst the idea of the challenge is to take people out of their comfort zone and try new things no one wants to be pushed too far.

The result was that nine people decided to have a go, which for a first time was not bad. It would be great to do it again at some point and have more entries. Unfortunately, three of the nine were unable to get their entries to the meeting for judging, but as two people each put in two entries there was still a good selection.

The entries included a good range of techniques including navajo plying, spinning from rolags, overspun singles in one or more plies, thick and thin, different hues same tone, no more than 2 ply, long staple fibre only, man-made fibre, random colour effects, use neps or gnarls and bright colours on a white background to name but a few. Everyone that submitted an entry had obviously tried very hard to fulfil their brief and I know several had been tested with their techniques, but the variety of skeins was lovely and difficult to judge due to the quality of the work. The final decision came down to who had best fulfilled their brief, the quality of the spinning along with a description of an appropriate intended use

Lesley Dunn put in two entries having had to purchase more fibre and finding that the second batch spun up better/differently than the original, whilst Linda Scurr put it two entries as she had used the techniques given for her weavers' numbers. Interestingly she had come up with pretty much the same translation as I had, so I felt that I must have managed a reasonably good conversion. However, her second spinning version entry varied slightly from the brief as her skeins did not contain any 'knees or nails' (I hadn't spotted that the autocorrect on my email had added its own version to the challenge). Jennifer Thompson put in two skeins for the one entry which was very interesting as I could see the difference between the first and second attempts at navajo plying, and the improvement in the balance/control of the technique in the second skein.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part and I hope that they all felt that gained as much from the challenge as I gained from having to work out the conversion from weaving to spinning. It certainly made me think hard about the variety of techniques we can try with our spinning. Sometimes it is worth stepping outside our comfort zone and trying something different, even if it just tells us that it is something we won't be trying again! If you don't try something new you will never know if it is worth it.

Meg Crowther.

Worldwide spin in public day this year is

18th September

Why not venture out and take part.



Gift exchanges



1950's patterns

Cucumber sandwiches



Queen's Jubilee Meeting

What do they do with all this wool? Oh No, they are going to knit me a 1950's swimsuit.



Cream Scones



Queen Sue?



Thanks to Julie for time as secretary





June



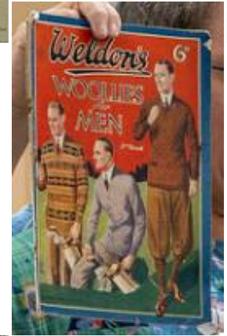
SHOW
and
TELL



July – nettle fibre



August



Joyce Meader and some of the many historical knitting treasures that she brought to share with us





SPINNING BLACKJACK SAMPLES

↻ From top left clockwise
 Lynne Bond,
 Meg Crowther, Marie
 FitzSimons, Sue Malvern,
 Carol Hubbard,
 Jenny Gribble



WEAVING BLACKJACK SAMPLES

↻ From top left clockwise
 Rosie Price, Marion Proctor,
 Anne Reddan, Linda Scurr,
 Jennifer Thompson,
 Lynne Harper.



ARTICLES

Joyce Meader's talk on Knitting

A July Meeting when no one fell asleep! We had a wonderful speaker with Joyce Meader, who brought along a large amount of old patterns and knitted items and spoke about patterns going back to the early 1800s. Joyce related to how the patterns were written and items made, some knitted garments had been given to her, however she painstakingly knitted things herself... she showed us a cardigan to go over a tiny waisted corset, and many other items such as a pattern for Dutch caps, similar to what the Pope wears and a lovely funny story to go with it, she was full of anecdotes and frivolity... we did have some laughs that afternoon.... it was priceless. Joyce has some other talks on Military 1st World war knitted garments and hopefully she will come back again... and more guild members can enjoy a good afternoon.

Daphne Burgess

Royal Welsh and Other News from Linda Scurr

I have been very busy crafting recently but apart from weaving and spinning for the blackjack challenge very little of it has been spin weave dye related. Every year I enter the handicraft competitions at the Royal Welsh show.

When I got the schedule back in 2019, I chose at least 12 things that I wanted to make. The schedule gives you a reason to make something and, also, a deadline so you can't start something and then add it to the UFO pile. Bearing in mind that 2020 and 2021 shows were cancelled I should have had plenty of time to make everything BUT NO!! It was a last-minute dash to get everything done.

I had a great time at the show, won prizes in some very good classes and saw lots of things that have inspired me to make something for our next guild exhibition, circles and spheres. Some of my entries didn't do so well. The judge said my felting wasn't worth judging and there was a comment with my woven cow saying keep trying! They do big exhibits at the Welsh and one flower arrangement had a spinning wheel in the middle of it with flowers all around the wheel and base.

