



of  
*Weavers, Spinners  
and Dyers*

# The Shuttle

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**March 2021**

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the Shuttle is still in the same format as last month, as we are still not printing copies. With no meetings, the cost of posting hard copies would very high, and so we are relying on most members accessing the on-line copy. 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 about how you're keeping sane and busy during the next three months ready for the next edition. Even a short paragraph will help us all feel connected. The next Shuttle Issue will definitely still be in this format.

Lynne Harper, Shuttle Editor

## FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Zoom (Spinners') Chat:</b> 10:30 start
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Zoom (Weavers') Chat:</b> 10:30 start
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<b>Guild Zoom AGM Meeting:</b> 10:30 start 11:00: <b>Business meeting.</b> To be followed by a Quiz and time to chat.
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Zoom (Spinners') Chat:</b> 10:30 start
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Zoom (Weavers') Chat:</b> 10:30 start
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Guild Zoom Meeting:</b> 10:30 start 11:00: <b>My Life as a Block Printer.</b> Speaker Sarah Burns Drawing on my experience as a hand block printer working with natural dyes, and the book I wrote about 1930's block printers and textile designers, 'Barron and Larcher'  I enjoy making my fabric with care in my studio on the South Downs. I harvest my natural dyes from the field and hedgerows around me, and the colours and the patterns I use are all inspired by the chalk downs, water meadows, and ancient tracks and villages near where I live.
Either Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> June Or Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Guild Zoom Meeting:</b> 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.	

## **GUILD MEETINGS**

Guild meetings 'in the flesh', at Greenham are cancelled until further notice. All of the planned events, as seen above, are currently to be held on Zoom. 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.

## **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**

Dear All,

I can't believe this will be my last chairman's chat. Where have those four years gone?!

Firstly, I must say an enormous thank you to the committee, past and present, for all their wonderful support and hard work which have made the job of chairman such a pleasure. Without the committee there wouldn't be a Guild!

It's astonishing how things have changed over the last few years. Who would have thought we wouldn't be having meetings and that our only contact would be via Zoom. (Four years ago, I hadn't even heard of Zoom.) It has been great to see many of you on our weekly chats. I have really enjoyed all the speakers that we have had on our Zoom guild meetings.



At the time of my last chairman's chat I was in the process of moving. Well, it has all gone ahead and we are now living in Devon, in a small village called Lustleigh, close to Exeter and Newton Abbot. So, if anyone is down in that neck of the woods please pop in for a cup of tea. We have settled in well although that said we have only said a socially

distanced hello to a few of our neighbours. The new house does have one advantage over the old one - I will have my own craft room which will be lovely.

Although we're in lockdown, that didn't stop our Ruth from getting an MBE in the Queen's New Years' Honours list for services to charity. We're all very proud of her!

On a more sombre note, I have to pass on the news that Kathleen Harris sadly passed away recently. We'll miss the generous way she shared her knowledge over her long membership of the guild. Kathleen's son Adrian has set up a Just Giving page for donations to the Stroke Association (for details see the guild website or later in The Shuttle).

Thank you to everyone in the guild for all your encouragement and help over these last four years. You won't be getting rid of me as I will continue to be a member, so I will keep popping up especially for shared lunches! Where would I find a guild as special as this one. Stay safe and hopefully it won't be too long before we can get back together in person.

**Louisa Homden**

## **SHOW-AND-TELL**

We are coming up to a year since we last met in person and I don't think any of us imagined that our enforced separation would last this long. I clearly remember sitting in Snell's Hall last March sampling fibres from Wingham Wools – something we won't be doing this March sadly. That hasn't stopped your creativity as has been evident from the zoom meetings that I've attended in the past couple of months. Here are just a few examples.

Several members have signed up for the Flags of Hope project organised by The Threshing Barn. Angela has completed two woven examples and Sally has made a knitted basketweave version. These and many others from around the country will eventually go on display on the Threshing Barn stand when wool/craft shows are allowed once more.

The Seamans scarf project continues. To test the pattern Janet Dunbar knitted a version with shorter end sections using commercial DK yarn which sits neatly inside the neck of a sweater – as they take so little time and use a small amount of yarn, she plans to make more to colour coordinate with her wardrobe. Sally's latest scarf has a geometric pattern of parallelograms at each end.

Maggie Mockridge has knitted herself a fair isle scarf in blues, greys and golds from Jamiesons of Shetland. The original pattern was knitted in the round as a cowl but Maggie decided to keep on knitting until she had a scarf. We also saw her latest project - a pair of stripy brown socks of unusual construction from a General Hogbuffer design called Squirrel. It has been causing Maggie much angst so it must be a very tricky pattern!

