

www.somersetguildwsd.org.uk

November 2015



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All email to: secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk

✉ Copy deadline for March issue is Friday 4th March 2016. Please email Janet Maher at secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk

Front cover: Braided jacket by Jacqueline Carey

Message from the Chair

Hello Members,

I am just back from demonstrating at the Quilting and Textile Show in Bristol. What a wonderful show it was and so many people were interested in what we do. Everyone there was crafty but few had any experience of our craft skills and there were lots of questions.

Since the last Newsletter, we have also taken part in Twinspace at Taunton Museum. Again, there was a lot of interest in our craft and we welcomed some new potential members as a result. Both of these events took us to new venues and to a wider audience.

The Guild has been invited to have a stall at the Brewhouse Christmas Fair and I am looking forward to this being another way of promoting our craft. All of this means we need ever more volunteers to come to events and show what we do.

Over the summer I have been doing experiments in the garden to make use of some of the 'daggy' bits of fleece we all get. See the note later in the Newsletter. I will be trying more next year. This year, I threw nothing away and all my unwanted bits were used successfully.

We now have our two new library trolleys so the library will be out at the November meeting. They will be so much easier to deal with and take up far less space than the old boxes. The old trolley is still in the lock up. If anyone would like to give it a home, please let me know. It will need some repair where the welding is broken but if you have a handy partner, you may be able to make use of it.

We are rapidly approaching the year-end – I cannot believe how quickly the months have gone. We will hold our Christmas Social on 5th December and I would love to see as many of you there as possible. It is the one time in the year when I have time to go around and chat to people.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous, healthy New Year.

See you Saturday.

Janet Maher
Chairperson

Reminders for 2016

January meeting: Chairperson Challenge - Bookmarks

All bookmarks will be shown at the National Exhibition in September. There will be a small prize at the January meeting with the decision made by our speaker for the day. The prize will be 250 grams of organic Falklands Merino. See the item in the last Newsletter for more details.

April meeting: Items for the Selected Section of the National Exhibition

All members are invited to submit a piece for selection. Closing date for submission is 6th May so the April meeting is when items will be photographed for submission. The Guild will pay entry fees. Please see the website for the detailed booklet on the criteria for submission.

Facebook

The Guild now has a Facebook page. Many thanks to Steph Williams for doing this. Please feel free to make posts. We will link the page to the website in due course.

Tea and Coffee Rota 2016

The new tea rota for 2016 is below. If you cannot fulfil your turn, please make arrangements for someone else to be there. Please let Janet (Guild Secretary) know of any changes.

W Iredale L Dommett	January	H Cridland M Anderson	June
M Osborne K Wright	February	Rev G Vye J Field	July
K Dumbill T Clarke	March	J Newton P Smith	September
Y Jones J Mabbott	April	J Calderbank J Clark	October
A Thacker L Mckenna	May	D Hills E Kingston	November

Dyeing Competition 2015

There were 12 entries for the dyeing competition. John Arbon, our President, judged the competition based on a theme of "Winter". There were some lovely creative examples and people had put in a lot of work. The winners can be seen below:



Yvette Jones won the Not-so-novice section



Jan Newton won the novice section

Spinning Competition 2015

There were 11 entries for the spinning competition, again a big improvement on last year. Amanda Hannaford judged the competition. It took her some time to make up her mind as she said she was so impressed with the quality of the entries. After much deliberation, the winners were:



Caroline Maltby, seen on the left, the winner of the Novice trophy and her yarn below.

Brenda Lawrence, winner of the not-so-novice section, on the right, with her yarn below



Guild AGM 2016

The Guild will be holding the 2016 AGM on Saturday 15th January at 11.00am.

If any member has a proposal to put to the meeting, please let Janet have the details before 19th December 2016 (the four weeks required in the Guild Constitution). Equally, if anyone wishes to nominate a member for office please let Janet know at least two weeks before the meeting.

Annual subscriptions will also become due at that meeting. The rates remain unchanged:

Full membership £24 per year or £12 per half year

Postal membership £10 per year plus £3 per meeting attended

Subscription forms will be emailed to members before the AGM and posted to those on the postal list. Forms will also be available on the day but it speeds up the process if you come with a completed form. Membership cards will be issued which are useful for getting discounts at certain suppliers as well as proof of payment. Programme cards for 2016 will also be available.

Twinspin: 10 October 2015

We met for Twinspin at Taunton Museum. There were six of us demonstrating. Three of us braved the October weather and sat outside in the courtyard to attract more visitors. For those who wonder what this thing is, Twinspin is aimed at creating a new generation of hand spinners in a joint venture between the Campaign for Wool and the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.



