



The Shuttle

December 2025

kennet-valley-guild.com



@kennetvalleyguild

Kennet Valley Guild Officials 2025

If you need to get in touch with anyone, please refer to page 2 of your printed Shuttle or contact us via the Guild web site contact form or Facebook Messenger. Many thanks.

Chairman

Linda Scurr

Vice-Chairman

Jackie Bakmand

Vice-Chairman

Maureen Taylor

Secretary

Kim Wakeham

Treasurer

Julie Fraser

Membership Secretary

Lynne Harper

Safeguarding CPO

Sue Davies

Demonstrations Secretary

Linda Scurr

Speaker & Workshop Team Lead

Anne Reddan

The Shuttle Editor

Nicky Duncan

Website / Facebook / Zoom Chats

Nicky Duncan

Librarian

Sue Davies

Co-ordinator - Show and Tell

Jennifer Thompson

Co-ordinator - Trophies

Jennifer Thompson

Co-ordinator

Roy Young

Exhibition 2027

If you would like to be on the Exhibition Committee, please let Sue Davies or Linda know.

Guild meeting dates for your diary 2026

Sat 3rd Jan / Guild Meeting

AM: Mini Workshops - 10.30 - 12.30

- Boro bags
- Canal embroidery bookmark
- 13 strand braid bracelet
- 3D crochet

PM: Social

Sat 7th Feb / Guild Meeting

AM: Social

PM: A talk by Nick of Alpaca Evolution (alpacaevolution.com)

Sat 7th March / Guild Meeting

AM: Social

PM: A talk by Joyce Meader about historic knitting (historicknit.co.uk)

Christmas Guild Meeting Agenda

Our Christmas Guild meeting will run as follows:

10.00 am	Hall Open
12.00 noon	Shared Lunch
1.00 pm	Guild Business Meeting
1.30 pm	Show & Tell and Festive Fashion Parade
2.00 pm	Social Afternoon including Gill Meadows' Quiz

**Please wear
your name
badge!**

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.

Thank you - The Speaker & Workshop Team

Chairman's Chat

Hello Everyone,

Time flies past at an alarming rate probably because there have been so many things happening to keep us occupied. I was thrilled to see so many members displaying items in the Guild Exhibition and even more managing to visit. Thank you to everyone. What a great effort from the exhibition team. The fantastic display not only showed the great variety of skills in the Guild, it showed that we can stage a very stunning exhibition.

Sue, Jackie and I went along on the last day and met the Mayor who, with his wife, spent a lot of time asking questions and studying the exhibits. They even plucked up courage to have a go at spinning and went away with fill the gap cards. We asked the Mayor and his wife to choose their favourite exhibit and they chose a beautiful shawl, spun, dyed and knitted by Sue Bramwell. Congratulations Sue. Your shawl was a very worthy winner.

As a result of their visit the Mayor has asked the Guild to get involved with the Berkshire Youth initiative. This gives us another opportunity to showcase what we do with a wider audience. As for showcasing, many of us have enjoyed demonstrating at various shows and events throughout the Summer. This is always fun and we get to meet lots of interesting people. I am so pleased that some we met have now come to Guild to see what we are about. I speak on behalf of everyone when I say we welcome you all.

We have had some lovely guild meetings. September was a social day without a speaker. I really enjoy these meetings because there is more time to try and chat to everyone. October's speaker was Guild member Jennifer Thompson, talking about her textile journey. Brilliant, thank you Jenn. I loved it. It was fascinating to see how your skills have evolved. I am always interested to learn how skills develop and how one craft leads to another. It's lovely how crafts create bonds between people; I never knew that Jenn and Lynne had known each other for so long!

Some Guilds are very strict. You must spin, weave or dye, but I think that Kennet Valley is more flexible. We have so many talented people that can show us other skills too so please speak up if you have a craft you want to learn or one you can share.

I wrote this article before the November meeting. Sadly I missed it as I was already committed to Abingdon Craft Fayre. I am sure that Daniel Harris

cont'd overleaf



***Father Christmas had no idea what to do with so many spinning wheels
so he asked the Guild for advice***

gave an interesting talk about his Mill renovation in Wales. I'm sure I will get feedback from some of you. I am looking for a new weaver to weave for me so hopefully I will get to go to Wales to visit soon.

Lastly I am proud of, and thankful to all of our members who support Guild in so many ways. Members both new and long term make our Guild special. I hope that 2026 will see more people enjoying getting involved in demonstrating and hopefully see a few more of you entering the various Guild competitions. Please can everyone consider writing an article or two for the Shuttle. We do value your news, tips and ideas.

I hope that all our newer members will continue to enjoy Guild, develop new crafts and make new friends.

Last but not least, I wish you all a peaceful and happy festive season and a great year of crafting ahead.

Linda Scurr - Chairman, Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers.

Guild Talks & Workshops

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have enjoyed the programme of talks and workshops we have put together as our first year of programme planning comes to an end. We have started approaching potential speakers/tutors for 2026/2027 and already have several recommendations to follow up.

Whilst we have some of our own ideas we would always welcome your suggestions, whether that is from talks you have attended or workshops you may have done elsewhere. The programme is for all Guild members so we aim to create a programme that will appeal to as many people as possible.

Any suggestions would be welcome so please speak to myself, Jennifer Thompson or Lynne Harper. Thank you.

The 2026 programme list will be available online asap. Please use the QR code to view the Diary and Events page on our web site, or via kennet-valley-guild.com/diary-and-events



Anne Reddan - Programme Team Lead

welcome

to our new Guild members

A very warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the Guild since the last Shuttle was published.

Please look out for Susan, Rachel and Theresa at Guild meetings, introduce yourself and have a chat.

