



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER

2009

Forthcoming Programme

September 19th

Art Project Documenting Sheep
Kate Lynch

October 17th

Round The Twist - Jacqui Carey
Braiding workshop for all

November 21st

60TH ANNIVERSARY
Diamond Celebration
(American Lunch, bring a dish
see 'notices' page 7)

Dyeing Competition:
Tie Dye using two colours

A Message from the Chair.

Well, as I write this in early August, I must say this summer has been more than a bit disappointing, at least from a weather perspective. The promise of balmy barbecue evenings and warm sunny days has failed to materialise, and it looks like those fleeces I was planning to get washed will have to wait in the hope of an Indian Summer. Don't think I'll hold my breath on that one, and anyway, I'll be back to the day job by then, so when will I find the time? Oh, I know, every where will be afflicted with Swine Flu and we'll all be staying home for fear of infection! Seriously though, I hope none of us are afflicted with this nasty illness, and wish anyone who is a speedy recovery. On the brighter side, I shall have finished at least two pairs of socks by the time you read this, and probably have spun enough yarn to stock a small shop. So, I guess bad weather does have some compensations!

If you are planning to come to the workshop in October, please be aware that the start time is 11.00 am. We will be learning about braiding, and need to bring the following:

A selection of threads/yarns. Any kind, wool, silk, cotton, synthetic, plain, fancy.

Cotton Perle (no 5 or no 8 in two colours)

Warping post (optional)

Cordwinder/handdrill with cup hook (optional)

Sellotape

Scissors

Notebook and pen or pencil

Small paper tag labels (optional)

As always, I'd ask that if you are able, you bring some spare bits and bobs in case anyone forgets/has not seen this list/is a new member/visitor etc. You might want to swap some bits with other members too.

Elsewhere in the newsletter this month you will see the entry requirements for the ASWD National exhibition due to be held in April/May next year. Ellen needs to have your entries by 20th February, which does seem like a long time away, but it will creep up on you, so if you're planning something, make a start soon! It would be great if a few of our members could have something in the National Exhibition. I'm sure we can rise to the challenge, I may even submit something myself!

At the September meeting, and possibly October if necessary, we shall be setting a challenge of our own. We have two lovely fleeces which have been donated to the Guild and are hoping they will inspire you to create some exciting things. If you'd like to participate, you will be given a chunk of fleece to take away, you can then spin it, dye it, weave with it, knit with it, what ever takes your fancy, and produce something of your choice. It may be that you spin a fabulous skein of yarn, which someone else will dye and yet another person will weave/knit/crochet/felt. Feel free to get together into teams if you like. I think it would be terrific if we could get a variety of finished articles done by, say February next year and have a giant "show and tell" session to display what we've done. Who knows? Perhaps there will be a Kaleidoscope of entries for the National Exhibition?? Don't feel that you have to do everything yourself, even if you are just able to clean and card some of the fleece to pass on, or as I suggested, spin a skein and offer it to someone else to dye or knit or weave, we can still end up with some great pieces of work. There are no plans as yet for what will become of the finished items, but there are several possibilities. I thought we could create an archive of things for display at exhibitions and shows we get invited to. Alternatively, we could offer things for sale at the fleece fair, or even hold an auction for charity (or Guild funds). If you have any suggestions as to what should happen to the finished articles, do let the committee know, and we'll pick the best idea.

Don't forget the Anniversary celebrations in November. We're still looking out for clever ways of commemorating the event, and any offers of cake baking etc will be gratefully received. See me or your nearest committee member for details!

I think that's quite enough from me, don't you?
See you at the next meeting.

Helen

helenxyz@talktalk.net

01460 57345

Guild Meeting Review

June Meeting Fleece Fair June 20th

The Fleece Fair was very busy this year and we gained some new members as a result. This was my first fleece fair and I was very surprised to see a loud bustling market place of fibres instead of our usual calm with the humming of spinning wheels in the back ground. Some sellers were outside the entrance due to lack of room inside!

Lessons I learnt for next time...

- ✂ Bring enough money!
- ✂ Don't bring a packed lunch ...the ploughmans were very generous and looked a million times better than my sandwiches that were squashed by my carders.
- ✂ Buy the sock kit when I see it and not till they are all sold out! Grrrr

Talitha Clarke



July Meeting

Dye Day July 18th

The dye day was a great success, with people eagerly queuing to have a go at dying skeins, warps and little balls of yarn in two or sometimes more colours. A big thank you to everyone who helped or brought equipment to enable us to play with the lovely colours, especially Amanda and Barbara and Eleanor brought her indigo vat which was a welcome extra treat. I certainly went home with a couple of pretty balls of yarn dyed blue and purple, which were even more interesting after skeining and washing them as instructed. I haven't decided what to do with them yet, but I'll think of something! I only got to the indigo when it was nearly exhausted, but the two skeins of Suffolk wool I'd brought with me came out a very delicate icy blue shade which I'm delighted with.

