



of
*Weavers, Spinners
and Dyers*

The Shuttle

March 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 th March	Workshop – Tablet Weaving Tutor: Shirley Berlin Venue: Speen Hall
4 th April	Guild Meeting – AGM and Shared Lunch A.M. AGM P.M. “Lichen: Colour, Texture and Mark” by Maria Boyle.
5 th April	Workshop – Dye Effects for Cloth Tutor: Maria Boyle Venue: Speen Hall
2 nd May	Guild Meeting & Workshop P.M. Talk – “Knitting from the 1800s to 1945” by Joyce Meader - The Historic Knit
6 th June	Guild Meeting P.M. Talk – “ Blending Fibres” by Carol Hodgson
7 th June	Workshop - Colour Blending Tutor: Carol Hodgson Venue: Speen Hall
4 th July	Guild Meeting P.M. T B A
5 th July	Workshop - Willow Basket Weaving Tutor: Christine Brewster Venue: Speen Hall
9 th – 11 th October	Guild Retreat DoubleTree by Hilton, Junction 13 M4

GUILD MEETINGS

The usual agenda for Guild meetings is:

10.00 a.m.	Hall open for sociable crafts
1.00 p.m.	Business Meeting
1.30 p.m.	Show and Tell
2.00 p.m.	Speaker

Some meetings are different, and as such are noted above. Please check so as not to be disappointed. Please help your Committee by putting your own and your neighbour’s chair away at the end of the day. Thank you.

Speaker Secretary

GUILD DEMONSTRATIONS

For details of Guild Demonstrations, please refer to the Demonstrations Folder available at the Guild meetings.

If you would like to attend a Guild demonstration day, please sign up in the folder or contact the Demonstrations Secretary by phone or email. It is essential that the Demonstrations Secretary knows that you will be attending to ensure that you are covered by Public Liability Insurance.

Please note that the KVGSWD will under no circumstances be responsible for any theft, loss or damage caused to **equipment not belonging to the Guild**. This includes use of such equipment on Guild demonstrations. Each Guild Member will be responsible for their equipment. They should check their own house contents insurance policy to see if they are covered for use of their equipment anywhere outside their homes.

The planned demonstrations for 2020 so far are as follows:

May	Mapledurham Food Festival
May	Lambourn Spring Show
Aug	White Horse Show, Uffington
Aug	Southern Wool Show at Newbury Racecourse

Demonstrations Secretary

GUILD COURSES

For details of Guild Courses, please refer to the Courses Folder available at the Guild meetings.

Booking a Guild Course

The rules for booking a course at the Kennet Valley Guild are as follows:

1. If the sheet says 'INTEREST LIST' at the top: if you sign up, it tells me that you are interested in the course. Usually the INTEREST LIST will give a tutor and a topic but no date or cost. Signing up is to help me decide whether the course would attract enough people or not. You are committed to nothing, neither is the committed to running this course.

2. If the sheet says 'BOOKING FORM', then the sheet will state the tutor, course, title, venue and cost. If you sign up, you are committing to attend the course. A deposit is required by a set date (usually three months before the course date) and the rest of the course fee is required at least 4 weeks before the course date. If you back out after paying a deposit, then you lose the deposit. If you back out more than 4 weeks before the course date, you will get back any money you have paid over and above the deposit. If you back out within 4 weeks of the course date, you lose all the money you have paid.

Lesley Dunn, Courses Secretary

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

What a great start to the year with our mini workshops, for which a huge thank-you to all the tutors and Lesley. I particularly enjoyed myself as I was helping run the children's day, where they were all very keen and enthusiastic. We made woven people, baskets and dream catchers to name just a few of their projects (thank you again Lesley for organising).

I'd like to give a special mention to Nicky Duncan. She has taken over the Guild, which is now up and running and looking fantastic, as well as being linked to our Facebook page. Thanks Nicky! Details of both of these will be at the front of this shuttle.

I've been busy too, trying to get to grips with drop spindle spinning (thank you Janet Dunbar) in preparation for Aldbourne's medieval day. This has also involved dyeing large quantities of fabric to make costumes. Again, on the dyeing front I coloured more string to make another ply split basket. This one took its inspiration from sea anemones and is finished ready for the Guild exhibition in 2021. (It's never too early to start!) I'm also in the middle of weaving some tweed fabric to make a dress. This (I fear) will be a long-term project due to all the other projects calling for my attention.