**Please wear
your name
badge!**

Susan Hayes

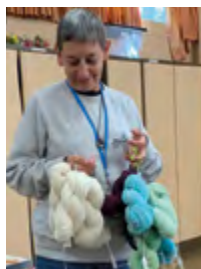
Rachel Pryor

Theresa Rogers

Show & Tell 2025

September Show & Tell

Rosie Price scarves
and squares. ▶



Sue Bramwell.
Skeins. Wheel
spun and plyed.
North country
Cheviot. Wheel
spun and plyed.
Food gel, solar
dyed.



Sarah Denly-Ball. Twine basketry made with jute garden twine.

October

Show & Tell

Jenny Goss with
her quilt made
from embroidered
tea bags.



Lynne Harper.
Bag for Guild.
Bedford cord
bag. Handles
and strap, ply
split braiding. ◀



Lynne Harper.
Trees weaving,
meant for the
canopy of Trees
Exhibition but not
finished in time.
Buck lace, cotton. ◀



Rosie Price.
Skein spun from
Linda's pencil
roving.



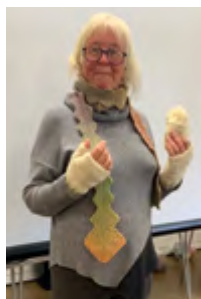
Vivella Hinds.
Lincoln long wool.
Long draw.
Shetland.
Combed,
worsted, chain
ply.



New member
Rachel Pryor's
woven piece.



Chris Fletcher.
Felted bag.
Knitted, felted,
embroidered.



The fingerless
gloves were
made by Carol
Kennedy using
Linda's wool.
Scarf by Linda
Moss, brought in
by her daughter.



Marion Proctor.
Scarf made by
stick weaving.



Sylvia Beeton.
Three scarves.



Sally Shepherd.
Stump socks,
hats and scarves
for Ukraine.



Trixie
Holmes'
wrap.



Lynne Bond.
Of Loom Weaving.
Inspired by an
article in the latest
Journal. Simple
twill using left over
sock wool.

November Show & Tell

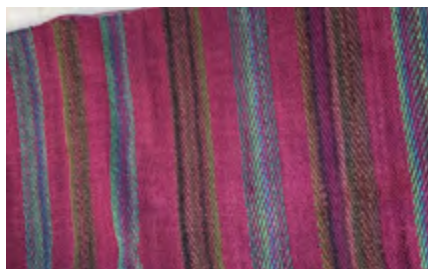


Jennifer Thompson.

Items from a workshop on prehistoric textiles. Twined fibres. Flax and hemp. Netting made from twined fibre. 'Bone' needle made using a piece of flint and a piece of obsidian on a scrap of antler. 13 strand braid.



Anne Reddan. Bone needle and 13 strand braid bracelet.



Rosie Price. Woven scarf.
Handspun silk.

Pride Comes Before A Fall

Author: Linda Scurr

Most sensible people would learn to knit, think about spinning and possibly then owning a sheep or two. I did it all the wrong way round. 30+ years ago, I got the sheep, learnt to spin and then found out I really couldn't knit.

Every year I enter the craft competitions at the Royal Welsh Show and finally after 20+ years of trying I won a prize for my knitting. I was overjoyed. I came 2nd. Not 2nd out of two, but 2nd out of 11 cushions that I considered all to be masterpieces.

As I stood there in total disbelief and feeling so proud and happy I commented to a lady alongside me. *"That's my cushion and I have never won anything for knitting before. I really don't understand why I came 2nd."* The lady replied, *"I was the judge and you came 2nd because I liked it. I liked that it wasn't from a kit. I liked that there was a story attached about the sheep breeds used. I loved the buttons."* Then she said *"I made allowances for the imperfect knitting."*

So the moral of this story is that I still can't knit! I am very happy though. There is so much more to life than perfect knitting.

Guild Trophies 2025

Hi Everyone, just a quick reminder about upcoming trophies.

I think that we need to have a Guild discussion about trophies. There seems to be a widespread lack of interest in them and I would love some suggestions from members on how to make them more relevant. Personally I don't think that people should feel that they need to do something specific just for a trophy competition but we all make things all year round and surely some of these could be entered for trophy competitions. Please let me have your thoughts about this.

There were no entries this year for the Diddy trophy so we decided to hold it over until next year. We have changed the criteria slightly to see whether more people might be interested. Next year it will still be for an item made from handspun wool but it can be knitted or crocheted and need not include cables / Aran patterns. (it would be nice if there were some though!).

Meg would like the items entered to be something you would wear on your foot or leg. Remember too that this item can use wool spun by one person and knitted/ crocheted by someone else. You have until next October to make something!

I had hoped that there would be a lot of entries for the Dyeing trophy since there were so many dyed items in the exhibition. Perhaps I didn't make it clear that exhibition items could be entered!



In fact, only two people entered.

This time, to try to encourage more members to actually look at the items, we had a members' vote. That was encouraging as 35 people voted. The trophy was won by Anne Reddan for her sun-printed, patchwork bag.

The next trophy winner will be chosen by members at the Christmas meeting. It is for the favourite item in the Christmas fashion show. Looking forward to seeing lots of entries!

Jennifer Thompson - Trophies Coordinator

Berkshire Youth Organisation

Author: Sue Davies

At the 2025 Exhibition the Newbury Mayor, David Harman, suggested that we might be interested in linking up with Berkshire Youth Organisation (based at The Waterside Centre in Newbury). He made the introduction, and we have now met with one of their facilitators, who has asked if we would be able to provide workshops during school holidays for children up to the age of 18 years.

Linda Scurr and I met Jessica Kirby (Youth worker) at the Waterside Centre on Tuesday 4th November.

I was amazed at the facilities available at the centre, and the space inside. After discussion we agreed that we would go away and consult our members and let Jessica know what we might be able to provide.

Jessica has suggested the afternoon of 18th, 19th or 20th February 2026 as our first engagement with juniors (age 8-11). We will have to let Jessica know by December which date we prefer.

Members who volunteer will need to be DBS checked. As we are volunteers this will not incur a charge; however we will have to make a formal application to the police as soon as possible for individual DBS clearance, as it may take a few months to come through. At this stage we need volunteers for February 2026.

