



of
Weavers, Spinners
and Dyers

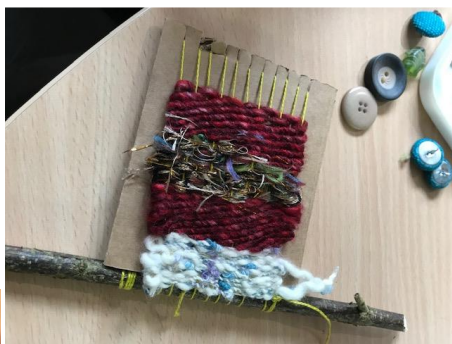
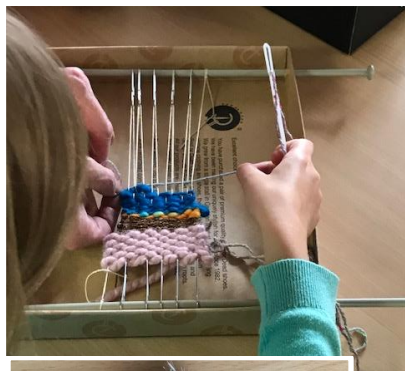
The Shuttle

December 2019





FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY T-PARTY - Hamish gets everywhere!



PUBLIC BRAID & TAPESTRY WEAVING WORKSHOP AT NEWBURY MUSEUM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 th January 2020	Guild Meeting January Mini Workshops, Member-led
1 st February	Guild Meeting A.M. Social P.M. "Weaving – Development and influences" by Sue Hiley Harris
2 nd February	Workshop – Silk Spinning Tutor: Sue Hiley Harris Venue: Speen Hall
7 th March	Guild Meeting A.M. Social P.M. "Mexican Magic" by Janice Lawrence
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

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.

There are no more demonstrations planned for this year. The new season starts in the Spring, look out for dates in the next issue of The Shuttle.

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

Well what can I say; we as the Guild have had a very busy few months. Firstly, there has been our biennial exhibition at West Berkshire Museum. I hope most of you managed to pop in and see the exhibition. I know I'm biased but I thought the standard of entries was extremely high. This also corresponded with a series of drop in workshops at the museum. These were very popular. The exhibition ended with a small closing ceremony and the presentation of the winner's trophy to Lynne Harper and Marie Fitzsimons by Deputy Mayor Drummond. Can't wait for the next exhibition in 2021, I know I've already started spinning with a few projects in mind. In case you didn't know the title is **I must go down to the seas again**. So get your thinking caps on, especially as Wingham Wool Works will be with us in the spring.

Secondly, we have just celebrated our 40th Anniversary with a splendid tea party. I hope all of you enjoyed yourself I know I did. With a lovely venue, good food and excellent company what more could you ask for on a very wet and dreary Saturday afternoon. Pete Bedford has taken lots of photos which he has kindly promised to give to the guild.

Apart from holidaying and all my usual things, I've been pushing the boundaries with my ply split braiding. I really enjoyed Julie Hedges course but wanted to make bigger pots! We had lots of string left over from another project, so I thought why not. So, with dye pots at the ready and rather a lot of string I started. All though I say it myself it was a good first try and I've learnt a lot. Mainly that string contains size, which needs to be completely removed to make things easier on the hands. Thanks to Lynne Harper I have a nice double trac boarder. All I need to do is steam my pot to set the cords. I can't wait to see what new crafts Lesley has lined up for next year.

Happy Christmas.

Louisa Homden

SHOW-AND-TELL

September We had a bumper selection of items on the table this month.

Stefanie R-Davies showed us a colourful crocheted blanket in acrylic DK yarn. It was composed of blocks of different sizes inspired by the four seasons.

Chris Fletcher, Lesley Dunn, Sue Cray and Sue Davies had all been on Merrian Hollands crochet workshop and showed us the drawstring bags they had

made of cotton using Columbian Tapestry stitch. Lesley had made a second bag and also completed the mittens from Merrian's previous Nahlbinding crochet workshop last year.

