



of
Weavers, Spinners
and Dyers

The Shuttle

June 2021

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the Shuttle is still in the same format as last month as we minimise costs by not needing to post copies. We are only printing copies for those with no access to the internet. If you want a hard copy, please print from the pdf on the web page. If you don't have a printer, perhaps one of you family will be able to do it for you.

We still have no idea of when we will be able to meet again, so I entreat you all to continue to send me items during the next three months ready for the next edition. The next Shuttle Issue will definitely still be in this format, but let's hope that by Christmas we will be meeting again, and the shuttle will be back to its old, printed format.

Lynne Harper, Shuttle Editor

FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 11 th June	Zoom (Spinners') Chat: 10:30 start
Fri 18 th June	Zoom (Weavers') Chat: 10:30 start
Sat 3 rd July	Guild Zoom AGM Meeting: 10:30 start 11:00: The Uist Spinning Mill , by Hazel Smith
Fri 9 th July	Zoom (Spinners') Chat: 10:30 start
Fri 16 th July	Zoom (Weavers') Chat: 10:30 start
Either Fri 6 th Or Sat 7 th August	Guild Zoom Meeting: 10:30 start Still to be decided, including whether on a Friday or Saturday
Either Fri 3 rd Or Sat 4 th September	Guild Zoom Meeting: 10:30 start Still to be decided, including whether on a Friday or Saturday
Dates and times for other Zoom 'Chat' sessions are decided monthly, please watch your emails for details.	
25 th Aug – 19 th Sept 2021	Guild exhibition, West Berkshire Museum, Newbury
4 th & 5 th September	Southern Wool Show, at Newbury Race Course (Fingers crossed!!)

GUILD MEETINGS

Guild meetings 'in the flesh', at Greenham are cancelled until further notice. Most of the planned events detailed above, are on Zoom. 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.

GUILD DEMONSTRATIONS and GUILD COURSES

In view of the Covid-19 situation there will be no demonstrations, or workshops/courses this year, however we hope that this will eventually be back to normal, so watch out in forth-coming shuttles for more information.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Hello everyone.

I hope you are all coping and coming through this awful time and that you are all up to date with your vaccinations. The weather is pretty awful too so what a blessing to have all our lovely crafts to keep us busy.

We have had many zoom meetings over the last year and like me I hope you have all enjoyed them and acquired many hints and tips and learnt some new things along the way. For everyone's safety we aren't sure yet when we can return to meetings at the church hall. It all depends on government advice, and we will keep you up to date when we know what is going to happen.

The exhibition is going ahead as planned if there are any changes we will be exhibiting on line details will follow if that is the case. Please keep producing your wonderful pieces and submit details of your items to Lynne Harper at The Shuttle; she is waiting eagerly for your forms.

If anyone would like to send photos to be included in The Shuttle or the website please could they be items from your lockdown projects not exhibition ones as we all want a lovely surprise on the day of set up.

Our speaker in May was Sarah Burns she gave us a very interesting talk about her experience as a block printer. She told us about how she is inspired by the chalk downs, water meadows and ancient tracks and villages near her home. She has also written a book about 1930's block printers and textile designers 'Barron and Larcher' who were very passionate about their work.

Please join in any of our Zoom chats it will be lovely to catch up with everyone and anyone who hasn't joined it yet. Look after yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all at the next zoom. Bye for now.

Pat Christmas

OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Here is a quick introduction to myself and how I joined the guild.

I have been crocheting and attempting to knit for around 10 years now. I am interested in a few crafts and have painted in oils and acrylic, had a go at fused glass and decoupage to name a few.

I met Daphne at the Newbury Show who persuaded me to join the guild. I will admit it took me a long time to learn to spin and I honestly thought I would never be able to do it but after trying a double treadle wheel it finally clicked. I still consider myself a beginner but have absolutely enjoyed the whole process of all things fibre. I love experimenting with art yarn blending and dyeing. I do believe I am obsessed and can't wait to learn more about all of it. I also have a samplit loom to add to my stash of goodies.

I am married with 3 grown up children and am soon to be a grandma for the second time.

I will do my best to fulfil my role as chairman, this is a role I have never taken on so please be patient with me. I am very lucky to the most wonderful committee to help and support me so many thanks to all of you. I would also like to thank Louisa for 4 years of chairmanship she has done a fabulous job I hope I can do as well as her.