This is a very exciting opportunity for us to spread the word about our Guild to younger people. You do not need to have any experience with working with children but an interest in doing so and promoting crafts to youngsters would be beneficial.

We would like to encourage everyone to volunteer (including those who have never demonstrated or taken a workshop before). Jessica Kirby has given us the names of other Youth groups who might be interested in the Guild and our skills, so there is likely to be scope in the future to expand our opportunities to interact with young people. We will review the workshop in February and adapt our involvement to best suit the needs of Berkshire Youth.

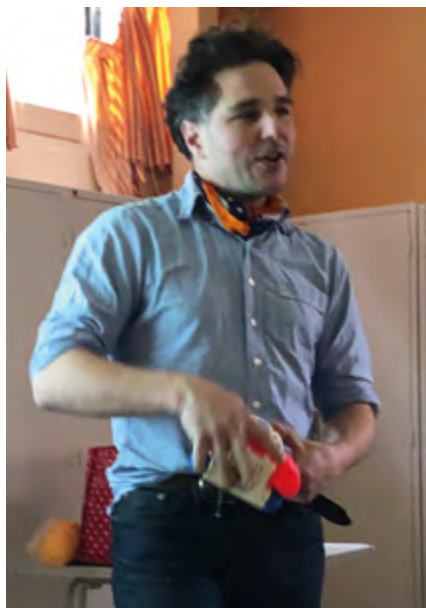
If you would like to discuss this opportunity or you would like to volunteer please contact Sue Davies or Linda Scurr as soon as possible so that we can arrange for the necessary DBS checks to be completed. Once we know how many volunteers we have, we can then decide what we are able to provide by way of workshops.

Thank you all for your consideration.

No-One Parties Like A Weaver

Author: Tricia Goodchild

At the November meeting we were privileged to have Daniel Harris the founder of The London Cloth Company come and talk to us. A thoroughly entertaining, passionate and enthusiastic speaker.



Daniel is a successful Weaver, Designer and Entrepreneur who in 2022 purchased Elvet Woolen Mill, a derelict building requiring a lot of work. Despite setbacks due to flooding and carbon monoxide poisoning the mill is now up and

running and producing world renowned woollen fabrics.

In 2010 Daniel was working in the sewing profession and decided to go into weaving. Through his naivety he bought one loom. Then found himself having to buy a second to get parts to fix the first! Through his company he found himself working with high end brands world wide - Ralph Lauren, Lyle and Scott, Nike as well as many others. In his efforts to promote the history and culture of textiles he has sourced looms up and down the length and breadth of the country and now works with traditional and contemporary looms.

Having managed in earlier years to successfully resist working for the Falkland Islands, South Korea and others he found himself at the beginning of the 2020s being persuaded to work in Majorca helping out a group of weavers who wanted to take on a derelict Mill full of defunct weaving equipment. The group introduced Daniel to the word 'extant' this being the opposite of 'extinct' - still in existence and surviving. He found himself helping out - setting up a working mill in Majorca. Majorca has a huge history of weaving and €10,500 later in 2023 they fixed and moved the looms to a 'Billionaire's' farm.

The removal of the looms from the derelict building in Majorca became a logistical problem. The only way to remove the equipment was through the roof. The looms were old - yes, but with the age came simplicity of working and were found to be easier to fix.

This Spanish mill now makes carpets using natural dyes and using white and grey fleece as well as the fleece of the local Majorcan sheep - red.

Having embraced the project in Spain Daniel felt he was up to taking on the hostile working environment of a weaving mill in Wales just outside Carmarthen.

Elvet Mill being one of only 5 remaining mills in Wales. From the 1840s to 1930 it was an effective working mill remaining in the same family for generations. But, in 1980 the mill was sold to a customer who sadly ran it into the ground. Now up and working Daniel started with 2 looms and now has 7 installed and working. It took him thirteen skips and a bonfire to clear 2 ½ tonnes of yarn. He also embarked on fixing the non-working looms. Taking him 40 days to strip, clean and rebuild one loom. These looms being slower than modern still have their uses.

With these 'old' looms Daniel has found that he can make unusual fabrics - weaving with fine wirewool, which would destroy any modern industrial loom. Making anti-gravity

space fabric as well as clothing for the Star Wars Franchise and many major film companies.

He has looms ranging from 150 years ago to modern day. Currently the proud owner of 38 looms! Not all traditional, he omitted to say how many were actually working and how many are held purely for spare parts!

Despite being asked to consult up and down the country and teaching weaving he is still 'unsure what he is doing' despite having been weaving for 15 years.

For further information have a look at Daniel's website - which will be launching soon.

londoncloth.com

Royal Berkshire NHS Donations

Ed: If you've got some stash wool that could be used to make a baby blanket or lap blanket, take a look at the RBH donations leaflet to see what they currently need and the sizing criteria etc.

Or check out the **RESOURCES** page on the KVG web site.



kennet-valley-guild.com

The Art of Mankind

@ The Fashion & Textile Museum

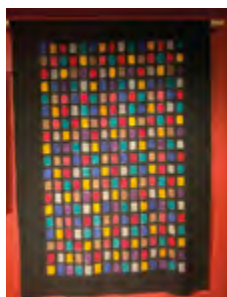
Author: Jenny Goss

An exhibition that celebrated the ancient and deep entanglement between textiles, people and our world.

As usual with an exhibition you never really know what to expect, but it was well worth a trip along the South Bank in London to the Fashion & Textile Museum and fortunately it was a lovely day for a walk.



It was a fascinating collection of textiles revealing the human desire to engage with texture and colour, record histories, thoughts and feelings and preserve skills to hand down the generations; carrying sacred significance, expressing cultural regard for animals or



symbolising life's mysteries across the world.

The exhibition was told through themes; identity, collaboration and sustainability, exploring how craft and creativity has always connected society.

It was an eclectic collection with many rare objects on show for the first time in the UK from as far as Panama with fascinating information about how the loom inspired the computer; something which I hadn't previously considered.