Now though I can turn my focus back onto guild related crafts and have started looking at my stash and UFO piles. My indoor stash (mainly merino and exotics) is big enough but my home-grown fleece mountain is enormous. So big I will need to hire a lorry to deliver it to the spinning mill I use in Yorkshire. I will pop in to see Ruth and Alan at Wingham wools and try very hard (but unsuccessfully) not to add any more fibre to my collection.

Right now though we have a heatwave and I am going to sit in the orchard surrounded by sheep spinning a nice big, in the grease, fleece as well as washing some fleeces for use

later. Spinning and weaving is firmly back on the agenda..... until the next Royal Welsh schedule is published.

The August Meeting seemed to be very low in numbers but without a speaker or the customary dyeing in the Churchyard it gave us the opportunity to do more chatting than usual which was nice.

It was good to see so many entries in the Blackjack challenge. I did both spinning and weaving challenges and although I have been spinning and weaving for years it pushed me into trying new techniques. I enjoyed experimenting with the weaving, but it reaffirmed my dislike of spinning nepps, those nasty little fluffy bits that have the habit of flying off in all directions. I am still finding them in unusual places. Meg who judged the spinning jokingly tried to eliminate my skein because it wasn't bright enough. I assure you Meg there are lots of very bright specks all over the house. It was only the dull ones that stayed in the skein! I hope guild sets us another challenge soon but not involving nepps!

Linda Scurr

Henley Traditional Boat Festival



Yet again due to the generosity of Lady McAlpine in providing us with a marquee, a number of us spent a wonderful couple of days sat by the River Thames enjoying the spectacle know as TRAD, Henley traditional boat festival. It is a mix of classic old boats, many Dunkirk veterans, and vintage cars and usually some sort of fly past.

It was too hot to fly the bi and tri planes, but the Lancaster flew over incredibly low. Sadly, I missed it flying over as I had already set off to Wales. A local pub, Crooked Billet, does a pop-up pub with excellent food and the local brewery was there with a decent drop of beer and Daise from the local farmers market was supplying lovely little cakes.

I would like to thank all the usual suspects that came along. You know who you are. Last year was too cold, this year was too hot. Let's keep our fingers crossed for perfect weather next year. I would like to encourage all our guild members to get involved in demonstrating at shows and events. It is a wonderful way to spend time getting to know other guild members. Don't think for one minute that you aren't good enough because you are. You don't need to be an expert, you have made a start with spinning or weaving and that is what the public want to see.

Linda Scurr

Celebrating the Queen's 70th Jubilee

Our June meeting coincided with the celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee, so we decided to use it as the theme for the guild meeting.

Sue Davies took on the planning co-ordinator role for the day, and the result was a very successful meeting.

Quite a few of us brought in wrapped gifts so that we could take part in the 'Gift Swap'. As we entered the hall in the morning we handed in our gifts to Sue. These were all given a number. Those members bringing gifts were also given a number – but a different one! Later in the day, instead of a raffle, all of us who had provided gifts received the gift which had been the same number as ourselves. There was a wide range of different objects, mainly hand-made or coming from stash or.... They included a felted bowl in red, white and blue, a scarf, a ply-split braided keyring, yarn, loom weights, a knitted bird, and others. You can see some of them in the picture in the centre pages

Many of our members also took in 1950's themed objects to show, or items from later in the Queen's reign, as mentioned in the section earlier about the Show and tell items.

Many thanks must go to Sue and Nicky who provided mountains of delicious cucumber sandwiches at lunch time. They were devoured by thankful members. Then, as if that wasn't enough, they followed up with scones with Jam and Cream – absolutely scrumptious.

Apart from all this there was plenty of time to chat and craft. Thanks to all involved for an excellent day.

Lynne Harper

A New Guild has started local to some of our members.

Swindon Guild of Weavers, Dyers and Spinners meets from 2 pm – 5pm on the third Saturday of the month at Moose Hall, Escott Road, SN1 3LS. The monthly entry cost is £4.

Their first meeting was on the 16th July, and their second on the 20th August.

If you are interested they have a Facebook page. According to notes on this, parking is available for Moose Hall, and the hall is fully accessible for wheelchairs.

Warp Weighted Looms



Woven header lashed on to header bar

The Berrycroft Hub held a two day workshop in June on setting up and using a warp weighted loom. On arrival we were introduced to Barbara Klessig, our tutor, who was on a three month visit to the UK from America. With a fascination and extensive knowledge of ancient textiles and their production she was an excellent tutor whose patience and enthusiasm for her subject never wavered throughout the weekend.