Rosie has also been knitting socks - these have been plain colours as well as the self-patterning fair isle variety. She has also been plying some grey handspun singles; part of Kathleen Harris's stash passed on by her son.

There has been plenty of weaving going on. Nicky has woven a piece in blue and white stripes which she plans to embellish with embroidery for the Guild exhibition. Anne has also been working on a woven piece for the exhibition. This is a seascape using the Theo Moorman technique using a William Hall warp and some of her stash in the weft.

Debbie has been digging into her stash and has used some old warp yarn and a slubby weft in a soft white colour to create a textured blanket and cushions.

Lynne Harper has been continuing her braiding explorations by trying out Sprang. She showed us a sprang construction formed round a glass jar using strips of thick loom waste

making an attractive vase. Her project in the latest lockdown has been a lovely knitted 4-ply baby blanket.

Finally, for now, Pam Caine found a half-made stitched quilt at the back of a cupboard which had been abandoned some years ago because the construction was causing problems. Having brought it out into the light of day she was able to solve the problems and now has a finished quilt in shades of rich purple along with a glow of satisfaction at a UFO completed.

These are just a few of the things that have been shown. One day, hopefully before too long, we'll have an enormous Show and Tell display to see some of these things for real. Roll on that day.

**Lynne Bond**

## GUILD TROPHIES



*Hannah's winning shawl*

Sadly, this past year we were unable to hold any trophy competitions because of the pandemic. That did mean that the trophy holders from 2019 to 2020 had to hold on to them for another year but I'm sure that they didn't mind!

There was one exception of course and that was the Christmas trophy. We were able to hold the competition at our Zoom Christmas party. What an amazing number of entrants we had, 17 altogether.

The only criterion this time was that the item couldn't have been exhibited before. Usually at Christmas time we have a fashion show but this time the items were quite varied. We had

shawls, scarves and wraps; corner to corner blankets; some tapestries; garments, including socks and a runner. They were all beautifully made by our very talented members.

The winner was decided by an online vote. I certainly found it very difficult to choose which item to vote for and I'm sure everyone else did too.

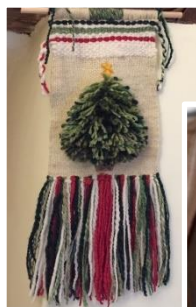
The outright winner was Hannah Lexington with her gorgeous 'Nightshift shawl' knitted in John Arbon's Shetland fibre. Congratulations again to Hannah and to everyone else who took part.

At this time we still have no idea when we will be able to meet again face to face but as soon as we can we will be letting you know all about the trophy competitions once again.

Keep reading for details of future trophy competitions when we are able to get back together again for Guild meetings.

**Jennifer Thompson**

16 other entries,  
conaratulations to all



Jennifer, Anne, Pat, Lorna, Sue, Katrine  
Julie, Lynne, Chris, Rosie, Daphne,  
Louisa, Lesley, Maggie, Marion, Pam



## ARTICLES

### The Huguentots and their Heritage, a talk by Tim Kidd and Charlie de Wet



For our guild meeting in January we were treated to a fascinating talk about the lives of the Huguenots led by Tim Kidd and Charlie de Wet, who are both experienced London Blue Badge Guides. Charlie has a particular interest in the Huguenots as she has Huguenot ancestry and was prompted to establish the Huguenots of Spitalfields charity to promote understanding of the Huguenot culture and its lasting effects on our lives today.

The Huguenots came to England from France in the 17th Century, fleeing religious persecution, making their way here via a network of safe houses and underground churches established by John Calvin. Forbidden to leave France by the Catholic government, the first of around fifty thousand refugees arrived in 1545 with many settling in the East End of London, particularly Spitalfields. The Huguenots were welcomed for their skills and work ethic and they reformed the existing cloth industry. There were many trades associated with the production of woven silk, a master silk weaver served a seven year apprenticeship, journeymen worked for the master weaver and we're paid by the day, and women and young children were also employed. They were poorly paid and lived and worked in difficult conditions with children often sitting under the loom all day checking for broken threads.