Sally Shepherd and her sister, Thea, were unable to attend the workshop but Thea managed to crochet the drawstring bag at home. In an effort to help Sally master crochet Thea taught her, using a giant crochet hook and thick yarn, to make a bag.

Chris Freemantle had two items on display. A scarf knitted lengthwise in bands of plain and patterned yarn and a cream short-sleeved jumper knitted in Drops Alpaca yarn from a vintage pattern.

Maggie Mockridge brought in the results of her time at the Association Summer School where she studied advanced stranded knitting techniques using Shetland wool in a variety of mouth-watering colours. The finished project was a cushion incorporating all the techniques she had learnt.

Marion Proctor was inspired to produce a tapestry after staying with her daughter in Morocco. The tapestry depicted the view from the riad where she was staying.

Jenny Smith was getting frustrated with her Lazy Kate which kept falling apart so she decided to make an improved version. It was constructed from plywood and painted to match her wheel and, best of all, it works.

Marie Fitzsimmons did a fair isle workshop at the Southern Wool show. It was her first attempt at Fair Isle and she decided to frame the sample she'd made. To prove it wasn't a flash in the pan she was wearing a fair isle wristband made later at home.

October

Jan Partridge showed us a cushion woven using North Ronaldsay 2-ply wool in shades of blue and brown and cream. The design was inspired by pictures of Orkney on the yarn label. The construction was double weave woven on 8 shafts.

Lynne Harper has also been making cushions. These were woven in a honeycomb construction using woollen yarns from Weavers Bazaar in shades of orange/red and three thicknesses giving a deeply textured surface.

To get us in the mood for our next Guild Exhibition, 'I must go down to the seas again', Lynne made a model of a desert island complete with palm tree using leftover bits of handspun in merino, silk and bamboo. It was based on a pattern by Jane Greenhow.

November

There was no show and tell this month as there were two trophies to award, and each had several entries.

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

September 2019 exhibition:

Chairman's Trophy for most public votes, joint: **Marie Fitzsimons & Lynne Harper**
Lynne's item was an appliquéd and embroidered picture. The fabric used was felted tweed which had been woven by Lynne with her hand spun merino, "Gifts of Nature". Marie's entry was also a picture, "Ancient Woodland", but this one was woven in double weave.

October 2019 meeting:

Diddy Trophy **Rosie Price**
This is presented by Meg in memory of her mother, for an item knitted or crocheted in handspun yarn containing Aran type stitches. Rosie Price won with her beautiful cardigan. Chris Fletcher's child's cardigan and Jennifer Thompson's socks were highly commended.

November 2019 meeting:

Weavers' Trophy **Lynne Harper**
The challenge was to weave something 'Ruby' as we were celebrating 40 years as a guild. Again, there were some gorgeous items. Lynne Harper won with her stunning silk jacket, woven using handspun mulberry silk and handspun trilobal nylon.

Dyers' Trophy **Marion Proctor**
The competition was for any dyed fibre or item. We had items and fibres dyed with food colouring, chemical dyes and natural dyes and the winner was Marian with her ikat scarf.

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. There aren't any before the September shuttle is due, but if we left it until then, you wouldn't have much time to prepare your entries.

December 2019: Christmas Trophy: A brand new trophy to present for the item which gets the most votes from guild members in the Christmas fashion parade.

March 2020: June Young Trophy This is presented in memory of Roy's wife June. This trophy is given for service to guild. If you have someone you would like to nominate then please tell a member of the committee.

May 2020: Spinning trophies will be in May and I hope to be able to tell you the criteria for these by February at the latest.

Jennifer Thompson

40th ANNIVERSARY

A very rainy day in October saw over 70 current members, past members and friends gather at the indoor bowls club in not far from the Guild's normal meeting place. Pete and Val others had done a marvellous job in setting up the room, with many large tables for us all to sit, eat and chat with new and old friends.

There was a display of archive material of all sorts at one end of the room for everyone to look at. The longer serving members enjoyed remembering events in the past, and those of us who had joined the Guild more recently found it interesting to see the exploits that occurred in the past.