The foreword for the Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society catalogue of 1926 summed up the exhibition beautifully; *"Work touched with beauty is a primary and universal means of human expression."*

Sally Pointer Workshop

Author: Jennifer Thompson

Sally Pointer is a well known archaeologist who specialises in prehistoric textiles. We were very lucky indeed to have a day long workshop with her at the Braid society's AGM weekend in Aldebourne. It was an unusual workshop in that Sally wanted it to evolve as we learned more about prehistoric textile archeology. We were treated to a slide show and talk alongside working on our items rather than just being shown how to do a particular task.

First of all we practised twining using flax and hemp. We twined as we listened! It was very interesting to see the difference between retted and

useful on a larger scale. We were literally extracting fibres from one stalk at a time!

Once we had a decent length of twining we decided to have a go at looping to make netting or possibly a head covering. Sally had photos of tiny statuettes that have been found with indications of either head coverings or hair. New research points to the fact that the marks could indicate a cap made of looped netting with shells decorating the ends or possibly, after the origin of the stone that the statue was made of was discovered, a cap made completely of shells. It appears that bags to carry goods were also made with looped, twined fibres so we had a go at starting either a cap or a bag. The interesting thing about this technique is that you only need a

short length of twining to start since the fibres are easily joined as you work. In other words, twine a bit, loop a bit, join on more fibre, twine a bit more, loop a bit more. No need to have all the twining done before you start! A bit different to a spinning and knitting project when you need to make sure that you have



unretted flax. I actually preferred the colour and feel of the unretted stalks! It was also easier to extract the fibres but presumably retted flax is more

spun enough to finish your project.

Sally talked about how archaeologists have worked out when people began

to wear clothing as opposed to just draping skins around their bodies and it all hinges on a discovery about lice. Body lice can only live within clothing as it dies within hours without shelter. By comparing DNA mutations of head and body lice a prominent study suggests that a division occurred around 170,000 years ago. This implies that humans started wearing clothing then and this time scale also aligns with major human migrations out of Africa into colder climates. We moved onto tools for making clothing and found out that the oldest known eyed needles date to approximately 50,000 years ago.

Of course this was an ideal point in the day to think about making bone needles!

Sally very kindly produced small pieces of antler rather than bone. This was to avoid upsetting any vegetarians amongst us (me included!). Antler is a natural waste product so no animals were killed to acquire it.

Using just a sharp piece of flint and dipping the antler fragment in water we were able to scrape away the surface and shape our needles. Sally had a simple drill made of wood and twine with a piece of flint on the tip but I used a sharp piece of obsidian to drill the hole in my needle.



It was very satisfying when I could see daylight through my piece of antler!

After lunch we made a 13 strand braid based on the oldest known archeological braid discovery. It looked complicated but was actually quite easy! Altogether it was a fabulous day's workshop and I now have a long list of books about prehistoric textiles on my 'to get' list!

We are hoping to have Sally for a talk/workshop at Kennet Valley in 2027 and we will also be doing a mini-workshop to make the braid in January.

Ed: if you've been on a weaving, spinning, dyeing or related crafts adventure recently, tell our Members all about it in the December Shuttle. See the back page for details of how to submit your article. Thank you!

Thanks from the Exhibition Committee

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the 2025 Exhibition a success. We had some wonderful exhibits, which were greatly admired by the visitors, including the Newbury Mayor and his wife.

A survey form was handed out at the November meeting; its purpose was to gather the views of members about all aspects of the exhibition, including venue, theme, presentation, stewarding, participation, scope and purpose, and objectives. Of the 14 forms returned, here are some of the common themes:

- a) The number of visitors was low; holding at least part of the Exhibition during the school holidays might have increased numbers.
- b) The high cost and having to pay for parking by phone may have discouraged attendance.
- c) The core skills of spinning and weaving were under-represented.
- d) It would have been better with more items on display
- e) The Town Hall, The National Needlework Archive, The Base, Thatcham Discovery Centre, the Library, a shopping centre with empty space and Greenham Control Tower were suggested as alternative venues.

- f) The Exhibition Committee should encourage members to exhibit and should give practical and interesting examples.
- g) It would have been good to include a Beginners section and a section not linked to the theme.
- h) "As an Art exhibition it was beautiful but may not encourage a beginner to join the Guild as the skill involved in producing the items might seem unattainable".
- i) Something with a natural theme might be a good suggestion for the next topic for the exhibition. We should emphasis our use of natural materials. Seascapes?
- j) Theme suggestion - The Joy of Wool
- k) "I didn't enter an exhibit as I did not have anything up to the standard".
- l) Theme suggestion - Precious water; Future 2050 in Fibre

As we look forward to the next exhibition in 2 years' time, we would like to maintain the momentum generated by this year's exhibition by choosing a topic, venue and new exhibition committee at the December meeting.

The 2025 Committee has dispersed to allow a new committee to form and take over the running of the 2027 Exhibition. However, Sue, Janet, Julie and Nicky are always available to support and advise.

Please consider becoming a member of the new committee, as the more volunteers we have the less work is involved for each individual member. It's FUN and REWARDING to be involved in such a worthwhile venture on behalf of the Guild.

If you would like more information about what would be involved in becoming a member of the 2027

Exhibition committee please speak to Sue Davies, Julie Fraser, Janet Dunbar or Nicky Duncan, who will be very happy to help.

The Exhibition Committee 2025.



Exhibits were many and varied including hand spun yarns knitted into clothing or as skeins, sun and eco dyed items; felted and embroidered, wall hangings, braiding, macramé pieces, woven cushions, a blanket, scarves and fabric, lace work and much more!



The Mayor's Choice was Sue Bramwell's beautiful knitted shawl made from hand spun merino, shetland, bamboo and silk, adorned with gold glass beads.



Newbury Show

Author: Rosie Price

It was a really good show for us this year. We set up on Friday afternoon and discovered we had the whole end of the craft tent with no open exit, so people came down looking at other stalls and discovered they couldn't get out! So they stood and watched.