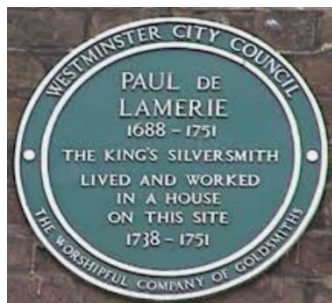
Other trades include the designers and pattern makers who translated their designs onto squared paper for the master weavers and mercer's who held pattern books for customers to browse. There was a limit to the number of dresses made with the same pattern and some were made exclusively, an example is Mrs Fanshaw's dress which is two metres wide and cost £400,000 in today's prices.

Huguenots also settled in the Wandsworth area where the river Wandle meets Thames. The water of this chalk stream was prized for its alkaline qualities which was good for setting dye colours. Edmund Peck was a successful Huguenot dyer who became very wealthy as he knew the secret of producing 'Scarlet Cloth' which is still used by the Redcoats today.

The 18th Century was the golden age of silk weaving and one designer, Anna Marie Garthwaite, working under the name of A M Garthwaite in a male-dominated industry. Untrained, she was a prolific designer and many of her designs are held in the V&A archives. This golden age wasn't to last though as mechanisation saw the reduction of looms from 24,000 in 1830 to just 2,000 by 1860.



*Huguenot Scarlet cloth used for Redcoats.*



The Huguenots weren't only involved with silk weaving; they were skilled watch and clock makers. Paul de Lamerie was a first-class silversmith and Huguenots made paper for the Bank of England whose first governor, Sir John Houblon, was born to Huguenot refugees. The price of stocks and shares, published by Huguenot John Castaing, could be viewed at Jonathan's Coffee House in Exchange Alley, it is no longer there but over the centuries has evolved into today's London Stock Exchange. Their legacy also includes the Brick Lane Mosque and Sandys

Row Synagogue, both of which were originally Huguenot churches. They have London streets named after them and over the years many of their surnames have been anglicised. Many well-known people today can trace their ancestry back to the Huguenots.

Thank you, Lesley for arranging such an excellent and informative talk.

References:

<http://www.huguenotsofspitalfields.org/>

<https://www.guidelondon.org.uk/blue-badge-tourist-guides/>

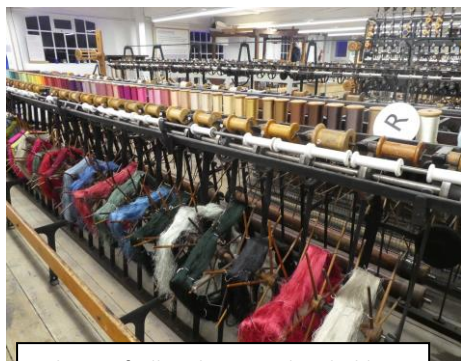
<https://spitalfieldslife.com/>

Anne Reddan

## Zoom Tour of Whitchurch Silk Mill with Sue Tapliss and Deborah Wheeler

What an interesting morning. The tour started outside in the gardens of the Mill with an outline of the history of the building and the various previous owners. The guide, Debbie, did well to manage the 4 degree temperature along with the several spontaneous background noises such as the hammering and angle grinding from the builders next door, a delightful but thunderous amount of birdsong and finally the clock having the last word by striking 11 causing smiles and giggles all around the zoom screen!

The mill was first built in 1815 by Henry Hayter and originally had no connection with silk.



*Skeins of silk to be wound on bobbins*

It was sold in 1817 to William Maddick, a silk manufacturer from Spitalfields, who developed the Mill as it is today and employed 80 people. There were also several weavers' sheds and cottages added to the side of the site. The River Test was a good source of power, but I was surprised to find that the strength of the flow of the water was likely to influence the tightness or looseness of the weaving. The mill race and pond have to be carefully managed and the weed cleared

regularly to ensure the smooth running of the wheel.

Parts of the garden proved to be wifi dead spots so Debbie took us indoors to the top floor to see the bobbin filling and warping processes. This area displayed a wonderful array of rich coloured thread on bobbins, perns and hanks and very photogenic baskets of empty bobbins. The Mill uses Chinese silk. Once an order for fabric is received the quantity of kilos required to make it is calculated and then ordered as an already spun and dyed product, usually arriving in hanks. These hanks are then spun off onto the bobbins or perns depending on dimensions of cloth needed.