Our looms were already assembled, consisting of a 'A' frame with a removable top bar, a heddle rod and heddle holders which fitted into slots on the frame. Barbara had also made woven headers which incorporated the warp threads so all we had to do was to set up the warp and start weaving. It sounded simple but as with setting up any loom, time, patience and accuracy are needed to be able to weave successfully. We made our loom weights

from accessible materials: small calico bags which we filled from a bucket of small stones shovelled up from the yard outside the barn! We didn't start weaving until the afternoon of the second day which was an exciting moment but, unhappy with my shed separation at the time I've since unpicked the weaving and set up the warp again with absolutely no crossed threads this time. I understand that these looms are closest to rigid heddle looms in their use and Barbara talked about demonstrating weaving with pick up sticks but unfortunately none of us got far enough for that to happen. However, this is something we can explore at home especially as we all took advantage of the option to buy our looms and left with a loom and extra yarn to complete our weaving.

With only five of us in the group there was plenty of time for individual attention if we needed it and throughout the weekend Barbara demonstrated how to thread a continuous heddle and set up a woven headband using warping posts and a narrow rigid heddle. Being a small group, we were soon talking with each other and



discovering our shared interests. As some people were staying overnight we had a meal in a local pub at the end of the first day and left on the final day with a WhatsApp group set up so that we can keep in touch and share our progress.

This is a very short summary of a most enjoyable two days. I have included some links below which cover some further information.

Barbara Klessig <https://anthropology.humboldt.edu/people/barbara-klessig>

Warp weighted looms <https://www.trc-leiden.nl/trc-digital-exhibition/index.php/ancient-greek-loom-weights/item/132-4-what-is-a-warp-weighted-loom>

Anne Reddan

For the Royal Berks



Charity Donations



On Monday 8th August I entrusted Parcel force with our wonderful knitted things for Christian Hope International and on Wednesday tracking said it had been delivered so

fingers crossed it has!! After dropping the parcel at the post office, I went on to the Royal Berks hospital where I found a volunteer by reception who was very pleased to take our donation.

Imagine my surprise when on Tuesday I received a letter from Christian Hope thanking us for all the wonderful things we had sent. Where on earth that parcel had been I've no idea but I'm just so relieved that it finally got there.

We are hoping that a lot of visitors to Southern Wool Show will come and sit in our cosy corner knitting squares for us to make more blankets and knee rugs. We still have a few Regent Street scarves and if we sell them any the money will go to Southern Wool supported charity Naomi House.

Thanks to everyone who gave us yarn and needles for the show. A big thank you to Sally and Meg



For Christian Hope

for putting together the knee rugs and blankets. Thanks to all of you who have made things for our good causes, it really does make a difference to people's lives. Always here to collect but not in September!!

Rosie Price

Ruth Asawa – Citizen of the Universe



On a sunny Friday in June, Sue Malvern and I took advantage of our Concessionary Bus Passes and boarded the Thames Travel service from Reading to Oxford city centre. The route passes through some pretty villages and lovely countryside, so we headed for the top deck in the hope of getting the front seats and the best view. On this occasion we were thwarted by a group of walkers so had to settle for aisle seats. Our destination was Modern Art Oxford where an exhibition of the life and work of the late Ruth Asawa,

sculptor, educator and activist, was being held.

While not fitting into our core disciplines, Ruth Asawa's hanging sculptures do look as though they have been woven, or even knitted in wire. Using this single simple material she created sinuous hanging shapes like chains of interconnected spheres sometimes with smaller forms inside. The sight of so many of these pieces in one gallery space was magical. Her work was influenced by the natural world and things she saw around her. Some later pieces were formed to resemble tree-like structures by taking a thick bundle of wire tied together then thinned out into successively smaller bundles from the centre to look like branches. Ruth Asawa's working and family life was documented by Isobel Cunningham a neighbour and friend who was also a talented photographer. Many of these photographs were on display alongside the sculptures giving an intimate insight into her working life.

Ruth Asawa was born in 1926 to Japanese parents in rural California. She and her six siblings were expected to work on the family smallholding after school. Like many people of Japanese heritage, the family was interned in a Relocation Centre in 1942 after the attack on Pearl Harbour. Living conditions were cramped and squalid but she had time to indulge her love of art and became adept at repurposing all sorts of scraps for her craft projects. She later trained as an art teacher but was not able to get a job because of her Japanese heritage. Instead, she enrolled at Black Mountain College the now famous

experimental art school and was taught by Josef Albers amongst others. She was able to explore many techniques and materials and slowly developed her style.