I will be happy to answer any questions and if anyone would like to comment please do so. Look after yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Pat Christmas

Minutes of the Guild AGM, 3rd April 2021

1. **Apologies** Mary Jarvis, Maggie Mockeridge, Sue Bramwell, Lynne Harper, Liz Poyzer, Linda Moss
2. **Quorum** 32 Attendees- AGM Quorum achieved
3. **Minutes of 2019 AGM** circulated to Membership. Minutes agreed. Agreed by those present that not feasible given Covid-19 situation to have held AGM within 18 months as required by Constitution.
4. **Chairman's report** (attached)
5. **Treasurer's report (2019)** (attached). Proposed by Debbie Richardson; seconded-Sally Shepherd. 2019 accounts accepted by AGM (no objections received)
6. **Accounts 2020** for information only as not yet audited (As attached). Proposed by Louisa Homden and seconded by Rosie Page that impracticable to finalise 2020 accounts and completion and ratification should be deferred. Agreed by AGM with no objections.
7. **June Young Trophy**- Awarded to Nicky Duncan for outstanding work in keeping people connected through Zoom, arranging Zoom Talks and Zoom Meetings.
8. **Appointment of New Chairman** Pat Christmas nominated by Louisa Homden and seconded by Lesley Dunn. After vote, 97% of AGM agreed, 3% abstained. Pat Christmas appointed.

9. **GDPR (Data Protection)** Any Member having an issue with their e-mail details being shared on Zoom invitations from Nicky Duncan should contact Nicky and she will not send the invitation through Zoom but will send it via personal e-mail.
10. **Exhibition-** Members must complete the entry forms for their submissions as soon as possible (even if the submission is not complete) and send them to Lynne Harper at g4fnc@hotmail.co.uk A copy of the entry form can be found in the most recent Shuttle or by e-mailing Lynne Harper.
11. **Forthcoming Dates**
 - a. 9.4.2021 - Chat
 - b. 16.4.2021 - Chat
 - c. 23.4.2021 - Committee Meeting
 - d. 1.5.2021 - Guild Meeting
 - e. 7.5.2021 - Chat

Sue Davies -Minutes Secretary
3.4.2021

GUILD TROPHIES

Hi everyone, as you know we can't have competitions for most of our trophies until we are able to meet again in the hall. However there is one trophy that we can all enter for as long as we have something in the exhibition. The Chairman's trophy will be awarded for the item which receives most public votes at the exhibition. We are looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful things that have been created during the lockdowns and hopefully this will be the best exhibition yet! Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing!

Jennifer Thompson

ARTICLES

Teaching in Tibet

I feel sure that many of you will remember the talk Teaching in Tibet that took place on Zoom on Saturday 6th March by Amanda Hannaford about her epic trip to Tibet. It was truly inspiring watching everything Amanda achieved with her enthusiastic and willing pupils despite the language barrier. She made two trips the first - five weeks in 2016 and then again for a shorter visit in 2018. This all came about when Dolmakyap (known as DK) had returned to Tibet to be with his family and wanted to set up a textile workshop to provide employment to nomads. He wanted to know how to spin yak down. Amanda saw his online enquiry and offered advice online, but it turned out he wanted someone to actually come to Tibet to teach and her adventure began. She ended up 2900m above sea level on the eastern edge of the Tibetan plateau (Labrang in Amdo). DK also acted as her translator though she did learn a few words of Tibetan too.

Her first task was to sort the yak down and they tried very unsuccessfully to wash it as she



wasn't able to get across the importance of gentle handling. Yak down is picked up from the ground so is very dusty. The traditional method is to beat the down, rather painfully with sticks but this was not efficient, so they soon decided to get mill processed fibre. She taught the five women (from the five couples who were family and close friends of DK) how to hand card rolags and she used Bliss wheels for the spinning. Next was to create a dye space, equipment was sought locally, and they found rhubarb growing in the courtyard of their dyeing space, walnut shells that were going as waste, brazilwood and indigo. Amanda created a sample plan, and they created many shades. They already had a few looms and had been given a month of weaving training. They were weaving a traditional narrow weft-faced woollen fabric by the time she

arrived, and the plan was to dye the yarn for weft.

Amanda had also agreed to teach them how to knit and crochet although they were able to knit a bit, they did not have access to patterns and technical skills.

It wasn't all work though and she was taken to the family's summer camp on shearing day..... 2 hours by car and then a further 2 hours across rutted grasslands riding pillion on the back of a motorbike! The sheep were hand clipped.