#### Interesting facts:

- A 'Tackler' is a loom engineer.
- The origin of the term 'knocking off' (as in finishing work for the day) is thought to refer to the habit of knocking the drive belt off the pulley to stop the machinery.
- There can be up to 12miles of thread needing to be wound onto a bobbin.
- The widest fabric that can be made at the Mill is 52inches.
- A ring doubler is a device for doubling or tripling the thread when a thicker thread is required.
- A boat shuttle can move at 30mph and has metal ends. It can occasionally fly out of the end of the loom. It is said you aren't a proper weaver until you have been hit by a flying shuttle. That sounds like a dubious accolade to me!
- The oldest loom at Whitchurch dates from 1835. It is quite temperamental so needs careful handling. There are usually 2 weavers working here but they are currently on furlough.



*Baskets of empty bobbins*

The creel here is one of only two surviving in the country and can take up to 504 bobbins. It looks like the skeleton of an unturned boat. The thread from these bobbins is

painstakingly threaded through 3 sets of combs and wound onto the warping beam with the right order of colours and tension. Each turn of the beam represents 4½yards of warp but amazingly only takes up 1½ inches on the beam. Multiple turns of the beam are required to build up the warp which can take 3 to 4 weeks to complete.



*Looms in weaving area*

In no time we were bursting with fascinating facts and figures as well as

visual input. The ribbon making was a hit with all of us, just how do you weave multiple but individual widths of ribbon at the same time? An explanation from a Mill guide is definitely required. Above all take note that it is not authentic ribbon unless it has a hairy edge!

Debbie ended the tour by showing us several samples of work, all of it beautiful. Several of their commissions come from the theatrical and movie industry so they have credits for things such as Middlemarch, Cats, Back to the future etc. In Emma it was the ribbon on the hats that were the claim to fame. They also produce items for the shop on site.

The tour was made by mobile phone so suffered an occasional reception break as we were walked through the Mill, but in a way it just added to the personal and friendly tone of the tour and made it feel more individual and tailored to our requirements. It was also easy to ask questions. I'm sure quite a few of us will have put it on the list of places to visit or revisit post lockdown. It has recently had a big refurbishment so has a good modern cafe (with legendary cakes) and more information boards than previously, plus an excellent exhibition area. Since 1990 it has been run by the Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust and is always in need of funds so why not support them with a visit



*Rosie and Meg earing their cake in earlier, non-covid, times*

**Pam Caine**

### **Flags of Hope for the Threshing Barn**

The Threshing Barn have been giving out lovely packs for people to make “flags” to decorate their stand when shows eventually take place. The flags should be returned to them by the end of March. Packs for weaving, knitting, needle felting and mixed media were available. The weaving pack contained three bags of “variety” yarns. They were certainly varied in thickness and texture. I was a bit disappointed when I opened my pack to see a yellow pack at the top, but then delighted to find packs of orange and dark yarns

which I could use to weave a sunset. The pack also included a needle, a piece of cardboard and warping yarn.

*Angela's Flags of Hope*



I added some blue rug wool from my stash for the sunset. I used the distorted (or eccentric) weft technique. I then combined most of the yellow yarns with some yellowish green yarn from my stash to weave a second flag using the “spots and stripes technique. The yarns varied in thickness and so I used two or three together.

The pack came with instructions. For the sunset, I wrapped the warp round the card, making it bend slightly to increase the tension. This method is good if tassels are needed but having checked with Janet at the Threshing Barn, I have sewn the ends in. For the second flag I took the warp round the slot and back down the front. Having filled the card, I had no ends to sew in. To ensure that the warp did not become unhooked from the slots I took some scrap yarn round the loops on the back of the card. (I have to warp the card up again to take a photo.)

**Angela Pawlyn**

Several others have ordered the kits, all of which are well put together, and come very quickly. Sally has been doing some knitted flags, but I most of our members that I have heard about have ordered the weaving kits. I also ordered one, and am in the process of weaving it at the moment. The colours in my kit were some lovely deep reds, some bright oranges, and some dark brown/black.

If you have ordered one of the other medium kits, please write something about them for the next shuttle, it would be lovely to see some of felted, knitted or mixed medio kits.

**Lynne Harper**

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

Many of you have asked or at least thought "Is the exhibition still going on?" The answer is "YES!". Both we and the West Berkshire Museum in Newbury hope it will be able to be an actual exhibition – and with the current government plans it does seem possible.

Even if we cannot do this, we will hold the Exhibition on line, in which case we will circulate details later. For the moment please assume it will be an actual reallife exhibition.

The title theme includes any of the following

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

Details for submission of exhibits are on the next two pages.