Pete did a wonderful job of co-ordinating the access to the food, and generally keeping everyone under control – much needed when Guild members get together and start talking. Val had produced another of her lovely anniversary cakes, decorated in a way that matched the front of September's Shuttle, commemorating the anniversary.

We were joined by the deputy Mayor of Newbury, who is also the councillor for the Greenham area in which we meet. He seemed to enjoy meeting us all again, having first met the Guild at the closing ceremony of the exhibition. However, the most important attendees were the past and current members.

Thanks must go to all those who took part in organising the afternoon and making it such a success. I suppose we now have to look towards the Guild's Golden anniversary....

Lynne Harper

GUILD EXHIBITION 2019

It seems ages ago now since our Summer exhibition, but I wanted to share a few thoughts with you before we really start thinking about the next one.

I have often wondered about our reasons for exhibiting and whether our exhibitions fulfil the expectations. We have some truly talented members and the diverse exhibits were of a wonderful quality. One of the aims of the exhibition is, I believe, to show these wonderful old crafts and to encourage new members to take them up. For this reason, showing exquisite items alongside beginner's items is a brilliant way of showing people where they might start and what they can aspire to.

We had lots of visitors and a good number had a go at weaving and spinning and, of course, braiding with a "fill the gap". I think my favourite had to be the young boy who was so excited by his first(very good) attempt at spinning that, having asked me how much a wheel cost, he declared that he had £500 in his savings and told his mother that he wanted to go straight out and buy a spinning wheel. We did suggest that he needed to try a few

wheels first and his mother suggested that they asked his school in London to set up a spinning club. Wouldn't it be wonderful if they did?

It is such a bonus to have stewards and it was fantastic that the exhibition was stewarded most of the time. Lots of visitors were able to ask questions because of this and we handed out a lot of guild leaflets which hopefully will lead to new members for the guild or even guilds in other parts of the country. Thank you so much to all the people who volunteered to steward. It was really appreciated by us and by the visitors.

Lynne and I have had a brainstorming session to think about what went well, what did not go as well as we would have liked and what might be a good idea for next time. If you have any thoughts on this, please do let us know when you see us at guild.

We will give you a bit of a break now but in case you are itching to begin things for the next exhibition in 2021 the title is '**I must go down to the seas again**'. Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing!

Jennifer Thompson

A few facts and figures:

- There were 110 exhibits in the exhibition.
- Over a third of our members exhibited at least one item, many had several in the exhibition.
- 238 votes were cast, but not all visitors voted.
- The joint winners only received 15 votes each, over two thirds of the exhibits received at least one vote. This shows the high standard of all the items in the show, and the wide range of subjects.

My thanks to all those who helped in any way, setting up, stewarding, organising the closing party, running workshops, and any way I may have missed. It couldn't have been so successful without you all, especially all those who submitted the wonderful exhibits.

Lynne Harper

Drop-in workshops at West Berkshire Heritage Museum

Tapestry and Braid Workshop, Sat 31 August

Kath Clouston, Jenny Gribble, Jenny's granddaughter and myself arrived at the West Berkshire museum one very hot day back in August. Kath was put to work straight away with two very enthusiastic people who were started off on fill the gaps and then rapidly moved on to more complex designs. All under the watchful eye of Kath. Kath had a slow trickle of people throughout the afternoon.

Jenny and myself after a slow start but eventually had a very keen group of children who wanted to learn how to weave. One little girl had visited the exhibition earlier and so

enjoyed weaving on the loom she came back to have another go. I had a number of shoe boxes set up to do basic weaving, but I also had some card and sticks warped up to weave little owls. Well what can I say, we all had an enjoyable afternoon but children being children they wanted to do their own thing. So not only did we have owls but also a cat, a monster and a unicorn with its horn of course.

All in all a very fun afternoon was had by one and all. So much so that the little girl brought her mother back to see the exhibition for a third visit.