She returned a couple of years later and witnessed the blessing and opening of their newly built centre.

Whilst there she also was also taken to Labrang monastery and temples. It was a very unexpected and entertaining talk, all the more fascinating as it was accompanied by many photos illustrating everything she had taught.

Thanks, Lesley for arranging the talk it was great, I really enjoyed it.



Carol Hubbard

A Tale of Six Wheels

My spinning journey started in very early 2013 when Lynne phoned one day and asked whether I was free to go to visit Kennet Valley Guild with her the following day. We had picked up a leaflet at Ally Pally or somewhere like that and she had found it while tidying

her office. We had often talked about learning to spin so it seemed like a good opportunity to get some information.

Well, I had nothing planned for that Saturday so off we went. I have to say that the welcome was second to none and very soon we found ourselves sitting chatting to a group of people. I remember that it was a group of three, Julie, Avril and one other whose name I can't remember. Perhaps Julie will!

I was fascinated by the spinning that I could see going on around me and, as I hadn't taken along anything to do, I went off for a wander and a chat. This is how I met Jan Shailes. We talked for a while, and I asked her whether anyone in the guild taught spinning. Unfortunately, at that time there were no classes running but she asked where Lynne and I lived. When I said Swindon she said that there was a spinning group that met fortnightly in Wootton Bassett and that we were very welcome to go along.

So here came wheel number 1. I borrowed/hired a guild wheel for the princely sum of £1/week. It was an Ashford Traveller. We duly arrived at Mary Lambert's house the following Wednesday and had a wonderful time with both Mary and Jan teaching us. We also had the best lunch which was a 'Bring and Share' although we hadn't known about that! Everyone very kindly shared their food with us. It was a feast!

We were instantly hooked on spinning and I obviously needed to get my own wheel so on to EBay I went. I know that everyone says that you shouldn't buy a wheel from EBay but I must be very lucky because all of mine from there have been great. There were on quite a few for sale of many types and many prices but I saw an Ashford Traveller amongst them and decided to go for that one since that's what I was using and getting on well with. So off we went to pick it up and wheel number 1 was returned to Guild where it continues to be loaned out to start off new spinners.



*Wheel No. 2, Ashford
Treveller. Spinning John
Arbon's merino/silk blend in
'Siren' colourway at 45 wpi
for a lacy, knitted shawl*

Wheel number 2 was and still is a beautiful wheel. It runs smoothly and does everything I want it to. I have since bought a jumbo flyer and a lace whorl which fits on my ordinary flyer and I can spin any thickness I am likely to ever want to. It is still my 'go to' wheel if I want to try out a new fibre or fancy yarn.

Once we had been bitten by the bug Lynne and I discovered wool festivals and we went to as many as we could find. We still haven't been to Woolfest but it is on our bucket list for when COVID is a distant nightmare. At a Fibre East show Lynne spotted Louet 'Victoria' on one of the stands. We both had a go and really liked it. However, they only had one with them and so it was only fair that Lynne had it since she had spotted it first. I really needed to save up for it too having already spent a fair bit that day! 😊



*Wheel No. 3, Louet Victoria.
Spinning Wingham's camel down
and tussah silk at 55 wpi for
another lacy, knitted wrap*

By the next year I had saved enough so here came wheel number 3. Although my Ashford is a traveller and fits very nicely in a car seat, I realised that it didn't like being moved as regularly as I was moving it. (I think this might be called justifying a purchase or, as someone else once put it so eloquently, 'the lady doth protest too much, methinks'.) The Victoria is of course designed to be moved regularly. It is a terrific little wheel and packs away really neatly into its backpack, which is a godsend when carrying it to Guild, spinning group or over bumpy fields on demonstration days. (Remember those?)

A friend from the spinning group had a Timbertops Leicester and I had a go on it and loved it. She phoned one day and said she had seen one for sale on EBay. Of course, I didn't NEED another wheel. The two I had were perfectly fine but, oh how I loved the look and feel of the Leicester.

So in a fit of pure indulgence Norman and I arranged to go and get it from the seller. We had a lovely day out, driving to Alfreton and having lunch on the way. The lady who was selling it had bought it from James Williamson after seeing an item about him and his wheels in a local paper. The newspaper cutting, which she gave me, even has the telephone number and time of her appointment to see him scribbled on it. She bought it in 1989 and I believe that his wife taught her to spin, but she hadn't spun for years and the wheel was mouldering in her attic. She felt that it needed to go to a loving home to be cherished and used. She actually had tears in her eyes as we put it into the car and gave me the biggest hug.