I'm really looking forward to the tablet weaving course. At least it won't require lots of new equipment and maybe I will even use some of my stash!

I've got no other courses booked, as yet, but there are a few exhibitions coming up. I'm especially looking forward to the kimono exhibition at the V&A. I expect to be blown away by the designs and colours. On the subject of courses, my husband has really taken to leather working after our handbag course. He's made a very nice tote bag for me and is making another for my sister.

Last but not least there is the Guild retreat in October, which seems far away but will be on us in a flash!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next Guild meeting.

Louisa Homden

Deputy Webmaster wanted!!

As you've probably seen Nicky Duncan has done a great job in setting up the web page and Facebook account. Now, to carry on the good work, and provide backup and help to Nicky, we need a volunteer to be the Deputy Webmaster.

If you're interested, please contact Nicky at kvgwebmaster@gmail.com

Thanks!

Louisa Homden, Chairman

SHOW-AND-TELL

- December** The Fashion Show took the place of Show and Tell this month.
- January** No Show and Tell in January as we were all busy with Mini Workshops.
- February** Louisa did a ply split braiding workshop with Julie Hedges last year and was inspired to practise what she had learnt when she came across a ball of string in her garage. She dyed the string yellow and orange and produced a large basket in the shape of a sea anemone complete with tentacles.
- Kath Clouston made a bobbin lace snake at Lynne Harper's mini workshop last year and decided to have another go this year producing a second snake using a different lace pattern which resembled chair caning.
- Daphne Burgess spun some Teeswater fleece into a soft chunky yarn which she knitted into a lacy scarf, modelled by Jill Meadows.

For the benefit of our newest members - we love to see what you've been working on so please bring something along for Show and Tell. All levels of expertise are welcome. If you are not comfortable standing in front of the meeting, I am happy to describe the item for you. It doesn't even have to be something you've made. It can be a garment or item you've acquired that you think might be of interest to your fellow crafters. I look forward to a full table next month.

Lynne Bond

GUILD TROPHIES

We have had some wonderful items entered for our trophy competitions during the last few months.

Trophies awarded since the last shuttle

December 2019: **Christmas Trophy:** This year we had a new trophy to present for the Christmas fashion show and, very appropriately, it was won by Pat Christmas! Five people took to the catwalk with Pat entering a very jaunty hat and scarf made from her hand spun yarn dyed with food colouring. This was Pat's first time entering the Christmas fashion show, so it just shows that you don't have to be an old hand to win!

Upcoming Trophies

To help you get ready for the next trophies, here are the requirements of those to be awarded in the next few months.

April 2020: **June Young Trophy:** presented at the guild AGM, in memory of Roy's wife, June, to someone for service to guild. Nominations come from members and are voted on by the committee. Last year the winner was Cath Clouston. After every meeting Cath can be seen, broom in hand, clearing up the hall floor leaving it clean and tidy for the next users. If you would like to nominate someone for the trophy, please email Louisa.

The Beginner Weavers' Trophy: This is presented in April to coincide with the end of the beginners' weaving course. We hope that all the beginners from the course will enter, but the competition is also open to anyone who may have started weaving by themselves at home.

May 2020: **The Beginner Spinners' Trophy:** Beginners can enter a skein of any fibre, any colour, any size.

The Spinning Trophy: We would like you to spin a skein of mixed fibres. This can be fibres that you have bought as a blend or fibres that you have blended yourself. It can, for example, be a mix of different wools; wool and synthetic fibre; synthetic fibres mixed together; Alpaca and something else; silk and something else; any fibre that you can think of mixed with something else! It can be two fibres, three fibres or even more. Entirely your choice of fibre, colour, thickness, size of skein. We have some wonderful spinners in our guild so please do enter a skein in May.

The weaving trophy is now presented in November and I hope to be able to give you the criteria for that very soon so that you have plenty of time to weave something wonderful. It may be connected to our next exhibition 'I must go down to the seas again'.

Remember that Wingham wools will be at East Hendred in March with gorgeous fibres and yarns, including the special blend that Ruth is preparing based on a winter seascape, so a perfect place to find inspiration for projects for the exhibition!

As always, looking forward to seeing some amazing entries for the trophies.

Jennifer Thompson

The Kennet Valley Guild Embraces the Internet

Facebook

The Kennet Valley Guild now has a Facebook page!