## 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: 25<sup>th</sup> August – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Setup: 23<sup>rd</sup> August, Clearing: 20<sup>th</sup> September

If COVID prevents an exhibition in the Museum, we will organise an online exhibition on the Guild Website. If this is necessary information on the submission of the exhibits will be circulated to exhibitors.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> August) between 1pm and 2pm, or posted or delivered directly to Lynne Harper any time AFTER 1<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> September.  
If this is not possible please designate someone else to collect the item.

### Entry forms:

Email forms to [kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com).

Post forms to Lynne Harper

## Guild Exhibition 2019 Exhibit Entry Form, one per exhibit

Name:		
Contact Phone Number		These will not be displayed with exhibit, that are just needed in case there is any problem, especially with returning the item. They will stay with the organiser only.
Contact email		
Item		
Fibre/Yarn Used		
Techniques Used		
Other Comments		

Email forms to [kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com) or post to Lynne Harper.

## MEMBER'S LOCKDOWN NEWS/TALES

### Hamish Gets Locked Down Again!



What has Hamish been doing in this

*Bracelet, miits, and Peerie House*



*Fairisle Scarf and Ganesv socks*



third lockdown? Absolutely nothing!

He is obviously a fair-weather spinner and dyer and his wheels have been sitting having a private party (in the same bubble) in a spare bedroom with his fibre. Apart from knitting up his Jamieson's of Shetland Advent Calendar into a Fair Isle scarf, some

hand spun NZ Romney into a pair of gansey patterned socks for a display at the Royal Welsh Show 2022 (2021 is cancelled), a pair of colour-work mitts for a "swap", a bracelet he got for his birthday that will make a lovely wrist distaff, 2 shawls, 2 Fair Isle hats, weekly items that take just an hour and a knitted postcard, he's done nothing.

He has spent all his time gawping at a screen!

Yes, he's been Zooming! The lovely Nicky Duncan has been hosting regular Zoom meetings for members of the Kennet Valley Guild and Hamish has thoroughly enjoyed catching up on people's news, seeing what they have been producing and generally getting to know folk that he doesn't usually get the opportunity to talk to. He hasn't stopped there but has followed courses led by tutors in Oban, Shetland, Sweden and America. He has watched talks on knitting, design, sketchbooks, spinning nettles, a Norwegian shoddy mill, Whitchurch Silk Mill, international travel textiles tours, designing for the BBC, sprang, Yorkshire buttons, embroidery and much more. He has joined groups with multinational members - fascinating in these troubled times to hear how America, Canada, Germany, Portugal and Israel have been dealing with things. Slightly less enjoyably he's sat through committee meetings and AGMs.

.....but apart from that he's done nothing.

*Knitted Postcard*



*Fair Isle Hats*



## News from Gill Meadows.

Happy New Year to everybody and I hope you are all well.

In the first lockdown I managed to get my wool stack nice and nearly cleared, then my neighbours' cleaner gave her a BIG black bin liner full of wool she did not want. "Gill you need wool for your refugees, don't you." So, I knitted a few more jumpers, etc., handing them over to Rosie when allowed. We also managed to plant 200 hedge saplings and I am no gardener as those who know me will agree.

Then just before Christmas, my Rosie decided she needed to go out with a bang and nearly broke her femur, luckily it was only badly bruised, but spent 4 hours waiting to hear that news.

This lockdown I have been busy knitting again and helping out my neighbour whose 4 children have all decided to produce. Then a friend asked me to finish off a cardigan set for a friend of hers who was very ill. I managed to get this done and to the friend before she passed away in early January.

My wool stash is not looking that empty, but I am working on it.

Here's to hopefully see everyone soon. Gill Meadows

## Thankyou – Ruth Saunders.

Ruth would like to say thank you for the flowers from the guild, and all the cards and messages she has received from everyone. She said that the flowers came in a pyramid shape and looked grand.

The fundraising from her walk for the Air Ambulance was over £48,000 when she spoke to me towards the end of January, and money was still dribbling in.

Ruth has had her first vaccination at Newbury Racecourse and she says that the organisation was excellent. She felt no side effects, not even a sore arm.

She hopes everyone stays healthy, and hopes that we will be able to see each other again sometime this year.

## Crocheted Throw with Art Yarn – Pat Christmas

I have dyed Merino Corriedale and Falkland with food colouring. I have used a blending board to mix the various shades of pink. I have spun it in my version of art yarn and made it into a throw for my daughter. I have been working on this for some time as the art yarn



doesn't go very far! I also had to keep making more of it to crochet a decent size throw. My daughter really appreciates it and actually chose the colour way so I hope it will be a bit of an heirloom. 😊

### **Lockdown Activities – Marion Moulder.**

I thought I'd share with you the things I have been doing during lockdown.