Louisa Homden

Spinning Workshop, Sat 7 September

Lynne and I had no idea what to expect when running the spinning workshop. We didn't know whether we would have adults, children, both, or whether anyone would turn up at all. We decided to plan for all eventualities, so took a bit of everything. We had washed fleece and carders; a rattle spinner; top and bottom spindles and six spinning wheels.

We set out a display of different fibres and then waited. Our first student was a charming young girl who happened to be deaf. With the help of her companion who used sign language, she managed both the rattle spindle and a spinning wheel and was very pleased with herself.

Altogether we had 12 participants, many of whom had been to the Southern Wool Show, bought spindles, and visited the Guild stand where they found out about the workshop. Some of them brought their spindles with them, but all wanted to learn how to use them. Now, Lynne and I would be the first to tell you that we are not spindle spinners, but we both have spindles, and had been busy practicing which was a good job!

Lynne started with a short talk about why spinning is useful, and then everyone had a go with drafting and then the spindles. There were a lot of ladies concentrating very hard, but thoroughly enjoying themselves. Some only wanted to use the spindles, but five of them then progressed to the wheels. Everyone was still happily spinning when we had to pack up at about 3:30 pm, so it was a very successful afternoon.

Jennifer Thompson

Weaving Workshop, Sat 14 September

Meg and I set up a rigid heddle loom and two four shaft looms for people to 'have a go' and we put out a display including the twill sample that prospective weavers would weave on our beginners' course.

Two ladies arrived who had been to the spinning workshop and spent quite a long time with us. Friends of Meg's visited and one of them has already bought a rigid heddle loom and booked on next year's weave course. A few families also dropped by and their children had a go. It was an enjoyable afternoon spreading the word!

Rosie Price



**OCTOBER SHOW
AND TELL**



**WEAVERS' AND
DYERS' TROPHIES**







**VIEWS OF THE
EXHIBITION
AND CLOSING
CEREMONY**

Hamish at Summer School



HAMISH IN SHETLAND



ARTICLES

Hamish's Travels

Editor: With apologies to Hamish, he has been so busy that we had to combine two reports into one and edit it so that it would fit into the space available.

Hamish's journey north to Askham Bryan Agricultural College near York for the Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Summer School was uneventful and he arrived in good time.

Hamish was signed up for the "Stranded Knitting for Hand Spinners" class and the following morning he got up and had a shower to get ready for action. He washed his top knot then he opened his eyes to see the water from the shower heading towards the carpeted bedroom section of his room. Immediately he switched off the water but watched in horror as the flood still flowed happily away from him. At this point he grabbed the bathmat and desperately worked to sweep the water away from the carpet. He still needed to get clean, so a strip wash was undertaken! Once dried and dressed he headed for the office to request that the shower drain be cleared.

Hamish went to meet his tutor Ann Kingston and his "classmates". There were many balls of Jamieson and Smith's Shetland wool on a side table and each of the participants was requested to find two dark, two light and a medium shade each. The black and white facility on people's mobile phones came in very useful here as, by adjusting to get the grey scale, the depth of colour became obvious. Ann had designed a cushion especially and had divided it into different techniques to be learned on each of the five days.

Tuesday morning and Hamish's drain didn't appear to be any better, so he took a shower in 30 second bursts so the water had the chance to clear before he headed back to the classroom for a day working hard. After lunch on Wednesday Hamish took a break from his knitting to one go into York to the Yorvik Centre for a guided tour around the exhibition based on Viking textiles. Before leaving York Hamish accidentally bought a book on Viking silk to read later as he did not plan to buy anything in the evening's silent auction.

Saturday morning was the finishing day and the classroom was tidied up ready for visitors and Hamish took the opportunity to visit the other workrooms where he saw fabulous dyeing, amazing weaving, beautiful spinning and interesting bag making.

The week finished with the Gala Dinner and Hamish was able to relax over a lovely dinner and just a few glasses of wine. Absolutely shattered Hamish loaded up his car on Saturday morning and headed south.

Not satisfied with all the learning at the summer school, Hamish also went up to Shetland Wool week again, and took part in classes there, among other things.