Page name: Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Quick find: @kennetvalleyguild

Anyone on Facebook can see it and we hope it will attract new members. A few Guild Members have already started to follow the page and have Liked and Shared posts which helps to spread the word.

If you've got a Facebook page of your own, please do have a look at ours and Follow and/or Like it.

I will post updates about meetings and events we host plus any external events or places of interest. If anyone visits somewhere in the UK that they would love us to know about, then please let me know and I will post to our page.

The hope is that the page will develop into a community source of information, activities, recommendations, and a celebration of our Guild and the crafts we love. If you've got any thoughts or ideas for the page content and how it can be developed, please let me know.

Contact Nicky Duncan: kvgwebmaster@gmail.com

Web Site

The Kennet Valley also has a web site: <https://www.kennet-valley-guild.com/>

It's being updated every month with Meeting Dates, Events & Workshops, Resources, Speaker info and links, pictures of workshops, events and much more.

It would be wonderful to start using the Blog feature on the site. The Guild has so many members who have artistic and creative talents that could be featured; braiding, tatted jewellery, lace making, knitting, spinning, dyeing, crochet, art weaving projects and tapestry, to name but a few. Or, we could feature your favourites: weaving on a specific loom or spinning wheel, or a technical pattern draft that you have created. The possibilities are truly endless and will be of great interest to our members and the greater community.

A Blog needs to feature a selection of good quality images and, ideally, 300 words, although I would certainly take less to get the ball rolling.

If anyone has ideas for Blog content or is ready to take the first slot, please do let me know.

Contact Nicky Duncan: kvgwebmaster@gmail.com

Nicky Duncan

THE 2020 GUILD RETREAT

As most of you will know, but our newer members may not be aware, the guild has been in the habit of holding a 'retreat' every other year, the year in which we do not hold an exhibition. We invite tutors to run workshops at a residential weekend at a local venue.

We try to have subjects that appeal to all sorts of interests. Last time we were unable to find a topic that appealed to the spinners amongst us, and only had one tutor for weaving, although we did have several members join us for the weekend to 'do their own thing'.

This year we have three tutors. Our weaving tutor in 2018, Melanie Venes, was so popular that she is coming again so that new weavers can experience her excellent teaching. Some of those who attended last time are joining her again.

In addition, we have an internationally known weaver from the US, Barbara Walker, joining us to help us weave signature blocks. We are lucky to be able to benefit from her trip to the UK this summer.

Finally, we have a tutor for spinning, Sue MacNiven, coming down from Scotland, to explain about the spinning of exotic fibres. This seems a great next step after the Silk Spinning course we have just completed led by Sue Hiley-Harris. Many of you expressed interest when the subject was suggested, so please sign up for this now it is arranged.

The retreat is to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at Junction 13 of the M4. It is the fourth time that we have been there, and they are very welcoming and provide all we need for the weekend.

It is possible to come and stay the weekend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, with all meals and course costs included in the price (either a single or shared room), or to just come by day for the course. If none of the three workshops appeal to you, it is also possible to come along and 'do your own thing', while enjoying the comradery of the weekend and joining in with the meals.

If you have not already signed up, please see me (Lynne Harper) at Guild meetings to put your name down. The cost of the weekend can be paid in instalments, I just need a commitment to attend. We need 12 persons for each course, as this is the figure on which we have based the charges. According to the initial interest sheet this should not be a

problem, but, as I write, we are still looking for people to actually commit. It is a great weekend, and, having been to the last 3, every one since I joined the Guild, I can heartily recommend it.

I look forward to seeing a huge rush of members at the next Guild meeting, all wanting to sign up for the retreat!

Lynne Harper

ARTICLES

Member's Memories – Maggie Bradd

This is the first of, hopefully, an occasional series of articles from members past and present. Be warned, the editor is on the look-out for future contributors!

In the beginning, 1979, I saw Liz Watts doing a spinning demo in Shaw Church hall, to see if there was enough interest in forming a Guild. There was, and so the Kennet Valley Guild was formed. We were in the middle of several county guilds, but all were some distance away; Berkshire (in Reading), Oxford, and Hampshire (in Winchester).

I went on the Guild's first course (held at John and Jan Shaile's home in Thatcham) where I learnt to spin. They taught a group of us how to choose a decent fleece, to sort it out, spin, ply, wash the wool, etc., and gave suggestions on how to make something. Different breeds of sheep have different uses. Those from the hills produce courser wool to make overcoats, carpets etc., while downland breeds wool is normally softer, ideal for making garments to wear. In addition, outside, through the Agricultural Collage, I learnt to shear sheep.