So, home came wheel number 4. As soon as I was home, I called my friend Emma, and she was on the doorstep in a flash. We had a wonderful afternoon setting up the wheel, giving it a lot of TLC and playing on it. That is a cherished memory of a wonderful friend since she died not many years later.

So why, you might ask, wheel number 5? Well, go back to the beginning of this story and you will recall that Jan Shailes taught me to spin. Jan used a Majacraft Rose. A gorgeous wheel and one which I thought I would love to own one day but with its prohibitive price I knew I never would. However, Jan had decided to upgrade to a different Majacraft wheel and knowing how much I loved hers she asked if I would be interested in buying it. Of course I was!! In fact, we were busy texting each other about a price when she was at a show in the States when she was suddenly taken ill and had to come home. There was no question of her changing her wheel then and so that



*Wheel No. 4, Timbertops Leicester.
Spinning 'Spunky Eclectic' fibre – BFL
with 20% silk and 5% sparkle at
20wpi for the weft for a woven scarf.*



Wheel No. 5, Majacraft Rose. Spinning Wingham's Kennet Valley 2020 blend at 25wpi for a knitted cardigan.

dream bit the dust — or so I thought. Move forward a year or so and Emma, who was a mutual friend from the spinning group and knew how much I loved Jan's wheel, messaged me one day to say that a friend of hers was selling a Rose because she wanted to buy electronic drums instead and Emma thought I might be interested. You know the answer to that, and Emma put the two of us in touch to arrange details. I would love to say that Emma came over to play with this wheel too but sadly she died before I got it. It did come with 11x 35litre crates of gorgeous fibre though, a lot of which I sold at Guild in aid of the Hospice which had been so good to Emma.

Wheel number 5 was home and at the moment I am using it to spin the Wingham Kennet Valley 2020 fibre to make a cardigan for our exhibition.

My collection was complete — or so I thought. A few weeks ago, Norman spotted another Timbertops Leicester on EBay. He asked if I wanted it. I said no, I already have one. It was on at a ridiculously low price. Not a soul was interested in it. Norman was the only one watching. The auction ended. It was unsold. A week or so later it was put up again. Again unsold. When it went up again I thought 'why not?' I could always do it up and sell it on. We made an offer to the charity (above the asking price because it was for a hospice charity) and it was accepted. My sister lives near to the warehouse where it was being stored and fetched it and brought it home this week.

I spent two days cleaning it and giving it lots of TLC, emptied the bobbins, dislodging lots of dead moths as I did so, and put on a new drive band. Today I am spinning on it, and it is a dream to use so I don't think that it will be going anywhere after all.

Will there be a wheel number 7? Who knows? Maybe if a great wheel where to appear on EBay and I cleared all of the rubbish out of my garage — ???????

Jennifer Thompson



Wheel No. 6, Timbertops Leicester. Spinning Wingham's merino/silk mix in 'Pudsey' colourway, at 28wpi for a knitted cardigan.

Editor: This reminded me of the Radio Four series 'A History of the World in 100 objects'. How about other members telling their Spinning/Weaving/ Dyeing history through objects? Contact me for the September issue.

Members' Other Hobbies

An occasional series, which started with Louisa's Glass work. If you have a hobby in addition to the times consuming Spinning/Weaving/Dyeing please write an article for future Shuttles, and let others learn about what you do, and why it appeals to you.

Lino Cutting – Pat Foster

I looked up my records for linocutting and the earliest dated print I have is 2011 but I remembered that that one was done after taking an online course (tutor in Australia!) and that was the year before. I have done innumerable courses since then and learn something new each time. I am booked into a Summer School course at West Dean. But this is with a really good tutor, and it is specifically for beginners and experienced artists (his words). I know him and he is good.

So, what is it? You take a piece of linoleum, carve a picture and print it (Figure 1). Well in



Figure 1: Block on Japanese Softtouch (right), Print of block (left)

theory. I discovered early on that the Japanese make sheets of a special plastic which is a wonderful substitute, because lino is very hard work to carve and Softtouch is easy, but more expensive. So, when the block has been cut, it is inked up with a hard roller. Those few words hide a lot.