Once again Hamish planned to make his annual trip to Shetland Wool Week but this time it was a bit more challenging as he first had to change his plans when the BA pilots planned

to go on strike then Loganair lost his luggage! He eventually made it though and arrived for the 10th Anniversary year.

Spoilt for choice Hamish chose the Intermediate Bohus knitting class at Uradale. He had never been there before and his tiny hire car bounced its way up the road to the farm before he was welcomed in to choose his yarn colours for a pair of wrist warmers using the Bohus traditional method of several colours in one round with knit and purl and using his Norwegian knitting thimble, much to the bemusement of his Norwegian neighbour. Sheila Fowlie's lace mini hap class was also on his list as he managed to make a mess of the border last year and he was determined not to be beaten. Wrong! He is delighted with the knitting but the grafting needs work as it is very obvious! Hamish has always enjoyed Mary Fraser's classes although sewing is... um.... not his strong point and his Medieval notebook with an open spine was not the neatest in the class. It was third time lucky when he gained a place on Hadewych's "Knitting Across Borders from Estonia to Shetland" class and he was delighted. He spent a whole day at Hoswick learning different ways of adding beautiful decorative edgings to his knitting.

Although he has no problems with shaping his knitting the opportunity to knit a puffin was just too inviting and Hamish spent a day at Islesburgh the constituent parts which he still has to make up into a delightful little character. Also revising his skills Hamish joined Felix Ford using a photo of a seggy upon which to base his colour design for an Efflorescent Shawl.

Away from the classes Hamish attended two talks, "Taar Chat at da Bod" with the wonderfully knowledgeable Carol Christiansen and "This Golden Fleece" with author Esther Rutter. He took part in the "Woolly Thinking" quiz and thankfully his team contained a lovely Shetland resident who was invaluable when the Shetland dialect met the "guddicks" round. He also went to the Wool Week Spree and was highly amused when an Australian visitor, unaware of the noise involved in Scottish and Shetland dancing, was faced at very close quarters by a local gentleman who whooped loudly. She fell off her chair in shock and Hamish and his friends had to stifle a giggle as they moved her chair back from the dance floor.

The Shetland Guild of Spinners, Knitters, Weavers and Dyers finished off Hamish's week with their fabulous Sunday Tea and afterwards he headed to the airport for his journey home. This time Loganair got him to Aberdeen on time but without his cup of tea as the stewardess was chatting but BA hit again. This time it was BA that lost the luggage - He finally left Heathrow at 00:05 but he'd got his luggage, his projects and his wool purchases so he considered that he had beaten the airlines!

Knitsonik

If you are keen on colourful knit, soundscapes and fine art this session was just the thing. Felicity Ford, whose concept of Knitsonik – combining soundscape recording and soft

textiles – has created art work that evokes the landscapes and people who care for sheep in it.

Felicity explained how she came from a sonic art background to develop ways of fusing sounds with knitting. She had joined a knitting group, the Oxford Blue Stockings, at a time when she was pursuing an MA in sonic art. This became a project where small speakers were enveloped in knitted soft casing, which were suspended for people to go and hear sounds recorded, and in later works she recorded sounds from sheep farms in for example Shetland and the Lake District.

Her work has evolved over the years and she is now deeply engaged in multi-coloured stranded knitting. She has self-published books on finding inspiration from mundane things and world of the everyday. The first one, *KNITSONIK Stranded Colourwork Sourcebook*, has formed the basis for a couple more workbooks and Felicity also runs workshops in stranded knitting.

In fact, the everyday and the mundane is Knitsonik's main source of inspiration. Felicity's art research had looked at various feminist artists from the 1960s and 1970s and she continues to explore this work as a source for her own work. In particular she showed slides of Bobby Baker's soft - and edible – art works, made as cakes(!). Her own work has looked to features such as tarmac for inspiration, and her books show how you can use ephemera and modest household stuff as design sources for discovering novel colour combinations. In the Q&A Felicity was asked what she listens to at home – interestingly she continues her interest in feminist art by listening to feminist hiphop artists.

