

Programme

Meetings begin at 10.30am
at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall
Talks begin at 1.45pm

16th January

LUCETTE WORKSHOP

Jaquie Teal

19th June

FLEECE FAIR

Committee Meeting

20th February

OUR TEXTILE COLLECTION

Rosemary & Ellen Burgess
(*Soup and Bread Lunch*)
Committee Meeting

17th July

DYE DAY

18th September

MAKING A DROP SPINDLE

Ian Tait
(*He will also bring his full range of items
and will offer a 15% discount from
web prices.*)
www.thewoodemporium.co.uk
Committee Meeting

20th March

QUANTOCK WEAVERS DAY SILK DYES & A GOOD HEAD OF STEAM

Isabella Whitworth

16th October

THE CRAFT PERSON'S GARDEN

Christina Stapley

17th April

SILK PAPER WORKSHOP

Helen Rushton
Committee Meeting

20th November

SPINDLE SPINNING WORKSHOP

Jaquie Teal
Dying competition
(*Soup and Bread Lunch*)
Committee Meeting

15th May

AGM

**WEAVING WORKSHOP
(bring your loom)
Weaving Competition
(Fork Lunch)**

www.somersetguildwsd.org.uk

September 2010



Reg. charity No. 295125

Founded 1949

Page	Contents
2	News From The Chair
3	Dye Day
4	Dyeing Resources
5	Spinning Demo at Kilver Court
6	Association of Weavers Spinners & Dyers What is the Association?
7	Bursaries
8	What's On?
9	Exhibition Review—Sashiko Textiles
10	Textile Tips and Techniques

New Members:

A warm welcome to Mrs Doreen Alder, Mrs Raine Beale, Miss Brenda Hambun
Mrs Emma Herod and Mrs Ann Jones.

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Newsletter</i>
Helen Cridland	Ellen Doust	Barbara Spicer	Rita Ovens
01460 57345	01278 683748	01278 691264	01458 215215
<i>Librarian</i>		<i>Notice Board</i>	
Miranda Hewitt, 01884 820263		Jan Arthur 01749 890266	

- ☒ Copy deadline for November 2010 issue is 10 pleh November please email, or
post to Rita Ovens: ritaovens@gmail.com or
Talitha Clarke: talithaclarke@yahoo.co.uk
- ☒ If you have a techniques request that we could open out to everyone in the guild
or a technical tip that saves time or is just very effective send it in!

Textile Tips and Techniques

The Christening Dress Cont.....

I must express my thanks to everyone who offered their advice and expertise after I wrote an article on the nightmare that was my daughter's christening dress. Very special thanks to Sarah Bowen who sent me detailed instructions on how to crochet the stitch I had chosen (I couldn't understand the chart that I had found on the internet..yes I was doomed from the start).

I found a massive cone of antique gold thread in my shed, which I was sure was cotton, until it started being a little bit too shiny for mercerised cotton and I was thrilled to see it was pure silk! I started a sample with it and to my horror it was very fine and absolutely perfect!!! I should have started this dress when I was thirteen!!!

Gritting my teeth and time ticking on I set to it and ever so ever so slowly a dress was created. It was/is so fine that after I had made the bodice I was too scared to measure my daughter's chest to see if she would actually fit it!!! I worked on it right up to the night before the christening and even then it was way too short!

Luckily my lovely mother made a sweet silk shift dress to go under the crochet dress and this protected her little legs from the cold! I have, due to the closeness of this work, lost the remaining shreds of good eye sight that I had, and can now be found wearing the glasses I bought a year ago and have been in denial about. The dress even had a mention during the service, and everyone said that I was "very clever" to have made it, I think this is a polite way of saying that I am either mad or have a strange form of OCD (obsessive crochet disorder!).



Talitha Clarke

Exhibition Review

Japanese Sashiko Textiles

— Last day 25th September 2010

This Summer I was able to see the most wonderful exhibition of Japanese work clothes in Plymouth. Sounds rather drab, but I was instantly inspired and had the odd desire to leave without seeing the whole exhibition so that I could make some myself!

The technique that was being celebrated was sashiko and basically, as with most fabric construction techniques, was a functional method of making clothes last longer and be much warmer. Layers of cotton fabric are sewn together, sashiko means “small stitches”. The stitches are made from white thread on an indigo ground, a geometric pattern is nearly always used. Where the stitches cross over each other, it is called “me” which means “eye” it is thought that these “eyes” protected the wearer.