1. What sort of ink? You can have water based which is dead easy to clean up, or oil based which is a pig to clean up. Since I took to printing at home (blame lockdown), I have used water based because my sister had a fit when she saw the sink after cleaning up oil based. But the results are poor, and I only do proofing at home, not editioning. I use oil based at Bracknell College where they have a properly kitted out cleaning place, huge steel sinks, masses of chemicals and lots of rags. There is a difference in drying times. Water based is minutes, say a maximum of 30. Oil based can be two weeks. So a drying rack is an essential tool.
2. The printing. The other thing the College has is a Columbia Press, from 1850 and I love it to bits. At home, I used a very heavy roller to print. Okayish but not perfect.



Figure 2: Print in three colours



Figure 3: Block cut into three. Print shown in Figure 2

of money. I am not prepared to waste such paper on water-based inks, but the College is opening up again late May so lots of trials are planned. Every sheet has written on it in pencil what it is.

It is a messy business and I work on printing in our garage where there is no heating. Drawing, preparation and cutting are done upstairs. In fact, when I go to the College, I try to have everything ready for printing.

Figure 1 showed a very simple lino cut. I have several different colours printed. But, of course, what about getting more than one colour on to the print. There are a large number of ways you can do this. You can get several colours on a roller so you get a graduated effect, so you can do reduction printing where you print, remove more from the block, print in another colour and so on. I have tried it out but you need to be very careful about registration. I do not like the method much.

What I do is to cut the whole block out, proof it to check everything okay and then carve up the block and ink each bit with a different colour, reassemble the block and print. An example is shown in Figures 2 and 3. I get good results from this. You also overprint using a block which is rotated around through 90 or 180 degrees. This can produce nice colours.

The last thing to say is that it can take over your life. But I like the results (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Port of Osaka

GUILD EXHIBITION 2021 - 'I must go down to the seas again...'

I am beginning to see entry forms for the exhibition, but many more are needed. Please let me know what you are intending to submit. Remember, it doesn't have to be on our

theme, and many of you have been busy during lockdown so you must have some items that would look great in the exhibition.

Also remember that the title theme includes any of the following:

- seashores – piers, icecreams, punch and judy, rock pools, sand castles.....
- industry – dockyards, oil wells, ships....
- marine life – real or fantasy
- coast – cliff views, beaches, coves, marshes...
- weather – stormy seas, sunny seas..
- anything else vaguely sea related

It also includes a special section for the Seamen's scarves/hats made from the donated fibre.

As usual, there will also be a place for items that do not directly relate to the theme, but it would be great to get a lot that do.

The time during lockdown has given most of us the opportunity to do far more craft than we would usually have time for, so we thought it would be a nice idea to show some of this work in the exhibition. However, the exhibition is first and foremost the opportunity to show off the skills relevant to the guild; spinning, weaving and dyeing. We have decided that we will invite anyone who enters a piece or pieces in one or more of the guild disciplines to also submit a 'lockdown piece' in any other discipline.

We've repeated details of submission of exhibits in this shuttle, but the forms are in the March shuttle, and were also emailed directly out to members. We will send them out again this month, so you have no problem in accessing them.

HOW TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE GUILD EXHIBITION 2021

Title: "I must go down to the seas again"

Theme: Any aspect of Sea or sea-shore

Dates: If COVID restrictions at the West Berkshire Heritage Museum allow
Exhibition: 25th August – 19th September 2021
Setup: 23rd August, Clearing: 20th September

Exhibits: Either of the following

- Items inspired by the theme, these can include knitting with commercial wool, but it is preferred to be an item made using with one of the Guild skills. This includes a specific section for Seamen's Scarves/Hats, preferably made from the donated fibre.
- Any other exhibit, but these must involve a minimum of one of the Guild skills.
- For those entering an item showing off Guild Skills, in addition they may submit a single 'lockdown piece' in any other discipline.

Information:

- Entry forms are in the March 2021 edition of The Shuttle, and will also be emailed to all on the Guild email list.

- **An entry form should be completed for every individual entry, and emailed/posted to Lynne Harper as soon as possible, but before 16th August.** If you are not sure whether the exhibit will be completed in time for the exhibition, please still submit the form with a note to that fact. *Exhibits turning up on the day, without our prior receipt of an entry form, will not be accepted for exhibition.*
- It is unlikely that we will have a full Guild Meeting before the exhibition, so exhibits should be brought along to the Museum on the setup day, (Monday 23rd August) between 1pm and 2pm, or posted or delivered directly to Lynne Harper any time AFTER 1st July 2021.
- All items should be in a named container, preferably a bag, for ease of storage.
- Exhibits should be collected from the museum between 10.30am and 11.30 am on Monday 20th September.
If this is not possible please designate someone else to collect the item.