I started off by knitting one of my knee blankets for the hospital. I use patchwork knitting, thus avoiding the necessity of tedious joining together. I have now completed 6 of them. Just waiting for the end of Lockdown to deliver them.

I have always been fond of jigsaw puzzles. During this past year, I have done 3 puzzles of 1000 pieces. Took quite a long time and very time consuming! Very satisfying to complete them. I had several moments when I could have quite cheerfully binned them, but I stuck with it and was pleased I did! Am currently involved in doing a fourth-will I never learn?

Découpage held my attention too. My daughter gave me a starter kit at Christmas 2019-a ruse to make me slow down! To start with, I was very unimpressed, but once started, I was hooked! It came at a very apposite time. I have rejuvenated a waste-paper basket, jollied up a couple of picture frames, covered numerous boxes and covered 7 pre-formed initials for my various great nieces and nephews.

Finally, I have just finished a cross stitch sampler for my daughter and son in law. It took quite a lot of planning on squared paper and lots of mind changing, but now framed and given, I am very pleased with the result, and they are delighted with it.

Once the weather cheers up, the garden will take my attention.....

### **A Dammit Doll - Heather Godfrey**

When you're driven up the wall  
And want to scream and shout  
Here's a little dammit doll  
You cannot be without  
Just grab it firmly by the legs  
And find a place to slam it  
Then while you bash its innards out  
Yell "dammit DAMMIT DAMMIT!"

It's a little thing we can all need from time to time – think: broken warp threads, mistakes in threading etc., etc.!

This one I made using commercial acrylic yarn – hand spun fibre is far too precious to be treated so unkindly.



*Editor: Heather posted this to me, including the doll, and has very kindly said I can keep it. It's about 9" tall to the end of its hair, and its armspan is 6½" fingertip to fingertip. So far I haven't quite been driven to use it – but who knows when something will happen that means I need it.*

### **Jenny Gribble's Seascape Tapestry.**

Jenny bought the seascape tapestry kit before COVID. She had previously worked another in the same series, a Summer landscape. Back in April 2020 she discovered that Anne Reddan had got and just started the same seascape tapestry. This inspired Jenny look out the kit, and so by the end of May she had got everything out ready to start



*May 2020: Materials ready to start*

the new tapestry. However, life got in the way. Other craft projects, gardening, visiting the boat, and home schooling to mention just a few.

At the end of the year She decided that she needed to complete the seascape and a couple of other projects before starting on a new major weaving project.



*Jan 2021: in progress*

By mid-January she'd made a start, but it became evident why there had been a delay, the design was a problem. The kit has a tree on a cliff top, but one of Jenny's grand-daughter had decided that a lighthouse on the cliff would be more appropriate than a solitary tree. This required some thought!

By the 10<sup>th</sup> February she had finished thinking and implementing. Ending up with a seascape complete with lighthouse and shining lights, very effective. She also had the satisfaction of completing a UFO.



*Feb 2021:  
Completed  
tapestry*

### **Doup Leno Weaving – Debbie Richardson.**

One of the yarns in my stash is some thick paper yarn that I acquired in a silent auction and it has been looking at me for years. I decided I would see if I could make some placemats and to do that I would need to be able to secure the weft of paper yarn, so they

did not just fall apart. I chose to use doup leno as the weave structure and set up a cotton warp using some 2/6 cotton from William Hall that was in the stash. The warp had 6 threads per group with each group 1 in apart. I threaded 2 threads per dent in a 12-dent reed. The width of the warp was 10 inches, and I wove 15 inches for each mat. I was surprised by the shrinkage when I took the mats off the loom and have ended up with square placemats!



*Cotton and paper placemats*

I wrapped each group of warp ends and sewed in the knotted ends of the wrapping. For the weft, I cut the paper on each end to the same length. Due the paper, the mats were very curled, so they were placed under heavy books for a few days and then ironed with a damp cloth. I am pleased with the end result, although I would have liked the mats to have been a little longer.

## Finding a new Walk – Louisa Homden.

*Louisa is taking us on one of the walks from her new house.*

As you can guess we absolutely love the walking here. These photos show you one of our walks.

This is the start of our walk with the Quilly brook tumbling over the stone trough.



Then it's up to Heaven's gate and down the other side to meet the raging torrent of the river Bovey.



Then it's up onto Lustleigh Cleave with its stunning views over to Hay Tor. This is an Iron Age fort.