The garments that were displayed were so simple in form, very similar to a kimono, constructed from a range of well measured rectangles. Most were indigo dyed, it was stated that this was for supernatural and health reasons (it is thought that indigo dyed fabric repels snakes and insects). The beauty was in the sewing and couching that is the sashiko technique, also some of the garments were made from so many layers of fabrics and you could see areas that had worn through and been repaired very carefully.

These garments have inspired other designers such as Tokunaga Miyoko, Ikoma Nakaba and Issey Miyake, and their garments were also shown. It was very difficult to tell the difference between the designer clothing and the 18th Century garments both were so exquisite. Also the 18th century kimonos were so amazingly contemporary, I could imagine anyone wearing one nowadays.

What I particularly found interesting was that the makers had constructed the garments and decorated them with symbols and stitched designs to protect the wearer depending on their occupation, from fireman to fisherman. In interviews with Japanese people who used to wear these garments they state that these garments were warmer than anything they can buy nowadays.

Unfortunately visitors to the exhibition were not allowed to take photos and there was no book to accompany the exhibition. However there is an online exhibition publication, www.sashiko.org.uk and is written by Michele Walker.



News From The Chair

Just a brief note this time – you must be relieved, as I do have a tendency to waffle on! I hope you had a pleasant and restful summer break, even though the weather did not really live up to it's early promise.

The Autumn section of the programme looks set to inspire and intrigue as always. I'm looking forward to the garden one in November, though I suspect little of the inspiration I take away will ever become reality in my garden, more's the pity! I sometimes think my neighbours must hate me for my untidy patch. I start every year with such good intentions, and every year, by about September, I decide that it will all have to wait until spring. You will see I don't specify which spring though.

I'd like to take this opportunity to let you all know that it is not my intention to stand for a third term as Chairperson. Yes, I know it is a long time until the AGM in May, but I figure if I give you all enough time to think about it, there may be one amongst you who will feel able to rise to the challenge. Please do come and talk to me about what the job involves if you think you might be prepared to have a go. I assure you it's not a particularly onerous task, but I do feel that having the same person in the role for too long is not good. Don't worry, if no one steps up, I won't leave the Guild in the lurch, but don't let that deter you if you fancy having a go!

In the mean time, enjoy the last three meetings of 2010. Personally, I can't believe how quickly this year has passed. Perhaps it's just my age? Whatever it is, I just wish it would slow down and let me catch my breath.

Sturdy Pine Lillstina Floor Loom

4 shaft counterbalance floor loom; 45" weaving width, 6 peddles

26" deep for threading and storage, extended to 39" in use: 56" wide and 48" in height.

Together with 2 reeds, heddles, raddle, weaving bench and warping board..

£60

Contact Pamela Tate 01823 667252 (Wellington, West Somerset)

Dye Day

A busy and successful day as always, many many thanks to Barbara, Amanda, Helen and Eleanor for putting a lot of time and effort into making it so successful for us. It's a lot of work, gathering up and transporting the equipment, tutoring and managing us all with our experiments in safety, and then the big clear up and taking it all home again.

Recipe for silk scarf tie dyeing.

Some 1% stock dye solution – 1g dye dissolved in 1 litre of water in the colours of your choice. White vinegar, microwave, microwavable dish, cling film, lots of protective plastic on the table, beads, buttons, elastic bands and plastic pegs. The following amounts are suitable for very light weight silk scarves.

Scarf size	Dye	Water	White vinegar
90 x 90	16mls	150 mls	12 mls
65 x 65	8 mls	75 mls	6 mls
130 x 28	8 mls	75 mls	6 mls

Tie up your scarf using the buttons and beads secured with elastic bands, and pegs for pleats. I found to my cost that using yarn didn't work so well, the yarn relaxed and allowed dye in mainly because I didn't wrap enough around. Although as with many dyeing 'experiments' the result was still pleasing.

Soak your scarf for 5 minutes in the water with vinegar added, then drain and squeeze gently, you still need a reasonable amount of wetness to allow your dyes to spread. Draw up the right amount of dye in a syringe, if you are using more than one colour (and why wouldn't you), remember to make sure the total amount doesn't exceed the amount stated in the table above.