Entry forms:

Email forms to kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com.

Post forms to Lynne Harper

CALL FOR GUILD EXHIBITION 2021 STEWARDS

We are not expecting there to be as many people willing to act as stewards this year, due to COVID. However, if we definitely find that visitors take more notice of the exhibit when there is a steward to help explain how things are achieved, and to explain about the processes involved. In view of this, please let me (Lynne) know if you would be interested in helping out in this manner. We would only want a max of 2 at any time, due to social distancing. An email will be sent to everyone with details of timings, please look out for this. I look forward to hearing from volunteers.

LOCKDOWN NEWS/TALES

Pale but Interesting – Pam Caine.

This is a “Pale but Interesting” cuddly wrap made from dyed fibre from the sales table. Possibly Polwarth? It was plied with cream merino from Wingham Wools.

The pattern is from a very useful book called *Shawls and Wraps* by Laura Strutt and was bought after seeing Rosie with her head in a copy! It contains an excellent range of weights and shapes to try.

I had several false starts as my calculations



on quantities of fibre needed were inaccurate, in spite of tension squares and counting wraps on a ruler. I eventually got the right width of garment for the fibre available and was then thoroughly able to enjoy the wave stitch that knitted up easily and quickly. I will certainly use this stitch again.

Charity Knitting and Donations – Rosie Price.

Just to let you all know I am still collecting and sending the above. In November I sent a large box of blankets, jumpers, cardigans, hats, mittens and socks for to. Christian Hope International in Romford. I had a lovely letter thanking us for our donations which go to the refugee children in Moldova. There was a lovely picture of children in donated hats scarves and jumpers.

In February one of the volunteer drivers from the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading collected premature baby outfits and knee rugs for the elderly patients.

I've just had several bags of yarn delivered by the son of a friend who died last year so will start on that when I've finished the grandsons' cardigans! Knitting small prem baby outfits and blanket squares makes a nice change! The squares can be crocheted or knitted 6" square. I knit garter stitch squares. Cast on 2sts. Knit 1 row then increase in the first stitch of each row until 40 or 44 stitches (depending on thickness of yarn) then decrease at the start of each row. It's a great way to use up odd bits of yarn as stripes look good. The knee rugs are 3 foot square and the blankets 3ft by 4ft. If you are giving me squares, I would be very grateful if you could sew in the ends. Making a blanket with a crocheted border usually takes 6+hours.



I hope that you are all keeping well and that it won't be too long until we are back at Guild.

I will be sure to have an empty car boot for your donations. 😊!

A Day Out in Dorchester – Janet Dunbar.

If you are planning a trip to the Dorset Jurassic coast or nearby this summer, a detour to Dorchester is highly recommended for anyone interested in textile crafts, history or literature.

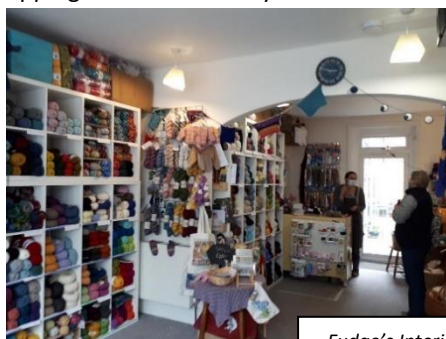
On arrival, the first port of call must be Frank Herring and Sons at 27, High West Street. Frank Herring is the official UK distributor for Ashford and they also sell LeClerc equipment. The top floor of the building is devoted to a display of all things weaving and spinning. There is a good selection of wheels and looms available to try. The looms, all pre-warped, cover a range from the smallest knitters' loom to a large floor loom. As well as the equipment, there are shelves of accessories, books and yarns for both spinning and

weaving. The staff are very knowledgeable and if you are after something in particular you may want to ring ahead and let them know you are coming so that they can have someone with the appropriate knowledge around to help. For those of you with other craft interests, Frank Herring has a huge range of supplies for everything from artists' materials to model making. These are on display on shelves from floor to ceiling and space is at a premium so at the time of writing, the coronavirus restrictions mean that they can only allow limited numbers in at a time so do check on their website (www.frankherringandsons.com) for the latest entry arrangements if you plan a visit.