This was an inspirational talk that made several of us ask for a course, having seen some impressive colourful shawls and all her beautiful samples. An enjoyable session – let's hope we can secure her for 2021, to have a go at our own colour designs.

Lorna Goldsmith

Reports on Shows

Earlier in the year I volunteered to help to man the Kennet Valley Guild stands at the very popular Southern Wool Show at Newbury Racecourse (2 days), and The Berkshire Show at the M4 J13 Show Ground (2 days).

I thought I knew what to expect having visited both shows last year. However, it's a very different experience as an exhibitor and I soon realised what a lot of hard work the volunteer Guild members put into these two popular and well attended showcases of skills and finished work. There's a lot of equipment to get on and off each stand, (some items just can't be left overnight). It's a feat of organisation and a commitment to exhibit well and represent the Guild as a vibrant and active community of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

I've been weaving for less than a year having completed Rosie Price's "Introduction To Weaving" course in January/February with massive support and advice provided by the members of the Guild Weaving Group. This comprehensive introduction to the craft coupled with a passion for my new favourite subject made me feel reasonably comfortable about demonstrating on a 4-shaft table loom and being able to answer basic questions. Thankfully, no-one asked me anything too challenging over the 4 days.

The Southern Wool Show was a delight of colour, texture and talent. We had good weather and visitors were in high spirits. We were lucky to have been given the Berkshire Stand Entrance Vestibule to set up in. It was light and airy and in a prominent spot. Attendees were extremely interested in the Kennet Valley Guild and I gave away quite a number of information flyers, which I hope will convert into new members. Visitors converged from far flung places across the UK including a coach load on a day trip from Norfolk, so it looks like the word is out that this show is well worth a journey. Heather, Meg and Vivien encouraged people to have a go on the spinning wheels and I genuinely believe that there were some converts to the craft. A seed was sewn at least. I spent an hour or so over the weekend having a look at all of the stands and couldn't resist a few yarn cones and skeins. It's not possible to go to this show and not be tempted by what's on offer. If you didn't manage to go this year, put it in your diaries for 2020.

The Royal Berkshire Show was physically hard work but a lot of fun.

Apart from interacting with show visitors, it gave me the opportunity to chat to KVG kindred spirits and learn more about people I'd seen at Guild but not had the chance to talk to at length.

I've been going to the show since I was a child and have watched it grow and change throughout the years. My main focus of attention has always been the farm animals and this year I was delighted to be sharing a marquee with the sheep!

A steady stream of intrigued show folk flowed through our area. They watched the spinners, asked lots of questions and had a go on the loom.

Val and Peter attracted lots of children who were keen to try the Guild braiding wheels. The wheels were very popular with parents too who witnessed the pacifying effect this simple braiding technique had on their children. No screens involved! In fact, most of the parents I chatted with were very keen indeed for their children to pursue activities away from tablets and phones.

The Guild display was an impressive collection of finished items and technique samples. Visitors were impressed with the quality and range of the work and wanted to buy some of it.

The Berkshire Show effort was cut short on the Sunday due to an unfortunate issue with a sheep so most of us (Daphne and Jill excepted) left the site much earlier than planned. It

was an unexpected end to the show but we had a good day and the rain showers worked in our favour bringing an influx of people into the marquee.

I'll be very happy to go again next year - there's even talk of camping! (Stephanie?)

In summary, being involved in these two events has cemented my commitment to the Guild. Everyone is so friendly and generous with their time and advice and it's rewarding to spread the good word.

Nicky Duncan

On the Friday evening before the Newbury show weekend, Gill Meadows, Pete and Val Bedford and myself went to the showground to find the sheep tent in the Livestock area to put up the Guild banner and sort out the tables ready for our spinning/weaving demonstrations for the weekend. Unfortunately, the sheep tent had been put in a very different area to previous years and was quite a long way from the Livestock car park, which was rather a challenge for farmers and exhibitors alike.