Of course, it's now down again. This time through banks and banks of



Snowdrops with little babbling streams running through them.

Across the stepping-stone bridge and we are nearly home.



Maggie is none to happy, she would gladly walk all day!

### What I've been doing in Lockdown – Sue Cray.



I did Rosie's weaving course last year in February, I found it very enjoyable and everyone on the course was very helpful. I had decided to weave a scarf using grey for the warp and a multicoloured sock yarn for the weft. It didn't turn out to be as bright as I thought it would be, but I guess it's getting to know what colours to put together. Here are a few photos I took at



*Scarf in stages and completed.*

the time. I hope to do some more weaving when we get together again and maybe I can borrow a warping frame.

Over lockdown I have been knitting socks, cardigans and jumpers using up my stash. I have spun and dyed the fibre from Nicky and made a scarf and hat, they are ginger in colour and look homespun hopefully the seafarers won't mind.



*Lockdown socks*

### 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.

## Kathleen Harris



Kathleen was a friend so many years. I think she joined the Guild in the late 80's. She took part in the 1991 Newbury Coat and served on the committee for about 10 years first as guild co-ordinator, then secretary and finally as librarian. I remember going to a Craft Fair at Newbury Corn Exchange in the 80's and John bought one of her beautifully woven ties. She also wove table mats.

It was a bit of a surprise when Adrian brought round 5 boxes of weaving yarn. I thought I had bought all her stash of weaving yarn!!!! In one of the boxes was a weave plan and yarn for table mats. I'm not sure when

she gave up weaving to spin, always enjoying Wingham's weekend.

In the early 90's she did a City and Guilds lace course and, as with everything she did her lace was exquisite. When Jane and Christopher went to France, I started to visit Kathleen once a month to sit and make lace. Latterly we would spin or knit and chat the evening away! I know lots of you bought her bead work and cards at the Christmas meeting.



Covid was difficult for her with no one walking past and friends reluctant to visit, although Adrian visited at weekends. He set her up with FaceTime and we chatted every week. I know she really enjoyed the Zoom meetings. It will seem strange when we get back to Greenham, Speen and Aldbourne not picking her up and seeing her in her corner seat but we will all have good memories of dear Kathleen.

### Rosie Price

I first met Kathleen in 1991 when I joined Kennet Valley Guild having just moved to Sulhamstead. I had taken up spinning when I lived in Leamington Spa but at the time, I was primarily a lace maker, so I was delighted to find that Kathleen was a

fellow lace maker. She made beautiful lace and was a guinea pig for the City and Guilds Lace qualification that was being prepared in the early 1990's. Each year, Kathleen travelled to Bruges which is a centre for lacemaking, and I was always keen to hear about her visit, the lace techniques that she learnt and the beauty of that city.

I joined Rosie at Kathleen's on a monthly Wednesday evening to make lace and it kept my lacemaking going for many years until I moved from Sulhamstead to Kelbrook, Lancashire. As well as being a lacemaker, Kathleen was an accomplished spinner, self-taught weaver,

a braider and beautiful beader and craft worker. She was very prolific and sold much of her beadwork and cards that she made. She gave up weaving a few years ago but continued to make braids, spin, make lace and make jewellery using beads. She was a member of Kennet Valley Guild and regular visit to Aldbourne Braid days and I loved to meet up with Kathleen and catch up whenever I visited the south of England. We had a wonderful weekend at the Kennet Valley retreat at the Hilton Hotel in 2018 where she and I joined others who were not doing one of the official courses. We chatted all weekend, and the time went very quickly. I will miss seeing Kathleen and chatting to her old friend.



*The two pieces of lace were worked by*

**Debbie Richardson**

I was so upset when I heard Kathleen had passed away, She had been such a good friend and support to me. I have been remembering some of our times together.

She wanted to go to Manchester for the Braid get together in 2012. She was worried about managing her suitcase and was talking to Rosie wondering how she was going to cope with it, as we were travelling by train. Rosie said, "Don't worry, that's why we have Sally." Unbeknownst to me mind! Rosie and I managed suitcases, Marudai etc. We had a great time together, some good course and lectures, great meals in the evening. I handed her and her case to her son on Reading station when we returned.