Fudge's Shop Front

Once you have finished your visit to Frank Herring (if you still have time!) take a stroll further down High West Street and turn left into South Street (Cornhill), the town's main shopping area. A little way down on the left, between Tony & Guy's hairdressers and The Works, is Durngate Street. This attractive little street houses a rarity, a yarn shop, Fudge's Wool and Haberdashery. This lovely little shop (see photos) and another branch in Cullompton, Devon are run by sisters Tori and Cara. They carry a range of well-known



Fudge's Interior



brands of knitting yarns and accessories including a good range of sock yarn from West Yorkshire Spinners.

Thanks to Tori in the Dorchester branch, I was well-supplied with the latter to get me through the last lockdown! They have a mail order service through their website (www.fudgeswool.co.uk) but do go in, have a chat with Tori, have a look round and buy something to help support the traditional wool shop.

By the time you have finished in Fudge's you will be desperate for a coffee or something to eat and fortunately there are two cafes in Durngate street, one only two doors up from Fudge's! Retrace your steps to South Street and turn left and walk down the hill to explore the main shopping area and, if you happen to be visiting on a Wednesday, continue to the end of South Street and cross Weymouth Avenue to the open-air market which is quite a tourist attraction in the summer.

If you have had enough of shopping, you can round off the day with a visit to the Tourist Information centre back on High West Street. They have plenty of information on the history and literary connections of the town including walks around Dorchester's Roman remains which include a villa and part of the original Roman walls. For fans of English literature, Dorchester was the home of Victorian novelist Thomas Hardy and together with its surrounding area provided the inspiration for many of the settings of his novels.

Enjoy your Day out in Dorchester!

Unravel at Farnham Maltings – Pat Christmas.



Stef, myself, and Julie (a future member I hope) set off for a day out at the Unravel wool show in Farnham on Saturday 22nd of May. We arrived around 10am and were delighted to see Meg and Liz also arriving for the show. It was so exciting to see some familiar faces and have a chat with them.

way system which worked well and there were less exhibitors than normal due to COVID restrictions, but it



didn't stop us having a good look round as we could go round as many times as we liked.

We saw lots of hand dyed wool, sock wool and yarn cakes. There were lots of lovely patterns for shawls knitted and crocheted. Macramé seems to be back in fashion, and we saw some amazing pot-holders and hanging decorations made up with very colourful rope and yarns.



We met with Mariana her daughter and her sister (also a future member), and we also enjoyed lunch outside in the sunshine.

After lunch we went around again and found a lovely lady selling hand dyed mohair locks so, of course, I had to buy some. I was so pleased with them so went back for more. My knee was about to give up, so Julie and I decided to make use of the lift which was great until we came to get out and found we were a bit stuck!! Lucky for us, Stef was waiting for us and could tell us to press the button again to bring the lift down a bit more. We were both relieved to get out!

Stef and Julie bought some shawl patterns. Mariana's daughter bought some wool and was given wool by one of the exhibitors as she wants to crochet something for a charity. All in all we had a lovely woolly day.

Lynne and Jenn's Big Day out – Jennifer Thompson.

"☀️☀️🎵🎹 Did'n't we have a luvverly day, the day we went to Clevedon?🎹🎹☕☀️🛖☀️☀️."



Coffee, millionaire's shortbread, sun and sunshade.

museum want the photos so we bit the bullet and decided to go today. We were so lucky with the weather. We got to Clevedon around 11.30 and found a car park right on the front with spaces. Well timed in fact as car after car followed us in and soon all the spaces were filled.

First of all, we had a look at the 'beach' to see if there was a suitable place to set up our props. The tide was right in, but we spied a nice rocky cove which looked ideal. Then of course we had to go for a coffee before making a start on the photos so a nice stroll along the prom in the sunshine and we found a cafe with space to

We most certainly did! We have been trying to get to a beach to take photos for the posters for the Guild exhibition for over a year. For those of you who don't know, the theme of the exhibition is 'I must go down to the seas again.....' Our original plan was to find a beach during the winter months when the sea and sky might look like 'The lonely sea and the sky' but then COVID struck.

The exhibition is getting scarily close now and the



Jennifer paddling.

sit outside. A coffee and a large piece of Millionaire's shortbread later we were ready to get our photos.