Over the years, through the Guild, I've learnt to spin with a drop spindle right upto different size wheels, weaving with wool, paper, metal, plastic strips, plant fibres, and all sorts of materials. Courses and Speakers have given us an insight into an incredible array of topics related to spinning, weaving and dyeing all sorts of things; ideas from free hanging objects to religious robes, weaving, knitting, crochet, macramé, etc.; Visits to exotic places, third world countries who produce useful products, to tourist things. A never-ending variety.

Numbers of members have gone from a handful to almost treble figures, with an age range (including my family) from school age to over 100 years. I hope the Guild goes on and on for years to come.

Maggie Bradd

WELCOME | Diary and Events | About us | Workshops & Talks | Gallery | Guild Trophies | Articles | Contact Us | Resources



Kennet Valley Guild Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Who we are and what we do

The Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers was formed in 1977 when Jan and John Shalles got together with some friends in their sitting room to spin.

As time went on, more people came along, and the group decided to join Berkshire Guild. In 1979, the growing band, struggling to get to Sonning for Guild meetings, took the plunge and formed their own Guild in Newbury, which has been in existence continuously ever since then.

We have 90+ members, who between them cover an enormous range of textile skills, with experience ranging from beginners right through to experts.

We have just celebrated our 40th Anniversary!

We're now on Facebook. Join our community and keep up to date with posts and comments.

Events & Workshops

At the February meeting, we were delighted to welcome sculptor, Weaver and Spinner, Sue Hiley Harris to our Guild. The day after, Sue ran a silk



Kennet Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers
@kennetvalleyguild

Home Like Follow Share

10:00 - 13:00 - Social time
13:00 - 13:30 - Guild business meeting
13:30 - 14:00 - Show & Tell
14:00 - 15:00 - Talk by an invited speaker - MEXICAN MAGIC by Janice Lawrence

DON'T MISS IT!
Our speaker for March is Janice Lawrence. Find out more about Janice and her work here:
<http://www.newenbrookdyergroup.com/members/jm/janice-lawrence/>
www.kennetvalleyguild.com

SCREEN SHOTS

↶ Website Home Page

⇩ FaceBook Header



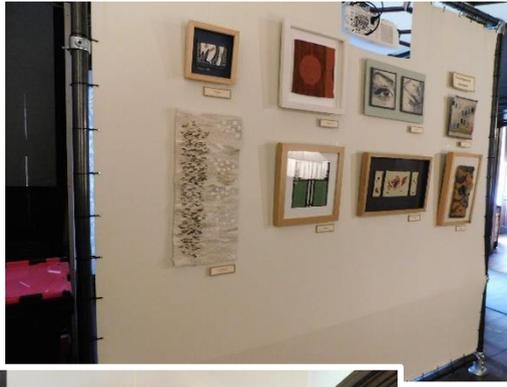
BELL RINGER MATS

↶ on loom

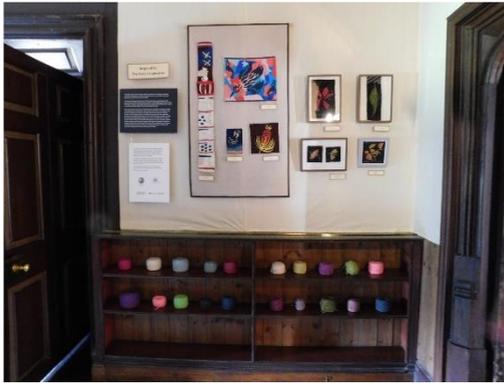
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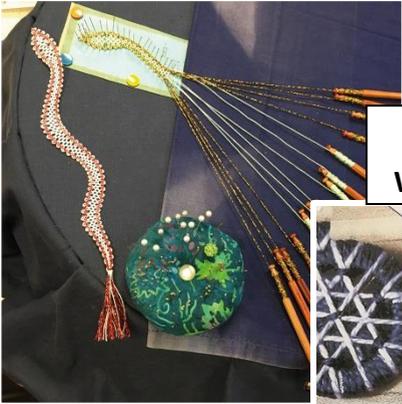
**FEBRUARY
SHOW and TELL**