It would be wonderful if members would bring in the results of their dyeing exploits to show what they did with the yarn they produced, as the show and tell table is feeling very neglected!

It's always good to learn about new techniques, and maybe have a go at something you might not have tried before, so I'm hoping there will be more of these sorts of events in the future. If you have any ideas, or would like to run a workshop yourself, don't be shy, come and tell one of the committee members. Even though the afternoon programme gets booked months ahead, there's often time in the mornings for mini sessions, so even if you don't feel up to offering an activity for the whole group, smaller numbers can be arranged, and might even be better for some types of thing, and sessions could perhaps be repeated if the interest is high.

Helen Cridland



Fibrefest 2009

Below are Rita Ovens, Helen Cridland and Margaret Banerji, on the Somerset Guild's stand, Sunday 23rd at Fibrefest, Coldharbour Mill. Saturday's group included Carol Mellish, Norma Sanders and Talitha Clarke.

Thank you to the spinners who manned the Guild's stand Saturday and Sunday at this year's Fibrefest, held at Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme. We met some lovely people, several from visiting guilds as far a field as Kent, and coped with numerous questions from the inquisitive. Margaret worked her magic with those who

wanted to have a go at spinning, with 100% success.

Both days were very busy, with throngs of like-minded people keeping the vendors on their toes. We all managed to get some time to wander around the stalls, (and spend money). By the end of Sunday and after what must have been an exhausting two days, the stall holders were still happy to answer queries, and generally just talk fibre crafts. This was the second FibreFest, it's a bi-annual event, and if you have never been I urge you to try and make it in 2011, it's a real treat.

Glastonbury 2009

Our first visit to the Rural Life Museum at Glastonbury this year was Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May. Unfortunately, typical of a Bank Holiday the weather forecast was not very good, but the staff found us room inside the museum.

The usual group, (Fay Wilks, Margaret Banerji & Myself) were joined by Anita Richards and Sarah Bowen and were soon kept busy, especially Margaret, letting both young and old try their hand at spinning and I had a number of children keeping me on my toes weaving braids. Typically the weather turned fine and we could have been outside, but we all enjoyed the day.

Our next visit to the museum was Saturday, 15th August and this time we set up camp in the open fronted Wagon Shed, with two nice new gazebos. Carol Mellish and Margaret Banerji once again encouraged visitors to have a go at spinning, supported by Fay Wilks, Anita Richards and Rita Ovens, all spinning different fibres and myself getting the children to weave a Braid. The weather turned out fine and a goodly number of visitors kept us busy and we all had a good day.

Jim Doust

SUBMISSIONS & EXHIBITIONS

AGWSD National Exhibition 2010

This will be held from April 17th 2010 until May 29th 2010 at Mansfield Museum.

The subject is KALEIDOSCOPE – Fibre craftsmanship in a colourful world.

It is hoped that most entries will be based on this inspiration. We are asked to think....

“facets, reflections, symmetry” whether literally or metaphorically, and especially **colour**.

Selection will be made from photographs of entries.

Members may submit 2 entries at £5 per entry, and all entries must reach the secretary by 20th February 2010. Later entries will NOT be considered or accepted.

For details of submission and entry forms, please contact:

Ellen Doust, 23 Manor Road, Pawlett, Bridgewater TA6 4SN. Tel: 01278 683748.

Please remember to enclose an A4 SAE for reply.

The guild received the following message by email recently:

A festival of knitting at Farnham Maltings

Hello,

Due to the success of Unravel earlier this year we will be extending next year's event to take place over two days, Saturday 27 February and Sunday 28 February 2010.

Unravel 2010 will be bigger than ever and therefore enabling a wider variety of stands and giving everyone a chance to see, hear, share and wonder at all things woollen. Activities will include a marketplace, talks, demonstrations, workshops and a knitting surgery.

If you are interested in exhibiting at Unravel 2010, please complete the attached form and return by 16th October 2009. Please wait until you receive your acceptance form before sending payment.**

Once again we are offering a discount for those wishing to give demonstrations on their stands during the weekend. Please give details on the attached form about your demonstration.

We hope you would like to take part in Unravel 2010 and look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Kind regards,

Pauline

Pauline Smith

**If anyone would like the form, please contact Rita Ovens and I can either forward you the email, or print a form off.

How To...

I was given this at the Dye Day by Eleanor, so if you fancy a go at your very own Indigo vat, here's how you do it.

Indigo Dying in a Bucket (don't forget the rubber gloves!)