We went back to the car but, much to the disappointment of the cars cruising around looking for spaces, we just got our props out of the car and walked back to the cove. The tide was just beginning to go out, so we were able to arrange bobbins, spindles, fibre, shuttles etc. etc. on the rocks and take our photos. Jenn even managed a paddle, albeit with sandals on since the rocks and pebbles were lethal. Then we sat in the sun for an hour or so. It was a real treat to relax in the sun by the sea.

Back to the car to take all the bits and to disappoint the cruising cars again. Then we strolled in the opposite direction and found a snack bar to buy baguettes for our lunch. After another hour or so we decided to pack up and start for home. This time a cruising car containing a family was thrilled to get our space and even more thrilled to have the remains of our ticket since we had paid for the whole day. We got lots of waves from the family as we left.

BIRTHDAYS

We normally acknowledge birthdays that are happening in the following month during our Guild Business meeting each month, this is not happening at the moment, so, on behalf of KVGWSD, I would like to wish all our members felicitations for their birthdays.

Other Snippets gathered by the Editor

- A number of members have been taking part in the Braid Society on-line workshops. These have been extremely interesting, and very well done over the last five months. Starting with Sprang in January, then moving through Yorkshire Buttons, Ply-split braiding, finger-loop braiding, sasanami (a form of Kumihimo), lucetting, and finishing with Tassel making in May. All were excellent, and many thanks to the many tutors who gave their time and expertise.
- Jenny Gribble and Carol Hubbard have managed to get together for a dyeing day, with successful results and a number of lessons learnt.
- We were delighted to have Roy join us on zoom, the committee in particular had missed his presence in committee meetings over the previous months.
- Maggie managed to get up to Shetland and Orkney (and back) once the travel restrictions were loosened up.
- Anne Reddan managed to break her right wrist when she slipped on a step on the first evening of her holiday in Devon. It is getting better, and she is spinning a little, but the wrist isn't up to weaving yet!
- Many members made 'Flags of Hope' for *The Threshing Barn's* display, and if you look at the pictures on the Facebook page you can see them, but you have to know which is which! There is also a video of the display in the local church available on YouTube if you are interested in searching for it.

If you haven't sent any information about how you are getting on, remember that there is another Shuttle in September, so let me have your news for that one.

Book: The Draughts of Jeremiah Fielding.

This book involved turning 50 drafts of 1775 into modern notation and then lots of Kennet Valley weavers weaving samples so that we could present a workbook to readers where a facing pair of pages was devoted to one draft and shows a photo of the sample, the original draft and a modern draft. As well photographs of the samples in the original notebook are shown and there is a section on the weaving situation at that time. Cost is £12.50 per copy or £15.00 if you want it posted. Contact me on patfoster2009@gmail.com.

Pat Foster

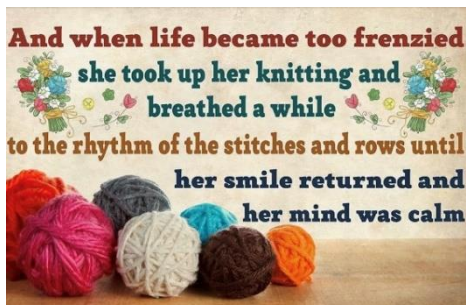


A Little Humour

↔ *These two are especially for Rosie, but probably apply to us all! For 'yarn', on the right, also read 'fibre'!!.*

I rescue yarn from being held hostage in a yarn store.

I am not a hoarder
I am a HERO.



CRAFT SOCIALS

All below are currently cancelled, but we hope that sometime in the future they will be able to start again.

Braid Days

Aldbourne Braid days are cancelled until further notice at the moment.

Please contact **Sal Shepherd** for details.

Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers normally meet at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the last Saturday of the month. Currently we are limited to only meeting online. (See earlier in the newsletter.) 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, either virtually, or in reality once the situation changes.

Moulsford Spinning & Craft Group

In normal times we meet on the **3rd Thursday of every month** at Moulsford Pavilion. 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**.

Social Spinning

This is a regular gathering in a member's home where you are welcome to turn up with your spinning wheel, spindle or whatever! It is always advisable to check with the host to ensure that there is no change before setting off. For more information contact **Chris Fletcher**.

Newbury Crafters

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

For more details contact **Sue Davies**

The copy deadline for the September 2021 issue of the Shuttle is 15th August 2021.
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