THE VYNE



REFUGEE PARCEL CONTENTS



JANUARY WORKSHOPS



NEEDLEFELTING - SEASCAPES

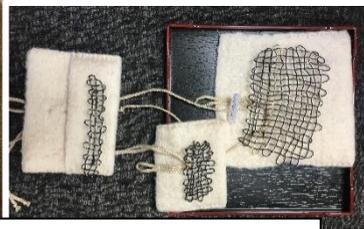




Overlord Embroidery



**SILK SPINNING
WORKSHOP**



**Examples of Weaving
by Sue Hiley-Harris**

Hamish Embroiders his Story

On a fabulously quiet, sunny, calm day in January Hamish found himself walking along the Clarence Esplanade in Portsmouth. The sun felt warm and the sea was lapping languidly on the pebbles, his car was in the garage being checked over and so he felt like doing something relaxing. As he strolled along the D Day Story came into sight. He hadn't been to the exhibition since he was a lamb and then he was surrounded by noisy small children. It had been "done up" in the last few years so he decided to look inside. The first part of the route around was an excellent display of armaments, landing craft, photographs and videos.

It was, however, the second section that Hamish wanted to see. This is the Overlord Embroidery, a fabulous piece of work 83 metres (272 feet) long, 33 metres longer than the Bayeaux Tapestry, displayed over 34 panels each 2.4m by 0.9m (8 feet x 3 feet). Finished in 1974 it is a way of remembering D Day and the battle of Normandy. It was designed by Sandra Lawrence, a 22 year old straight out of art school, the girlfriend of the son of one of the senior Naval officers who commissioned the project.

Ms Lawrence first painted a section in colour then used a method called pricking and pouncing to transfer the designs on to linen. This involved tracing her painting, pricking thousands of tiny holes in the tracing paper then applying a fine powder called pounce which left a trail of dots which were then joined by pencil. Pounce is made from ground cuttlefish bone and charcoal. This pencil outline was the basis of the embroidery and applique work that took twenty embroiderers from the Royal School of Needlework five years to complete. The original paintings are now on display in the Pentagon. Most of the panels were worked on by 4 or 5 embroiderers but the last panel was worked on by a single embroiderer for six months. Battledress khaki and gold braid were applied on to the embroidery as were actual uniforms. The faces of the people featured were made with limited colours suggesting eyes and features to make each one look like an individual. In all over fifty different materials were used and many different embroidery stitches to create texture.

Hamish very much enjoyed his visit to the D Day Story and thoroughly recommends it to anyone visiting Portsmouth whatever their interests.

The BTG at the Vyne

An important historical tapestry collection hangs in the Vyne, a National Trust house in Hampshire. A couple of years ago the house underwent a major roof replacement, which in turn led to water leakage and damage to the tapestries. The National Trust is having the tapestries conserved and the room they usually hang is now empty of furniture.

I proposed a project to the house to install contemporary tapestries in the tapestry room over last summer, alongside a historical narrative on tapestry weaving, and a programme of demonstrations to the public. The aim was to raise awareness of the tapestry conservation project.

The project aimed at introducing the public visiting the house to the making of tapestries. The Vyne tapestries are early 18th century so the historical section focussed on weaving then. Text panels with images from Diderot's *Encyclopedie*, narratives on dyeing and technical samples discussing sett and colour mixing using blending formed a discreet display.

A number of groups joined in the project: the BTG South East and various local Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers in the area. We collected tapestries from BTG SE members for exhibition and a separate sub-group had a go at weaving pieces inspired by the tapestries in the Vyne.

The room for demonstrations was ideal in terms of size and location. Being hung with 18th century tapestries we could discuss weaving by pointing at interesting aspects of the historical works and show how the work is woven using hands, bobbins and a beater. Spinners gained a great deal of interest as people filed past this kinetic machine, which was a continual source of questions and wonder.

The main display and demonstrations took place over the summer and a large number of people passed through the house. People engaged in conversations about the weaving and spinning and were fascinated when we described the full pre-industrial process from wool preparation, dyeing and weaving, exclaiming amazement at the duration of the process.

Really, a great success - thanks to everyone who made it happen.

Lorna C Goldsmith

Mats for Bell Ringers

In 2018 I had an interesting commission for St John the Baptist Church in Burford. The bell ringers have mats on the floor of the Ringing Chamber to protect the bell ropes from the floor. After some 70 years they were wearing out.

I was invited to weave four replacements. I was left to choose the colours, so I decided to use red or blue for the main colour and grey and beige for the patterns. I wove the first one in twill as it produced a thicker mat, but the downside was that it took about twice as long as plain weave. I decided to weave the other three in plain weave so I could finish them in a reasonable time.