Recipe

5 Litres water

15g caustic soda or 60g washing soda

10g Hydrotherm DD (Hydros)

15g Indigo VAT 60% grains

Method

Pour 5 litres warm water (30 degrees C) into a bucket

Add 15g solid caustic or 60g washing soda (Note: if dying wool use washing soda **not** caustic soda)

Sprinkle 10g Hydrotherm DD (Hydros) into bucket and stir until dissolved

Slowly sprinkle 15g Indigo VAT 60% grains into bucket and stir gently to fully disperse.

Cover with cling film and leave for one hour before using

Full instructions and ingredients are available from Kemtex Educational Supplies (tel: 01257 230220) or see www.kemtex.co.uk/indigo.html

Rita Ovens

Events

Somerset Art Weeks 19 September – 4 October.

If you haven't come across one of the brochures in your travels (available from tourist information offices, shops and cafés), look here for details. Many textile artists are exhibiting across the county.

<http://www.somersetartworks.org.uk/>

Knitting and Stitching Show

Alexandra Palace

8th – 10 October

Wingham Wool – Sampling Day October 17, 10.30 – 3.30

Shawford Parish Hall, Shawford, Winchester

Hosted by Hampshire guild. Unfortunately it clashes with our October meeting, but if you just have to go we won't hold it against you!

Resources on the Web

Twisted Thread, <http://www.twistedthread.com/> is the website of Creative Exhibitions, who specialise in staging textile events for the public. The Knitting and Stitching show at Alexandra Palace is perhaps the best known event.

The website gives details of future exhibitions and tickets are available online, but I found there was lot more to find browsing the pages.

The Festival of Quilts was held at the NEC during August, and several of the workshop tutors have made short videos demonstrating particular techniques. For instance, there was a video from Alicia Merrett demonstrating her technique for producing patchwork with curved lines and one from Bob Adams on discharge dyeing.

<http://www.twistedthread.com/pages/learningZone.aspx>

It's possible that by the time you read this, the videos may not be accessible as they were linked to an event that happened in August. If this is the case, try clicking on "Film Theatre" on the home page, hopefully other videos will be available. Finally, the "Recommended Link" section has links to textile guilds including our own, tutors, vendors, and can lead you to many previously undiscovered treasures.

"Selvedge magazine offers the world's finest textile photography, unparalleled design and peerless writing. Directed towards an international, discerning audience, *Selvedge* covers fine textiles in every context: fine art, interiors, fashion, travel and shopping. It is published every other month."

<http://www.selvedge.org/default.aspx>

It's stunning, it's expensive, and there is a free, trial magazine for download at <http://www.exacteditions.com/exact/magazine/376/404>

Their website is very much worth looking at, links to designers' work, shops, exhibitions, and downloadable instructions for some simple, but lovely, craft projects, which include making chrysanthemums from strips of jersey – a use for old T shirts, immediately springs to mind.

You can sign up for a free online newsletter, which give dates for up and coming exhibitions around the country, courses and resources. My only, minor quibble is they use grey for the text and on my laptop screen it's a trifle difficult to read.

Ruthie's Weaving Resources

A list of (almost) everything related to weaving, from Guild contact details world wide, to braiding
<http://www.weavingworld.ca/weave.htm>

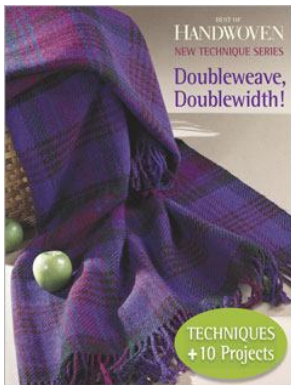
Weavers Hand

An information particularly for tablet, Kumihimo and braid weavers, lots of pictures of work for inspiration.

<http://www.weavershand.com/#KG>

Two eBooks available from Interweave.

Doubleweave, Doublewidth!



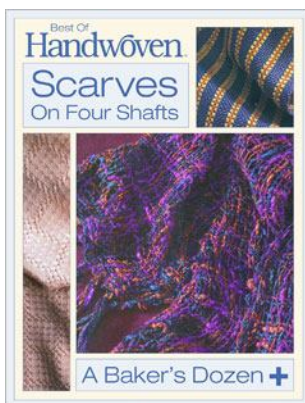
\$9.95

Description

For weavers whose eyes are bigger than their looms and for all lovers of doubleweave, this electronic book is more than a collection of ten great projects from the first twenty years of *Handwoven*. It also includes the theory you need to design your own fabrics twice as wide as the weaving width of your loom.

You can preview the contents at <http://www.weavershand.com/#KG>

Handwoven Scarves on Four Shafts



\$14.99

Description

The fourth collection in our *Best of Handwoven* series, *Scarves on Four Shafts: A Baker's Dozen+* is sure to please. Gathered in one volume are thirteen great projects (and more than thirteen great scarves). Inside you will find an incredible diversity of pattern, color, and texture that you will not believe can be woven on only four shafts - or fewer!