Saturday turned out to be a very warm and lovely day, and Val and Pete and those who arrived first before eight o'clock all managed to fill up and lay out the tables with all sorts of lovely spun and woven items, and dyed wool. Caroline, and Sue Cray, found a nice sunny spot to sit in the large area at the end of the sheep tent with myself, Gill, Pete and Val Bedford near to the entrance of the tent greeting people as they came into the tent. Nicky Duncan had a nice little spot near them with her loom. Pete Bedford gave an interview with a man from a local radio station. We all had some lovely people asking questions and very interested in both spinning and weaving. It was a very busy day as the weather was really excellent for getting out and about and the showground was heaving with people....We all had to wait until 6.30 to be able to get our cars onto the showground, to load up our wheels and baskets etc, and so ended a successful but tiring day.

On Sunday, a few of us from Saturday returned, along with a small group of new spinners. Pat Christmas, Anne-Marie, Stephanie, who were all very new spinners this last year came along to demonstrate. The weather didn't look as good as Saturday and rain had been promised after 10.30 so if anyone wanted to see something of the show it was best they went before the rain came down.... Needless to say; there were not too many people around as most had come on Saturday.

We then got told about 1.30, that the sheep tent was being shut and we had to clear our tables of our handiwork and pack up as the public was banned from the sheep tent because of one sheep that had been brought in with a very contagious disease called Scab (something like a chicken pox in humans) It is not passed on to humans thankfully. Gill and I had seen a lot of activity with this sheep being quarantined in a pen near us and a vet and officials in a huddle, earlier in the morning with tests being done, then of course all the poor farmers had to be informed, with a limited amount of syringed medication given out to some sheep..

In the meantime it was not obvious what we spinners should to do; at one point we were told we couldn't leave!! In the end, we managed to get away. or by about 3.30. Nicky was the star of the moment with her wheelbarrow, which enabled her to get the loom and stuff from her car to the tent. She took her own bits back to the car, came back and loaded Anne-Marie's wheel and items up and got her to her car, and then came back for Val and Pete's wheel and bags plus some guild things such as the banner. Nicky had been walking for maybe about an hour and half pushing her wheelbarrow backwards and forwards to help fellow spinners, we all felt she did a wonderful job.

Myself and Gill were left and just before I went to get my car, parked quite close by, we saw this huge Mobile Sheep Dipping Unit on the back of this lorry draw up by the sheep tent, I didn't know they existed...so I quickly got my car and Gill and some very kind farmers and security people helped fill my car up with all my bags and wheel and I managed to get away before 150 sheep were organised into the sheep dip. I was very grateful to Gill staying and helping me. Let's hope next year will be better, and again, many thanks to Nicky and her wonderful wheelbarrow and hope it's not put anyone off.

Daphne Burgess

Lewes Exhibition.

Every two years the East Sussex Guild put a very good array of their beautiful work on at Lewes Town Hall, and arrange for mini workshops and trade stands to take place and sell surplus equipment. One can come home with a lot of fluff and many inspirational ideas. The guild also makes about 24 colourful and finely woven silk and wool scarves, which are raffled over the two days. Basically, you buy one or two tickets for a pound each and put one in a box placed underneath a scarf that you would most like to win and keep the other half ticket and when the draw takes place just before the end of the day, you may be lucky to get it. These scarves are all spun, dyed and woven by the members, a joint effort. The beautiful display put on by the guild was amazing, so many talented and clever people.

People come from quite a long way and it's my job to get a coach organised to visit Lewes for the East Hampshire Guild that I belong to and of which I am Treasurer. It's an ideal way of travel, no parking worries, and not too much walking unless one chooses to, and usually plenty of room to bring "Stuff" back on the spare seats! The East Sussex members organise a most amazing cafeteria service, lovely tasty lunches, and the most gorgeous cakes, of many different kinds, from which was hard to choose.

John and Juliette Arbon were there in the big hall with all their colourful wool as well as patterns and sample knitwear. It was top of my list to visit them. I was hoping to see Debbie Tompkies with her dyeing stuff; however, she wasn't able to get there as it's a long way from Cheshire and they had recently been to Lewes doing a workshop. It was a very lovely day catching up with friends old and new, even though it was appalling weather, very wet and windy.