Drip your dyes over the scarf, marveling at the colours as they mix and blend; then place scarf in a microwavable dish, cover with cling film and microwave for 2 minutes and 1 and half minutes respectively on full power. Allow to cool, remove scarf and rinse well, dry and iron. Drape about your person and show off.

Rita Ovens

Don't forget - Dye Competition, November Meeting

A skein of any fibre, dyed with synthetic dyes.

Please have a go!

What's On...

Textile Fridays – Last Friday of the Month Duchy Square Centre for Creativity,
Princetown, Dartmoor

Open to anyone with an interest in textiles of any kind, and run from 10-4, though people can stay for as long or short a time as they wish. Attendance is free, though a contribution for coffee/tea is appreciated!

The October Textile Friday will also offer a textile traders' fair that will be open on Friday 29th October and Saturday 30th October.

Duchy Square Centre For Creativity
Tavistock Road
Princetown
Devon
PL20 6QF Telephone : 01822 890828

Alternatively email Jane Deane: jane@janedeane.co.uk

[http://www.duchysquare.org/cinehubsouthwest/james-exhibition.nsf?
OpenDatabase](http://www.duchysquare.org/cinehubsouthwest/james-exhibition.nsf?OpenDatabase)

Knitting and Stitching Show, Alexander Place, London 7th – 10th October

Thinking ahead....

Summer School 2011

Will be at Queen Margaret University Capital Campus, Edinburgh, 7th – 14th August.

Full details in the summer edition of the Journal, and on the Associations' website
<http://www.wsd.org.uk/ssbroch.pdf>.

A brochure will also be available on the notice board.

WonderWool Wales 2011

If anyone is interested in the possibility of a package of coach transport and accommodation to visit WonderWool Wales in 2011 would they please email Paul Hunt at Skylark Holidays to indicate their interest.

Guild members can often be seen “spreading the word” and demonstrating at Craft Fairs, Agricultural and other shows [e.g. Knitting & Stitching, Woolfest , Wonder-wool Wales etc] all around the country.

The General Purposes Committee [GPC] of the Association is responsible for organising nationwide events such as Exhibitions, Summer Schools, Spring Workshops and Conferences; they produce a calendar, a Speakers List, a Directory of tutors and suppliers, organize the Certificate of Achievement and arrange Public Liability Insurance.

The Journal Editorial Committee [JEC] is responsible for the production of the Association’s quarterly magazine ‘The Journal’ and they also hold a library of books that have been reviewed and which can be taken out on loan by members of affiliated Guilds.

The Association also has its own website www.wsd.org.uk.

This abridged extract is taken from the Association handbook, this now in electronic format and kept on a CD held by the Guild’s secretary. An updated CD is due this month (Sep 10) and once we have received this a printed booklet will be produced and available to members on the notice board.

Bursaries

Help towards the cost of studying weaving spinning or dyeing.

Modest bursaries are available for **any Somerset resident** towards the cost of studying weaving, spinning or dyeing. Sums up to £50 may be awarded **towards** the cost of a course, attending the Association’s Summer School, or other relevant tuition.

Applications should be made in writing and sent to the Secretary, Linda Piggot for consideration by the committee, this would normally be at the next available committee meeting.

Applicants should provide documentary evidence of the course they will be attending, name, venue, dates, cost, and qualifications if any; and why they want to attend the particular course and what they expect to gain from it.

If the bursary is granted, all the guild asks from the applicant is that once completed they feedback to the guild members what they have learnt, how they found the course and bring examples of work to show us.

Dyeing Resources

- ✘ Textile Arts Directory
<http://www.textilearts.net/directory/materials/suppliers>
- ✘ Dutch textile website, picture tutorials, very good pictures, English subtitles!
<http://www.tobasign.com/forum-nl/viewtopic.php?p=463#463>
- ✘ American site with useful technique pages
<http://www.opulencesilksanddyes.com>
- ✘ **Ready made, undyed silk scarves for dyeing**
Fred Aldous <http://www.fredaldous.co.uk/> **Phone: 0161 236 4224**
Craft Box <http://craft-box.com/default.aspx> **Phone: 01579 347237**
The Blue Sun www.thebluesun.co.uk/silkscarves.htm
Phone: 01570 493207
The Silk Route <http://www.thesilkroute.co.uk/prices.html>
Phone: 01252 835781
- ✘ You can get packs of 10 syringes on Ebay for less than £2, + P&P from Medsave, if you are not keen on using Ebay, their telephone number is;
0161 298 3113
- ✘ **Dyes**, these are just a few of the many vendors out there.
FibreCrafts <http://www.fibrecrafts.com/FibreCrafts.asp>
Phone: 01483 565800
Omega Dyes <http://www.omegadyes.co.uk/mailorder/index.html>
Phone: 01453 823691
Kemtex <http://www.kemtex.co.uk/kemtexacid.htm>
Phone: 01257 230220