Carol Kennedy was carding and spinning and letting people touch the wool. Gill Meadows was spinning and, with Carol, teaching the children how to braid with the Fill The Gap cards.



Meg was also spinning and talking to visitors. I had taken my loom with the handspun silk warp on it and also brought the guild loom with a 3 metre warp on that they couldn't find room for at the exhibition. So I spent most of the two days persuading children and adults to please weave and they



did! They must have done well over half the warp.

We were incredibly busy over the weekend. On Sunday morning a Dad brought his two daughters back to proudly show us their braids and they were really pleased when we gave them some warps to do more.

We did get a mention in the Newbury Weekly News and the official photographer took photos.

Thank you to everyone who helped to create Fill The Gap cards before the demonstration season.

Let's hope we get the same spot next year!



Hamish's Wool (less) Adventure

Hamish was heading for a long holiday and decided that souvenir wool/yarn would be an excellent way to remind himself of his travels.

In order to help he used Ravelry to look up wool shops in the areas he would be visiting. Boarding the ship at Portsmouth his first stop was Gibraltar.

On a previous visit to the territory he had attended a local knitting group so he was hopeful of somewhere to purchase yarn. He took a trip around the whole area and up on to the rock where he met the local macaque monkeys of whom he is not fond. Returning to the lower level he walked into the town but to no avail, all he could purchase was a new watch and pair of earrings in the tax free shops. Back on board Hamish checked on Ravelry and found there was not a wool shop here.

His next stop was Syracuse, Sicily and Hamish took a coach trip to visit the village of Noto. It was Sunday but the village was buzzing with tourists and a market. The buildings were just superb and Hamish stuck his nose into the door of San Nicolo Cathedral although he didn't go in as there as a service in progress. Many handicrafts were on display particularly ceramics and there were ceramic pineapples everywhere in shops on market stalls and even on the side of the road. Pineapples are, apparently, a sign of

welcome. Sadly no yarn to be found anywhere.

Crete called and Hamish arrived at Heraklion, named after Heracles (the mythical one not Steptoe and Son's horse). He headed inland to the tiny village of Agios Myron. The agricultural scenery as his coach climbed upwards was stunning as the different crops were set out with the colours appearing as a huge mosaic. Once in the village Hamish visited the skete under the church of St Myron the Wonderworker where he is said to have worshiped and in which his relics are reputed to lie. Moving up a set of steep steps to the present day church Hamish was greeted by some local ladies who had laid on a "snack". This consisted of two types of local bread, olives, cold meats, cheeses, a local vegetable filled "pasty" and a drink. The drink was a choice of water, squash, coffee or a local schnapps. This latter had to be knocked back in one and Hamish took on the challenge. It burned all the way down and the lovely ladies handing it out found his reaction very giggle causing. After a wobbly walk through the steep, cobbled streets of the village Hamish returned to his ship.

Hamish's next four visits were to Turkey the first of which was Canakkale on the side of the Dardanelles near to the ancient city of Troy immortalised by Homer with his story of the Trojan horse. The 2004 film of this story involved a



huge horse being built into which the “Greeks” could hide and this construction was gifted to the city of Canakkale where it now stands on the seafront. Hamish, of course, had to go and see this. Of his whole trip this was the only day Hamish had rain and boy did it rain! From the horse Hamish walked through the town to the military museum. To his surprise everyone’s cameras were taken from them and locked up on entry here although phones were allowed. Why



surprise? Well the most modern piece of equipment was from the Second World War.

Finally drying off Hamish prepared for his next visit to Izmir. On arrival Hamish found the harbour was absolutely full of white pelicans, what a great start to the day. So much of our British yarn is spun in Turkey so Hamish was delighted to hear from the guide about the silk and cashmere produced in this area. The plan was a walk through a mountain village followed by wine tasting and a trip to a local shop to see the fibre products. ...that didn’t work and Hamish found himself wine tasting at 10am followed by being taken to a market stall. The positive thing was that there was a fabulous nuno felted jacket on the stall.

Kusadasi was Hamish’s opportunity to visit the classical ruins of the Gates of Ephesus, an amazing amphitheatre built to seat 24 000 people and the museum next to it. The museum is full of fabulous statues and artefacts, the originals of copies seen in the British Museum and display cabinets also held loom weights, spindle whorls, bobbins and bone needles. Next to the museum was a mosque dedicated to Christ, one of Islam’s prophets.

At each Turkish port the approach was guarded by a castle out on a spit of land and Bodrum was another fine example. Hamish made his way to the ruins of Halicarnassus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world

and after visiting one of Alexander the Great's fortress gates he headed off to a small fishing village along the coast. This place was a delight and looked like the fishing villages you see in films. Painted blue and white there were white painted trees placed in the water with fairy lights and large mirrors so you could take a picture of yourself with the beautiful backdrop of the water behind you instead of having to take a selfie. Whilst doing this Hamish noticed a group of five fishermen in a small boat behind him. They then came into land to a small jetty and proceeded to try to get out of their boat without getting their feet wet - now the boat moved away from the jetty with one fisherman half way off, luckily his friend caught him before he fell in. Hamish asked them what they had caught, he doesn't speak Turkish and they don't speak English but they showed him their catch - small red and white fish. Back at the port Hamish glanced into the crystal clear water and saw a squid, several pipe fish and a shoal of silver fish with black stripes.

Moving on to Rhodes Hamish looked forward to seeing the Colossus but

found out that this had not only disappeared many years ago but that it was not where all the pictures show it as being, ie astride the harbour. It was, he was told, to one side of the harbour where it would do less damage if it fell. Hamish was blown away by how beautiful Rhodes is with beautiful bays of turquoise water - and an old airfield. Looking on Ravelry Hamish found that, at last, a wool shop was in the town. He set off with great hopes but none of the roads were named and Hamish doesn't speak Greek however he finally found it. The window was very inviting with braids, embroidery and he could see balls of wool inside but.....it was closed for siesta! It opened at 5.30 but it was only 2pm and P was not keen to wait all that time particularly as the ship left at 6pm.