I used cotton for the warp as I hoped it would be harder wearing than linen. (The warp is wearing out on some of my rugs). Finishing the mats took a long time. I twisted the warp thread to make a corded fringe and then had to knot each thread as the cotton warp I had used untwisted very easily. (I have had the same problem with linen and would be grateful for advice from other rug weavers about where to get a good warp)

I delivered two rugs in October that year. I wanted to see the bells being rung so having finished the last two, I took them over one Sunday last February and went up to the bell chamber to see the bells being rung between the two Sunday services. It is quite a climb up to the Bell Chamber. I was amazed by twin sisters who were at least 10 years older than me who were able to ascend much quicker than me.

I very much doubt they will last 70 years!!

Angela Pawlyn

KVGWSD Charity Knitting/Crocheting

The last refugee parcel went off to Romford in December and once again a big thank you to everyone who contributed to it. We've also delivered knee rugs and shawls to both West Berks and the Royal Berks hospitals for their elderly patients. Plus, I've knitted some of the white wool from the charity box into outfits for the prem baby unit. Thanks also to all of you who contribute to said box. Please keep knitting as it will stop you from falling asleep I front of the TV and what you make will mean so much to those who receive what you've made.

Thanks

Rosie Price

December Members Fashion Show

This year was hosted by Roy Young and saw a varied number of entries from both newcomers and long-term members alike.

We had five entries this time which were as follows:

1. Debbie Richardson modelled a silk kimono lined with antique Japanese kimono material, plus a handwoven waistcoat using sari silk with a Takadai edging.
2. Marion Proctor modelled a woven top which had been a long-term project. It had been joined using knitting and was made for the Ruby Challenge.
3. Pat Christmas sported a knitted hat and scarf using handspun yarn which had been dyed in her first attempt at using food colouring.
4. Jennifer Thompson modelled a woven wrap made with merino and silk which had proven to be a surprise due to variation in threatening up the loom.

5. Lynne Harper wore a wrap made with recycled sari silk which had been handspun and she had also incorporated beads for the first time.

The entrants were then voted upon by those attending and Pat was voted as the winner, receiving the trophy.

January Workshops

We had yet another example of the variety of members' skills when they ran half day workshops on very differing skills at the January meeting.

Lesley and Louisa again ran a busy session with some of our members children or grandchildren. Lots of craft projects keeping them interested and having fun. Stephanie ran a superb session on crochet, with bright colours and wonderful shapes. Chris introduced her students to a different way of making buttons, similar to but different from Dorset Buttons. Maggie showed us how to make calendars for the coming year, and I held my third Lace making mini-workshop. Lots of busy eager members were to be seen trying something new.

Lynne Harper

Zwirnknopfe Ring Buttons

At the January meeting about a dozen members all gathered around a table to learn about a different method to make Dorset Buttons, with instructions from Chris Fletcher. This was called the Zwirnknopfe Ring Buttons. We started off with what looked like steel washers, and with some beeswax we rubbed the outside of the ring, to stop the embroidery threads slipping as we wound the threads around the ring. we used a light colour thread first and then a darker colour and this showed an enhanced shadow like pattern. Most of us achieved two small rings and then we were given a larger ring, similar to a fifty pence piece, to do a slightly different pattern, which unfortunately I ran out of time and couldn't manage to do. I did enjoy the workshop and Chris was very kind and patient in helping us out and showing us what to do, just a shame we didn't have more time. Many thanks to Chris.

Daphne Burgess

Bobbin Lace

Last year I did Lynne Harper's lacemaking workshop and when I wrote it up for the Shuttle I asked for another one teaching me how to start off a piece of lace for myself - and that's exactly what I got this year. She ran the basic workshop for several people (making a wiggly snake bookmark which she had already started off) but two of us wanted something more complicated and she tailored something different for each of us and still managed to keep track of what everyone was doing! The level of difficulty of mine was nicely judged. It was another snake bookmark with the same overall shape, which was nice and

familiar, but I had instructions on how to start it from scratch and it used a new stitch to give a different pattern down the middle. It was very satisfying and took me longer than the day's meeting, but Lynne kindly lent me the equipment so I could finish it off at home in time for February's 'show and tell'.