In two years' time, when the exhibition comes round again, it's well worth a visit; and of course Lewes is a very interesting town.

Daphne Burgess

The Draughts of Jeremiah Fielding.

This book has been in preparation since 2015. It involved turning 50 drafts of 1775 into modern notation and then lots of Kennet Valley weavers weaving samples so that we could present a work book to readers where a facing pair of pages was devoted to one draft and shows a photo of the sample, the original draft and a modern draft. As well photographs of the samples in the original notebook are shown and there is a section on the weaving situation at that time. If you want to see this book, I will bring some to the December Guild meeting where they will be for sale at £12.50 each.

Pat Foster

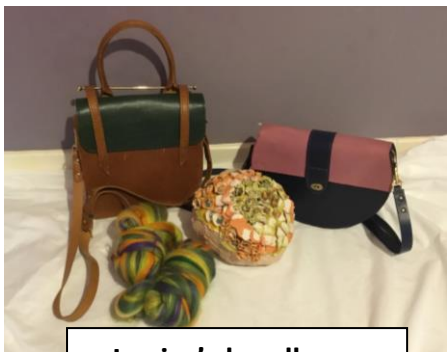
Places I've been.

We were all sitting at weavers' chat telling each other about various places we had visited over the summer and I thought wouldn't it be great to share this with everyone. So here is an eclectic mix of places I've been to and things I've done.

We spent a very rainy day in Berwick-upon-tweed, which has two fascinating shops to visit. Firstly, we chanced upon Tidekettle paper. It is an amazing shop come workshop. Lucy makes paper on the premises. There is an enormous array of different papers, gifts and 3D sculptures. The sea and coastline are her inspiration. I couldn't resist a paper rock covered in seaweed.

Then just down the road is Skybluepink designs at Jennie's Wool studio, an Aladdin's cave of fibres and yarns. Jennie sells her own hand spun yarns but more tempting to me as a new spinner was the fact that she makes her own fibre blends. What I really found useful was that she had her blended fibres hand spun in various different weights and then knitted into garments and swatches. I always find it difficult when looking at all the fabulous colour blends imagining what they will look like when spun, plied and knitted. So yes I did buy some fibre.

Finally, my husband and I went on a handbag making course. It all started last year when we went to Made By Hand in Cardiff (all the Made by Hand events are well worth a visit) I saw a beautiful handbag but not in the colour I liked. Sara Williams who makes them said why not come and make one exactly to my own specifications. So, to cut a long story short my husband and I headed off to Leominster in our camper van I am now the proud owner of two bespoke leather handbags. One I made myself and one Tony made. Sara was an excellent teacher. We chose our design, then chose the leather. This was the hardest part



**Louisa's handbags,
rock and yarn**

with such a choice! We cut the leather using templates. We then marked it out with a pricking iron and cut the holes with an awl. Then there was an awful lot of hand sewing. This was an excellent opportunity to chat with the participants as well as pick Sarah's brain. Finally, the fittings, rivets, and buckle were attached. Two very tired, hand sore but extremely pleased people then headed home. We are now looking for other courses to go on!

Louisa Homden

CRAFT SOCIALS

Weavers' Chat

The Guild weavers meet at Speen, Parish Hall, Newbury, RG14 1RJ on the last Saturday of the month. There are no more meetings this year, but **the next meeting will be ? January 2020**. Other dates for 2020 are 27th July, 21st September, and 26th October. All meetings from 9.30 a.m. until 1.30 p.m. The final meeting for 2020 will be ? 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

Aldbourn Braid Days

The next Aldbourn Braid Day is 8th December with a shared lunch. The dates for 2020 are 9th February, 19th April, 14th June, 16th August, 18th 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

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.

Chris Fletcher

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**

The copy deadline for the March 2020 issue of the Shuttle is 9th February 2020. The email address is kvshuttleeditor@gmail.com