His next stop at Alexandria involved a very long day as Hamish had opted to travel to Cairo and Giza to see the pyramids and take a cruise on the Nile. Any thoughts of wool disappeared as the cavalcade set off with an armed outrider at the front and an armed guard on each coach.



The salt flats outside the city were stunning in the early morning with thousands of birds. The drive through the desert was beautiful and “interesting” with the most awful driver behaviour Hamish had ever seen along with people just walking along the sides of the motorway or travelling 8 to a motorbike. In Cairo it was even worse with no one giving way to anyone, the noise of vehicle horns was deafening.

Hamish’s hooves curled when a school turned its students out into the traffic weaving their way through to cross the road. The pyramids were fabulous as was the Sphinx and Hamish took

myriad photos in the 35 degree heat. Things got a bit cooler when Hamish met his boat at the Nile for a trip along the river whilst having lunch. Entertainment was supplied by a belly dancer and two men performing circle skirt dancing. The return journey to the ship seemed to take for ever and his coach was met with sniffer dogs and armed police with mirrors.

Valletta, his next stop, was a bit more hopeful and the wool shop here was much easier to find. Sadly the stock consisted of a very few cheap British brands and crochet cotton which did

look nice but. . . . Then Hamish espied some beautiful heavyweight ribbon and he was delighted to leave with 6m of ribbon in blue and green, perfect for covering steeks. Malta has a noon day gun that fires at. . . .noon but the ships captain promised a treat that he had paid for himself and as we left the gun fired 5 times. Their artillery are not that accurate though as all 5 firings missed us!



Hamish’s last stop before home was Malaga and Hamish signed up for a walking tour of the town ending up at a flamenco dancing venue. He was amazed at the speed with which the dancer’s hands, with castanets and feet,

flew to the music provided by the guitarist and singer. He’d seen it on tv but in real life it was fantastic. The town here was buzzing and Hamish found a small shop selling buttons and small passementerie items. Here he bought 2 key rings for E and J with Spanish Air Force planes on them.

Returning to Britain, Hamish consulted Ravelry again and found that Izmir had no less than 3 wool shops although none had shown up whilst he was there. Next time he goes away he will be consulting Ravelry before he travels!



Spinning the Dog Vol.2

Author: Linda Scurr

Following on from my last article where I detailed spinning and then knitting a scarf from my brother's dog's hair.

I had some yarn left over... Not enough to knit another scarf but probably enough to weave something.

I used my 12 inch knitters loom and warped up across the width alternating two warp threads of dog hair and two warp threads from my own commercially spun sheep wool. I repeated the pattern in the weft with two rows of dog and two rows of wool. Appropriately this weaving pattern is known as dogs tooth. Rocco is a big dog so perhaps I should have done a 4x4 pattern known as hounds tooth!



My Life Through Six Decades of Crafting

Author: Anne Reddan



At our October Guild member Jennifer Thompson gave a fascinating talk about how textile craft has always been a part of her life.

Jennifer's earliest memories were learning to knit at the age of five and she has happy memories her honorary Aunt Doris, a friend of her mom, patiently teaching her first embroidery stitches. Sitting side by side Jenn attempted to copy Aunt Doris's stitches, with the reverse being as neat as the face of the fabric, quite a challenge for a young girl. Throughout her teenage years Jenn continued to knit and sew alongside school followed by teacher training college. By now she had met Norman and we were shown a photo taken at a ball of Jenn and Norman with Jenn wearing an pale blue empire line ball dress which she had made from lining fabric lined with thin cotton with daisies embroidered around the hem and neck.



Marriage and four children later, including a move to California for a few years, Jenn still was still crafting. One project she started was a patchwork quilt

constructed from hexagons from a selection of Laura Ashley fabrics. With the demands of childcare, moving back to England, several house moves and returning to work the patchwork quilt got put to one side and it is only recently that Jenn has started working on it again.

Another long term project was a pink jumper, originally started for her daughter Catherine when she was a little girl, inevitably this got put on



hold whilst caring for her four under sevens! The half finished jumper reappeared several years ago so Jenn decided to finish it for youngest of nine grandchildren, Olivia. Unfortunately though, Olivia, now aged eleven, had already outgrown it so Jenn will be finishing it to send to Ukraine instead.

Eventually with her children growing up Jenn embarked on a City and Guilds Textiles course. Joining the class on her first day she found herself starting part one in a second year class who were finishing part two. It was a steep learning curve but it was here that she met her long time friend, Janet. Together they completed their qualification and went on to study HNC Textiles through GLOSCAT. During her studies Jenn's creativity flourished and she filled many sketchbooks with ideas and explorations in

manipulating fabrics to create different textures. One textured piece representing vegetation was accompanied by a teleidoscope, itself covered in textured fabric, with which to view the texture of the 'vegetation' in front of it.

Over the years Jenn has made clothes including bridesmaid dresses, christening gowns and has even added embroidery to a chasuble to hide moth damage to the fabric around the hem.

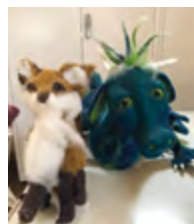
On a smaller scale, with the arrival of Nick, her first grandchild, Jenn started to make Christmas tree decorations, first for Nick and then for each subsequent grandchild.

Now with nine grandchildren, and Nick is now twenty-four, Jenn is still making a different decoration every year, a total of twenty-two for children and seven more intricate decorations for the special women in her life. Nick will have a collection of forty-nine decorations this year as Janet has also made a decoration for each of Jenn's grandchildren since the arrival of Nick! January is when Jenn aims to start each years decorations but quite often this doesn't happen until October. She works best under

pressure!

Lockdown provided its own challenges but undaunted Jenn joined an online needle-felting course to make a dragon.