Kath Clouston

We have both been fascinated by bobbin lace for a long time and have always wanted to 'have a go'. So, we were very pleased to find that Lynne would be offering this mini workshop again this year. Once Lynne had got us going on the snake pattern, we really enjoyed the craft, and actually it is not as complicated as it looks. Both of us managed to finish our work at home as we ran out of time at the workshop and might have to take this up as yet another craft. Thank you, Lynne!

Mariana Hunt and Stefanie Rachmann-Davies

Weaving: Development and Influences. A Talk by Sue Hiley-Harris

Sue Hiley-Harris was the speaker at our February meeting, and she gave us an extremely interesting talk on her development as a weaver, and the various influences that effected the directions in which she travelled. She is also well known as a spinner and led a silk spinning workshop for us the following day. She explained that for her the preparation of fibre and spinning of yarn was an integral part of the weaving experience.

Her creative journey started at art school in Australia, as a sculptor, and brought her to England. It was here she was introduced to weaving and spinning. Many of her pieces are in 3-D, and her sculpture background shows up in this. She produces items that are suitable for outdoor and other public spaces, but also some for domestic environments.

She works with many materials, and although she has a fascination with silk, she has also used paper, and various metals.

As well as the slides that she used to illustrate her talk, Sue had brought along many differing examples of her work. I found the 3-D objects particularly interesting, as the thought of weaving so that one obtains a result that uses multiple dimensions is something that has intrigued me.

It was an extremely interesting and inspiring talk.

Lynne Harper

Silk Spinning with Sue Hiley-Harris

On 2nd February a small group of spinners from Kennet Valley and Berkshire Guilds met at Speen to learn the basics of spinning silk. Ever since doing a silk-dyeing workshop with

Katie Weston a couple of years ago and coming away with a large bag of vibrantly coloured silk I've been looking forward to this workshop.

Sue is a very relaxed and patient tutor. She decided to stick to showing us how to deal with three types of silk preparation: caps/mawata squares, tops and noils. She told us where each of these came in the chain from cocoons to spinnable fibre (after the best stuff has been reeled off and used for industrial silk manufacture). Sue demonstrated each type on her lovely old double-band wheel and then helped as we all had a go on our own wheels.

Silk caps and squares were stretched out by hand before being fed into the wheel with little or no further drafting. Tops were spun either worsted, or semi-worsted from the fold, or by a third more tricky method that I'd not tried before (and probably won't try again!) Noils involved more preparation as they had to be carded into punis (very thin rolags) then spun using English longdraw which was quite challenging but produced a beautifully textured yarn.

As is always the case with these workshops the day passed in a flash. When I looked at the contents of my bobbin at the end of the day there didn't seem a lot to show for it, but my head was buzzing with new bits of knowledge and ideas for tackling that bag of dyed silk. All in all a great day.

Many thanks to Lesley for organising the event and for keeping us going with all manner of yummy treats and to Sue, of course, for being such a great teacher.

Lynne Bond

I have been spinning silk for many years and I know I got into some bad habits!

Holding the tops too tightly was one of them. This causes the silk to bunch in your hand and causes lumps to occur in the yarn. Sue taught us that just holding the silk in your hand loosely and allowing it to draw out gently makes smoother shinier yarn.

I have never had the confidence to spin long draw with silk noils but thanks to Sue, I have now. It was a revelation to see how our super thin rolags around a knitting needle could be spun into fine yarn using the long draw method.

Sue was generous in passing on her knowledge and experience and patient with those of us less experienced.

Gloria Pitt

I attended the Kennett spinning workshop at Lesley's invitation, as a visitor from Berks Guild. I found the group to be very warm and welcoming and the facilities were roomy and comfortable.

The workshop tutor used a lovely blend of knowledge and informality. She kept the format for the day simple, introducing us to the silk fibres we would be using and some of the history and life cycle of the silk-worms, along with the processes used to extract the fibres.

Once we had been shown techniques for spinning three different forms of silk - Caps, Tops and Noils; from there we were free to develop our skills, while she walked amongst us and dealt with difficulties and answered questions. Towards the end of the afternoon she showed us all the answers to individual questions, which meant we all benefited from this extra information and she only had to say it once. A very informative, enjoyable day.

Roz Jones

The Tutor was excellent in showing fourteen members how to spin various silk fibres, long and short lengths. We began with a silk cap. We shredded the top layer with a quick outward movement of opposing hands. After finishing the cap, we were shown how to spin with a longer 'staple' held over our fingers to spin as for woollen, allowing the twist to pick up the fibre. We had to concentrate each time.