At Black Mountain Ruth met her future husband Albert Lanier an architectural student. They went on to have six children who were brought up surrounded by their mother's work. She combined family life and her art practice in one space. As her children grew, she became aware of the lack of art tuition in schools. Galvanising local parents, mostly women, she started organising workshops in local elementary schools and formed the Alvarado School Arts Workshops which reached over fifty schools in ten years. They scrounged materials where they could and made hundreds of batches of 'bakers clay' out of flour, salt and water (I remember making this for my own brood – poor man's Play Doh). She went on to use this material for larger pieces that would be cast in bronze often involving the local community in the making.



Ruth Asawa lived a long life and was involved in many community initiatives and campaigns while continuing to produce her wonderful pieces of art. I knew nothing about her life before seeing this exhibition, she was an amazing woman, gentle and humble. It was a very enjoyable day that I won't forget.

P.S. I have since obtained a biography of Ruth Asawa. If anyone would like to read it please let me know – she deserves to be better known.

Lynne Bond

Some Unsolicited Publicity

Linda Scurr says she “met a lovely lady in Wales who makes and sells scarf rings and shawl pins etc.”

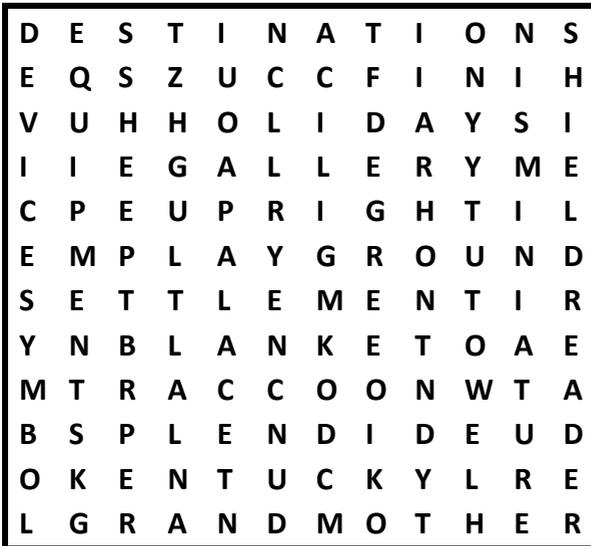
She says you might like to look at the website, as everything seems very high quality and sensibly priced

www.cloverzone.co.uk

Linda says that she loved chatting to the lady, who is thinking of buying a loom.



A Challenge from Roy



Roy has sent in this challenge.

In the grid of letters find the 22 words that Roy has identified, and win or share a Prize.

Entries, by 31st October, to:

kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com

The name of the winner, and the answers will be in the December Shuttle

*If God had intended for me to do housework,
He wouldn't have created Spinning Wheels*

If I knit fast
enough, does it
count as exercise?

The Summer Festival, or beyond Fibre East

Jenn and I had been to Fibre East a couple of times, so were sorry to hear it was no more. However, our friends who organise the Southern Wool show took over the site and dates to run a 'Summer Wool Show'. We were free that weekend, and I 'needed' a few items, so we decided to go along.

The weather was iffy, rain forecast, but more of that later. The show itself was distributed amongst several school rooms in several buildings, and a marquee. The theatre had stands from several Guilds, and they were very welcoming, as one would hope. Among the stand holders there were old favourites, e.g. Threshing Barn, and more local ones. Plus, a food court at the centre of proceedings.

We enjoyed the show, and I managed to buy half of my shopping list, and we both managed to find some unexpected items we needed as gifts.

Unfortunately, as we were about to leave it started raining. We hung back under shelter until it eased, then decided to risk it. We didn't leave it long enough, just after we started the heavens completely opened, and we got very wet – even with umbrellas.

Still, it was a good day, however with it being so close in time (just over a month) from the Southern Wool Show in Newbury, we probably won't go again as it is quite a distance from us in Swindon. However, for those who live closer, it is certainly worth a visit.

Lynne Harper

CRAFT SOCIALS

Aldbourn Braid Days

Aldbourn Braid days are about to start again this October.

The next Aldbourn Braid Day is 9th October with a shared lunch. The final date for 2022 is the 4th December.

The cost is £5.00 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.

Sal Shepherd -

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 24th September 2022.** Other dates for 2022 are 22nd October and 6th November. 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 December 2022 issue of the Shuttle is 14th November 2022. The email address is kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com

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