Advice and guidance were given but the final design was down to each person. Eventually 'Drusilla' emerged from a sea of green roving, complete with tail, claws, floppy ears



and endearing dark eyes. She was also star of the show at the guild exhibition in 2021, having gathered the most votes for the visitors favourite item!

More recently Jenn has started to explore sun and cyanotype printing and used these techniques to make the fabric for two parasols for this years exhibition.



This was an absolutely fascinating talk. Jenn had brought several boxes of textiles and various crafts she had made over the years and these were displayed for people to look at afterwards. With so many people asking questions and admiring her work it was quite a while before she was able to start packing up to go home.

Ellendune 1200

Author: Anne Reddan

Belonging to a local gardening group we, that is Jenn and myself, had no idea at all that this would lead to us spending a day in a field dressed as Anglo Saxon women!



We had been asked by a fellow gardener who knew of our interest in spinning, weaving and dyeing if we could advise on an appropriate outfit for an event to commemorate 1200 years since the Battle of Ellendune in 825. This piqued our interest and even more so when we were invited

to join her on the day to demonstrate Anglo Saxon textile skills. However this was in June and before then we had items to make for the exhibition, a visit to the Southern Wool Show and a couple of demonstration days at the Uffington White Horse Show. There was also the garden to water,

tomatoes to pick and grandchildren to care for. During this time all we could really do was to research appropriate clothing and order a length of fabric for our outfits.

Finally, with the grandchildren back at school we had two weeks in which to make and dye our clothing. The measuring, cutting out and sewing up took some time especially as the underarm gussets needed drastic trimming for a better fit. We used Woad, madder, weld and onion skins for the dyes. My dress was

finally washed, dried and finished with a lucet braid round the neck the night before the event.

The next day dawned bright and sunny but with a threat of heavy showers later. Setting up under our gazebo didn't take long and we had

time for a quick walk round some of the stalls before visitors started arriving. Very soon we were non stop talking to people and I demonstrated making cord with a lucet and preparing flax for spinning. The morning flew by with visitors showing a lot of interest in the dyestuffs. While Jenn was busy talking about the different dyes I went to get cheesy jacket potatoes for our lunch. Then one of the promised heavy showers arrived. As was raining too heavily to return I sheltered under the canopy of the hot potato van, it provided some shelter but not enough to stop rain running down the back of my next from the gap between the canopy and the van! Meanwhile visitors were sheltering under our gazebo, just as well as a sudden squall of wind threatened to collapse one side of it. They very kindly held on to the gazebo until the squall passed. Nearby the people with the forge weren't so lucky, their gazebo took off and landed in their fire pit. They hauled it out, it was wet enough not to cause a big fire but, sodden and singed beyond repair. Then the sun came out. The rest of the afternoon passed all too quickly with no more showers. I had seen my family before the rain and my son had the good luck to be near the beer tent with his family when the heavens



opened. Afterwards he reappeared with coffee for Jenn and myself which was most welcome after the squall. My brother and some friends also came to see what we were doing which is always lovely. I always enjoy demonstrating days, meeting and talking to people but this was a truly memorable occasion. My only regret is that being so busy we didn't get a chance to visit all the stalls but who knows there may be similar events to go to in the future.

Ed: if you've been on a weaving, spinning, dyeing or related crafts adventure recently, tell our Members all about it in the March Shuttle. See the back page for details of how to submit your article. Thank you!

All My Spare Time From April-September

Author: Lynne Harper

The 2025 Guild Exhibition was coming up and I had a couple of planned items to complete before they were needed in August, then something happened.

I knew my nephew and his partner were planning to get married in September, and had this in my diary, was looking forward to it, but gave it no more thought than that. But a message at the end of February changed my plans for the year. Thomas and Ellie had seen, presumably when searching for 'wedding items', a welcome board which was embroidered. This was an item that could be personalised and purchased to welcome guests into the reception.

However, they wondered if I would be able to embroider one for them instead.

Delighted to be asked, I jumped at the chance, little thinking how long it would actually take to achieve. I would never have dreamt of offering out of the blue, having had handmade items not appreciated at all in similar situations, but actually being asked was completely different.

They wanted the flowers around the edge of the welcome words to be the birth moth flowers of them both, roses and cosmos. I suggested adding a little lily of the valley for their son's birth month, to which they agreed. I then had to work out how to achieve the required end.

I purchased a pre-stretched artist's canvas (18" by 24") from Hobbycraft, and before removing the packaging covered it completely with paper.

The sample printed onto canvas the wording, but I thought it would be better to embroider the working as well (glutton for punishment?) so I set about finding a font that was suitable, and printing it on paper, sized so that it would fit on the canvas. I then went looking on the internet for (free) line drawings of roses, cosmos and lily of the valley, chose them, printed several out several of each so that I could choose the best for the job.

I then set about using copy and paste in its original form – paper, scissors and glue – onto the covered canvas until I had the result I wanted.

I couldn't do it on the computer, as I needed to see the actual physical size, and be happy with the results. I then photocopied the design in sections (the words separately, and the surround in quarters) that would fit onto A4 and printed it on to self-adhesive water-soluble



material which I would stick to the background material. This was an ivory slub-silk-like material, which I backed with iron-on woven cotton interfacing.

Firstly, I did a small sample - one letter, one rose and one cosmos flower – using my planned techniques, to check that they would work. This also allowed me to have a moment of the project. I then started the real embroidery. Over the full time I used three different frames. Starting with a small circular one for the centre words,



then a larger circular one for the rest of the wording, finally a large square frame for all of the flowers. I stuck on the design a section at a time, as I was about to start that section, a process which worked well. After all of the design and sampling, I finally started embroidering in late May, with the words. These were done in 3 strands of 6-strand DMC embroidery floss using satin stitch and edged with 1 strand using stem stitch.