*Kathleen working on finger manipulated braids*

I think that gave her the reassurance to go to Summer School in Moreton Morrell, knowing she would have support. We went to our rooms to unpack and later there was a tap on the door and Kathleen said she could not lock her door. I rang maintenance and left a message. I then said I would put my mattress on the floor and bring her mattress and put it on my bed frame and we would have a sleepover. We did giggle about it, although she thought she was putting me out. We were ok though, as later that afternoon the maintenance lady came and fixed it. We did most of courses together and spent some of the evenings sitting in the late sunshine nursing a gin or three

.....Chatting away.

She also came to Summer School in Wales although she was not so steady on her feet, so we agreed to go to classes meals etc, together and we went arm in arm again having a giggle.

She was such a modest kind talented lady. I sat looking at my lace pillow for a couple of weeks, until I could almost hear her saying, "Now come on Sally you can do this." So, I have been trying to do some of her prickings.

Guild and Braid days will not be the same without her. She will be missed.

**Sally Shepherd**

Adrian, Kathleen's son, set up a fundraising page in memory of Kathleen to support of the Stroke Association.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kathleennharris>

### Other Snippets gathered by the Editor

- Carol Hubbard has been experimenting with Overshot.
- Sally's been knitting lots of seaman's scarves and hats. She's also been taking part in the Yorkshire buttons workshop arranged by the Braid Society.
- The Braid society workshops have also been attended by Lynne, both the Sprang one in January, and the Yorkshire button one in February. In addition she has been inkle weaving, finishing a Baltic sampler started back in Spring last year.



- Debbie joined the Braid Society Sprang workshop in January. Although the instructions were designed for participants to have a go without a frame, it is much easier to work on a frame (see photo). During the workshop she learnt 2 new stitches, one

of which was 1-1 interlacing and the other 2-2 interlacing. Debbie has made samples of each structure and the plan is to

make a circular warp to make a scarf

- Anne Reddan has been busy with all sorts of craft, she is also working on a sea scape tapestry, and has also warped up her floor loom for a double weave project, among many other projects.

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

### Roy's Challenge - Results.

I guess some of you didn't find the wordsearch very easy without a list of words to look for. We had several entries however, although only one by post.

Some of the words 'found' were disallowed as they were not really to do with weaving, spinning or dyeing, for example 'FEZ'. Mess is included, as many of our workrooms end up as a mess!

Some spellings used were very questionable, for example Creel is a term used in the cotton spinning industry, but is not in the wordsearch. Creal is present in the wordsearch, not the correct spelling, but easy to confuse.

Three 'allowed' words appeared twice, and three 'allowed' words could be extended. Either of these variants has been accepted, but if both of two repeated words, or both of two extendable words have been found by one person, they are only counted as one.

The following are the 48 words that have been allowed:

Acid	Lacy	Pale	Single
Camel	Lap	Pin	Spin
Card	LazyKate	Ply	Tops
Cotton	Linen	Raddle	Twill
Dent	Loom	Raw	Twist
Diz	Mess	Red	Warp/Warped
Draft	Mohair	Ret	Weft ( <i>twice</i> )
Dye ( <i>twice</i> )	Mordant	Rod	Wheel
End	Navajo	Sett	Whorl
Ewe ( <i>twice</i> )	NiddyNoddy	Shaft	Wool
Heddle/Heddles	Open	Shuttle	Yak
Lac ( <i>a red dye extract</i> )	Overshot	Silk/Silky	Zed

None of the entrants came close to finding all 48 words, but all words, bar one, were found by one or more of the entrants. The two winners were Daphne Burgess for the postal entry, and Pam Caine for the Email entry, but well done all of you. We will be in touch with them about their prizes.

Now you have the list of words, perhaps those who didn't enter would like to go back and have a go at the wordsearch again, but not prizes this time!

## Braid Society Online Workshops

The Braid Society is running a series of online workshops through the early part of 2021. It kicked off in January with a 3 week class on Sprang, followed by a 2 week workshop on Yorkshire Buttons in February. From 15<sup>th</sup> March there is a 3 week workshop on Ply split darning. The workshops are free but you need to be a member of the groups.io/braidsandbands group. If you would like to know how to join, contact Debbie on [drdebbie\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drdebbie_uk@yahoo.co.uk)

## Online Exhibition

Farfield Mill have put a couple of their current exhibitions online as virtual exhibitions. There is an exhibition by weaver, Theo Wright and a multimedia exhibition, Rethink <https://www.farfieldmill.org/out-of-synch-theo-wright-handweaver/> <https://www.farfieldmill.org/rethink-art-textiles-made-in-britain/>

## CRAFT SOCIALS

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

### Braid Days

Aldbourn 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**

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