Sue showed us, with a very short length tops, how to spin using the long draw. A quick spin connected the fibres together and holding the fibre loosely in the hand allowed us to spin evenly. If mixing silk with wool, the colour of each, silk and wool, should be as similar as possible. If necessary, cut the length of silk to a similar length to the wool. For shorter lengths, use a long draw spin.

Basically, we all managed to get a fairly good thread and feel that silk is not something we should avoid anymore. Overall, it was a busy, happy, concentrated workshop.

Here are some thoughts from some other members who took part in the workshop:

"Sue was patience and nothing too much trouble. She is envisaging retirement on the horizon, so less workshops in the future".

"I enjoyed it very much. Very useful. Looking forward to carding and spinning other silks. The length of day - I shut off after 4pm".

"Brilliant teacher and so patient. Learnt a lot".

"Sue's knowledge was extensive. Teaching was thorough. Endless patience. Took time to circulate and offer help where necessary. I left feeling confident to tackle silk".

Lesley Dunn

Lechlade Craft Barn... Needle Felting Land and Seascapes

At the beginning of February, I went with Jean McVeigh to the Craft Barn at Lechlade for this needle felting course. It was taught by the lovely ladies Cath and Caroline from Hedgehog and Hoot.

After settling in with a cup of tea and meeting every one we looked at all the samples and pictures there for our inspiration and then we were shown by Cath. all the different fibres ribbons and materials that were available for us to use, there was a huge variety. Then she showed us the technique of just putting small wisps of fibre on the base felt to create the background of our picture. Another interesting thing shown was if you put some shiny organza under the fibres you get a different texture and if it has silver or gold shiny bits they come through as highlights.

We were provided with a 5-needle tool and a single tool and told that for the background we should use the 5-needle tool and the brush but for detail to use the single needle tool with the hessian rice bag provided.

We were soon very quiet and concentrating on our pictures, the tutors kept walking around and would occasionally drop some fibre or other material in front of us saying that may help there if you'd like to use it. The lady next to me was really struggling with her picture saying it was awful and she couldn't do it.

Caroline the tutor sat down next to her and turned the piece over and said do something else, then showed her how to put lots of different green fibres and threads on a background then the lady added red and blue for poppies and cornflowers and it looked great, when she went back to her original piece she had the confidence to finish it and went home at the end of the day with 2 framed pictures feeling extremely pleased with herself.

Jean and I finished our seascapes and as there were 45 minutes left Jean did a bluebell wood picture and I did a sunset. All in all, it was a really good day with excellent teaching, I would recommend the Craft Barn and Hedgehog and Toot, to anyone.

The craft barn at Lechlade runs a variety of courses on all sorts of things with good tutors and can be found on the internet at www.lechldecraftbarn.com where you can view all their courses for 2020.

Chris Fletcher

A few, fun, thoughts:

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?". The first replies, "I'm positive."

A backward poet writes inverse.

Two silk works had a race. They ended up in a tie.

CRAFT SOCIALS

Aldbourne Braid Days

The next Aldbourne Braid Day is 19th April. Remaining dates for 2020 are 14th June, 16th August, 4th October and 6th December.

The cost is £5.00 per head per day. Biscuits, cake and hot drinks are provided free of charge. Please contact me for directions and so that I can keep an eye on numbers.

Sal Shepherd

Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers meet at Speen Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the last Saturday of the month. **The next meeting will be 28th March 2020.** Other dates for 2020 are 25th April, 30th May, 27th June, 25th July, 26th September, and 31st October. All meetings from 9.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. The final meeting for 2020 will be 28th November from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with a shared lunch. £3.00 to cover the cost of the hall.

It is a weave morning but braiders can come with inkles, marudai etc and lace makers with pillows as it is all weaving. All Guild members are very welcome to come along to see what we are doing and find out what weaving is all about.

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

Rosie Price

Moulsford Spinning & Craft Group

We meet on the **3rd Thursday of every month** at Moulsford Pavilion, The Street, Moulsford, Oxon, OX10 9JD from 6.30pm – 10pm and cost is £3 which includes tea, coffee and biscuits. 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.

Second and Fourth Tuesday evenings each month.

Newbury Crafters

Newbury Crafters 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**

<p>The copy deadline for the June 2020 issue of the Shuttle is 10th May 2020. The email address is kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com</p>
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