Having completed the wording, I moved on to the surrounding flowers, which were done in Appleton's crewel embroidery wool, which was a delight to sew with. The cosmos flowers were embroidered with simple long and short stitch, with colour shading, and I used split stitch for the stems and leaves. The Roses were more complicated. I used Mountmellick stitch for the stems, as this gives a natural thorn on the edge of the stem. The leaves were using Y stitch (well that's what I call it) giving natural looking veins. The Rose petals I edged with a long and short buttonhole stitch, moving into normal long and short and shading in the centre of the petals. I also did a row of raised buttonhole around the edge of the petals, giving the embroiders some 3-D effects. Finally, the lily of the valley; the leaves were padded satin stitch, as were the bell flowers. I think the most difficult flower to embroider considering size and type of thread were the lily of the valley bells, but they looked



OK at a distance when finished.

The flower surround was completed a quarter at a time, and it took me about 2 to 2½ weeks to manage each quarter. I finally managed to finish the embroidery on the 19th August. It sounds as though it was in plenty of time, but I still had a lot to do. I firstly soaked off the soluble material, and that's where I had a problem. The deep wine colour of the DMS embroidery floss was not colour-fast! I managed to solve this by using colour catcher paper on top of the wet words. This picked up most of the colour, but there was still a very slight pick glow around the words.

Luckily this actually added to the effect rather than spoiling it. Once the design was clear of the soluble residue, and dry the mounting began. I carefully striped the paper cut and paste off the canvas and removed the plastic packaging. I stretched the embroidery over the canvas, which meant the back of the embroidery was nicely hidden! I'm not sure that my mounting was completely to the 'rules', but it worked. A mixture of using threading across the back and also a staple gun. Finally, I folded in the corners, and backed the whole thing with white felt, so that it looked neat and tidy.

The final work was done on the Sunday before the Wedding – close timing.



I travelled up to Hunstanton on Friday 12th September, the day before the wedding, and the reception hall was on the road to my hotel, so I stopped in to find Thomas, Ellie and lots of others busy decorating the hall for the following day. They were very happy with the embroidery, and so it was a good end to all the work.

Unfortunately, all this meant my plans to make things for the exhibition just did not happen. However, I am still working on them, so you may see them when eventually finished, even if they did not make it to the museum.

Rosie Meadows is running 26.2 miles in 2026!

Hello, I'm Rosie, Gill Meadows' daughter. Some of you might remember me from when I used to come to Guild with my Mum each month helping with the raffle !



I am going to be running the London Marathon in 2026 with my work colleague, Kera Fullick. We're running the full 26.2 miles to raise funds for the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation in aid of the Children's Trust and Dementia, two causes close to our hearts.

We're training hard for the event and are determined to do it!

If you feel that you could support my efforts for this worthy cause, please go to Kera's JustGiving page via the QR code. You can read our full story there too. Thank you so much.



Rosie Meadows

Inkle Loom For Sale

I have an inkle loom for sale for £20. The base is 17 x 7 inches. It comes with several shuttles and a book; The Weaver's Inkle Pattern Directory by Anne Dixon.

It will need to be collected from Burghfield Common.

For further information, please contact me via the Guild.

Many thanks, Pat Foster

Ed: Article Author Correction

The Viking Textiles article on P.24 of the September Shuttle was wrongly attributed to Carol Hubbard.

It was written by Carol Kennedy, so apologies to both Carols for the confusion.

RBH Donations



I recently took 3 blankets, 2 shawls and 2 baby cardigans to the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. They were really pleased to get them and thought they were wonderful.

As you saw at the October meeting we had loads of yarn come in and quite a bit seemed to jump into my bag!!!

Thanks to everyone who donates yarn or knits for local causes or the Ukraine it really does make a difference to those who receive what we make.

Happy Christmas to everyone!

Rosie

Ukraine Effort

As you know we send items to Ukraine for refugees and for soldiers. There is a desperate need for amputee socks both for arms and legs.



I will be printing out and bringing some patterns to the Guild meetings but in the meantime you can find a pattern at <https://suzies-yarnie-stuff.blogspot.com/2009/11/amputees-residual-limb-covers-aka-stump.html>

Although we ask for dark coloured, woollen socks for soldiers on the front line, for the amputees, we ask for the softest, brightest acrylic yarn you have please.

Thank you for everything that you donate. It is very gratefully received.

Jennifer Thompson

Wee Peggy Spinning Wheel For Sale

Very good condition. Plus a set of carders, a Niddy Noddy and 4 bobbins with Lazy Kate.

All for £175.

Wee Peggys have a following - they're great little spinners and portable.

Please contact Daphne Burgess via the Guild.



Craft Socials

Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers normally meet at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the 4th Saturday of the month.

It is called "Weavers' Chat" but braiders are welcome with inkles, marudai etc and lace makers with pillows, as these are all forms of weaving.

All Guild members are very welcome to come along to see what we are doing and find out what weaving is all about.

All meetings run from 9.30am -1.30pm.

Subs: £4.00 towards the hall hire fee.

Dates for 2026:

January 24th, February 28th, March 28th, April 18th, May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th, September 26th, October 24th all 9.30-1.30 and November 28th 9.30-4.30.

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

Rosie Price:

Aldbourne Braid Days

The final Aldbourne Braid Day in 2025 is Sunday December 14th.

The cost is £8.00 per head per day.

Biscuits, cake and hot drinks are provided free of charge.

Please contact me for directions and so that I can keep an eye on numbers.

Moulsford Spinning & Craft Group

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Moulsford Pavilion from 6.30pm - 10pm.

There are usually spinners, weavers, felters, a basketmaker and knitters there so do come and join us.

Moulsford Pavilion, The Street, Moulsford, OX10 9JD

Newbury Crafters

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

For more details contact Sue Davies.



The copy deadline for the March issue of The Shuttle is Monday 9th February 2026.

Please send your articles about Guild talks, workshops, your weaving, spinning and dyeing projects, travels, yarn, fibre and subjects that you think would interest Guild members to kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com

Photos should be high resolution and sent as separate files.

Many thanks!

Front and back cover images:
In praise of sheep.