<http://www.interweavestore.com/Weaving.html>

NOTICES

Call for a cake decorator for the Somerset Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers Anniversary celebration cake.

If you are feeling creative, Carol's cake will need decorating for our lunch on the 21st November. Please speak to Carol at the meetings to discuss cake hand-over and decorating ideas.

Please remember that this lunch will be a bring and share event with all of us sitting down to eat together.

For October workshop

Student requirements:

- ✘ A selection of threads/yarns - any thread will work. Wools, cottons, silks, synthetics Ideally bring a wide range, a small quantity of each. Include fun and fancy !
- ✘ Cotton perle (No8 or 5) in two colours.
- ✘ Warping post (optional)
- ✘ Cordwinder/handdrill with cup hook (optional)
- ✘ Sellotape
- ✘ Scissors
- ✘ Notebook and pencil/pen
- ✘ Small paper tag labels (optional)

LOST WHEEL

At the January meeting this year, I got chatting to a visitor/new member. She told me she had learnt to use a drop spindle but hadn't used a wheel. I had an old Ashford for sale and spent some time showing her how to use it.

At the end of the meeting, under the impression that she had joined the guild as a new member, I offered to lend it to her for a month to see how she got on with it but foolishly didn't make a note of her name and telephone number. (I know, I know it was a very silly thing to do! And I'm old enough to know better.)

The wheel has never been returned so if anyone knows of its whereabouts I'd like it back! Its quite distinctive, an older style dark stained wheel with repairs to the bottom of all three legs.

Carol Mellish

What's On...

- 23rd September - 7th October Biennial Exhibition and Sale of Work
(Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers)
Daily (except Tuesdays) in The Study at Killerton House, Broadclyst
Nr Exeter. National Trust entry charges apply.
- 8th October Devon Guild coach trip to the Knitting and Stitching Exhibition at
Alexandra Palace (London). Pick up in Taunton at approx 7.30am
Contact Pam Brown on 01271 863291
n.b. Interested parties were to contact Pam before the end of July, but
it may still be worth a try if you want to go!
- 10th October Open House Guild Meeting. (Kennet Valley Guild)
New Greenham Arts, 113 Lindenmuth Way, New Greenham Park,
Newbury, Berkshire RG19 6HN
10 am onwards, please bring a contribution for the buffet table.
There will be a talk at 2.30 by Hilary Turner on the history of the
Association, as well as an opportunity to see the exhibition entitled
Warp, Woad and Wensleydale.
Further info from Jan Shailes on 01635 298561.
- February 10th 2010 Wessex Lacemakers Suppliers Fayre.
Holiday Inn, Taunton. Just off J25 M5. Entrance £3.
Further info: Rosemary 01935 824152

ITEMS FOR SALE

Fleece to a good home!

Zwartble Jacob cross sheep fleece

£5 per fleece

Call Talitha (intermediary for sheep farmer friends)
01823 667251

I can deliver fleeces to the October meeting.

Tablet Loom, pine, 1 yard in length

Pine tablet loom in need of love and care from an enthusias-
tic weaver. Rescued from a stockroom, this loom is
threaded and has thick cardboard "tablets".

The warp is in a bit of a tangle but has been left to act as a
guide for re-threading.

Call Talitha on 01823 667251 for more details, I will bring it
to the October meeting for viewing.

Price: free to enthusiastic weaver

SILVERMOOR MOHAIR

Christmas Opening

The Silvermoor Mohair workroom will be open for Christmas shopping opportunities on the following Sundays:

29th November and 6th December 2009

11am – 3pm

At

Cottage Farm, Wolvershill Road ,

Banwell, BS29 6DL.

01934 822218

See our range of wraps, scarves, hats and much, much more.

Meet the goats that provide our mohair.

Our homemade jams and chutneys will also be available.

Free entry and free car parking.

Next door but one to Court Farm Country Park

www.cottagefarmsomerset.co.uk

Newsletter Contributions

There will be a new format to the newsletter which will be published ready for our 60th Anniversary, more colourful and easier to access.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter please contact **Talitha Clarke: talithaclarke@yahoo.co.uk or 01823 667251**. Please email me your reviews of any exhibitions local or national, comments on any of our talks/ meetings, experiences of any courses or new techniques or reviews of any publications or websites that may be of interest to spinners, weavers and dyers. Photographs and any graphic images are very welcome, please send via email if possible, if it is not possible to do so, bring them to a meeting and I can scan them.

CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	NEWSLETTER
Helen Cridland	Ellen Doust	Barbara Spicer	Rita Ovens
01460 57345	01278 683748	01278 691264	01458 251251