Spinning Demo Kilver Court, Shepton Mallet.

The Guild were invited to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Kilver Court in Shepton Mallet to provide a spinning demonstration, with the opportunity to sell hand made articles as well. It was a blustery, chilly morning when Anita, Carol, Linda and I arrived and set up our area. Luckily we were inside, although the breeze found it's way around the room whenever the door was open, which was often. We shared a large room with a potter, fused glass artist, willow sculptor, and 'decorate your own cup' stall amongst others.



The rain showers brought many people in to watch and ask questions, and our display of handspun and knit shawls, dyed scarves, roving, fibre and skeins of hand-spun attracted many.

I would encourage members who have not joined a 'demo' to try it, it makes for an interesting day out, you meet members of the public with varying degrees of knowledge of the craft and its interesting to chat to them and answer their questions. For many, they don't even realise that there are people that still spin, or weave, or dye anymore.

There is the bonus that you get to attend an attraction or event free of charge! There is always time to take a break and wander around during the day. I admit to never having been to Kilver Court Gardens before, even though I have probably driven past a 100 times. The attractive gardens are well worth a visit, there is also a well stocked shop selling local produce and gift items, and a plant sales area.
Rita Ovens

Important!

Attention members who may be asked to demonstrate at outside events.....
Please will you inform our Secretary, Barbara Spicer on 01278 691264, that you will be demonstrating and give details. Only in this way will you be covered by the Association's public liability insurance.

Association of Weavers Spinners & Dyers

..... What is the Association?

The Association exists for the members of each affiliated Guild to help them increase their skills and experience of their chosen craft/s and to enable them to make contact with others of a like mind around the country.

The Association is a registered charity and is the umbrella organisation for affiliated Guilds (groups) meeting in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad. There is also a flourishing On Line Guild with a world wide membership.

Each Guild is unique and autonomous and may have a membership ranging from a few friends meeting regularly to share their interests and skills to a large group of over 100, meeting in a more formal way with speakers and tutors drawn from the membership itself or from outside the Association; many of them have international reputations in their field of expertise. Membership of the Guilds is open to anyone who has an interest in textile production by hand. Most members join a Guild because they want to learn more, they are often complete beginners. You do not have to be an expert spinner, weaver or dyer to join a Guild.

The annual programmes of the Guilds will be as varied as the Guilds themselves: archaeological textiles, textiles and their uses in the future, useable textiles, textiles as art, natural dyeing including the specialized dyeing with fungi, ancient and modern weaving techniques, braids, felt making, basic spinning techniques, spinning fancy designer yarns, historical costumes and how they were produced, conservation of textiles, etc. etc. These talks are often closely followed by workshops.

The variety of activities organized by the Guilds is quite immense but the one thing that the Guilds have in common is their objective, which is that of the Association itself, i.e. "the preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in hand-weaving, spinning and dyeing, for the benefit of the public and the promotion of public awareness and education in such craftsmanship". The Guilds are becoming more and more important in the field of education and in the continuation of traditional textile skills as the number of courses at University level and at L.E.A. level are disappearing. Many Guild members are active in their local schools teaching staff and children traditional skills and helping them to produce very original art work for display in school halls and classrooms and giving the children the wonderful experience of creating something very special with their own hands.

In these days of mechanization, computers and demands for immediate satisfaction Guild members may seem a bit anachronistic – is there something of the "Luddite" about us? Definitely not. Electric spinning wheels are available and many Guild members use computer software to design original fabrics and some have computer driven looms. Dyers use a variety of dyestuffs to create their own beautiful, coloured yarns and fibres; from traditional natural vegetable dyes and the magical indigo and woad to the careful use of chemical dyes.