Visitors were intrigued by the variety of wheels we had. As always, the men were interested in the wheel mechanics, the women and children by the yarn and colour

Asian Braid Making: Jacqueline Carey

19th September 2015



Jacqui studied at Farnham College and gained a degree in Art and Textiles. She saw her future as doing grand things with an enormous Jacquard loom, however, she soon discovered that they are expensive and difficult to house! She purchased a Marudai as a stop-gap, learnt *Kumihimo*, and has never looked back.

Jacqui was anxious that we did not confuse this ancient Japanese craft with the numerous apparently similar techniques, which have evolved around the world, such as French knitting and lucet work (which are knitting techniques) tatting and macramé (which are knotting), Peruvian braiding, and trolen work. *Kumihimo* is not even really similar to the other Japanese braiding technique, *Takadai*, in which the warp threads act as weft to produce a flat braid. Worked on a circular stand called a *marudai*, *kumihimo* is a plaiting technique, which can produce a wide variety of round, square or flat braids.

Kumihimo was preceded in Japan by a much quicker, though efficient, braiding technique called *kute-uchi*, which used loop manipulation to make the braids for the light, strong, ceremonial samurai armour such as can be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The Samurai were abolished at the end of the 1800's and the braid makers were quick to diversify into the fashion industry by producing *obi-jime*, the beautiful silk braids which are tied around the *obi* (sash) of a *kimono*. *Obi-jime* and *Kumihimo* braids are much prized in Japanese culture for their hand-made quality, perfection, precision and uniqueness. Now that the *kimono* is worn less often in Japan, the braids are often seen decorating mobile phones, handbags and other items. It is thought that the *marudai* may have originally been copied from a European braiding stand in use in France in the 1750s and called a *jatte*.

As well as lots of exhibits of types of braids (see braided jacket on the front cover), Jaqui accompanied her talk with lots of fascinating pictures and with the musical sound of the *marudai* as the weights clicked together or hit the legs of the stand. She now works experimentally; trying different colours, new materials, thick and thin threads, beads and textures to make exciting new braids to decorate clothing, cushions and hats and feels she will never come to the end of her adventures with *the marudai*; there's always another "what if.....?"

Lesley Took

National Exhibition 2016: Items for Selection

The exhibition will be held 8 – 18 September. Selected entries are those that are juried. We will be seeking entries from Guild members. Details of the selection criteria with some tips can be found in the Selection Booklet on our website. The same information is available on the Association website. The closing date for selected entries is 6th May 2016.

We will put entries in as a Guild and will collect entries at the April meeting. Entries are by photograph and a 'feelie' piece. The better the quality of the photograph and the 'feelie' sample, the more the judges have to make an informed decision.

Somerset had six entries in 2014 with two accepted for the exhibition. We would like to have more this time. If you have something you have produced in one of our three core skills that you are proud of, please enter.

Skeins of wool, felting and tapestry are as welcome as woven items. It is good to have a small 'feelie' piece to accompany the item and good photos are essential. We can help with photos if you do not have the facility.

Workshops 2015/2016

We have had two successful workshops since the last Newsletter. The first was Natural Dyeing run by Barbara Spicer. Barbara had copied old dye recipes and the workshop participants went through the same processes as people did a couple of centuries ago. Some of the processes went through numerous stages – very different to using synthetic dyes.

The second workshop was Felting with Tracey Martin. Participants learned about nuno felting. They all came away saying they had learned a lot about wet felting and they felt very tired after all the rolling to felt the fabric. As they were felting quite large pieces, 1m x 3 m in some cases, there was a lot of rolling and participants came seeking help from the main Guild! We will ask the participants to bring back the dried finished pieces for a Show and Tell in January.

The programme for 2016 has spinning workshops scheduled for February with Amanda Hannaford. We are also looking to run a two-day workshop in August. There was considerable demand for a knitting workshop run by Edna Gibson. We are currently exploring what this will involve and will come back to members with more details.

If any Guild member has an idea of a topic for a workshop, please tell Lesley Took or Janet Maher. We will look at any idea that has enough support amongst members. If we run workshops, they often have to be on a separate day from the Guild meeting so we can use the main hall. We have to make a charge for such workshops to recover costs.

Using Up Old Fleece

We all have it – bags of old, poor or dirty fleece that we throw away or do not know what to do with. For some, dealing with the leftovers and unusable fleece can put people off buying fleece at the Fleece Fair.

This year I decided to run some experiments in the garden and use that tatty old fleece. It still needed washing but then I used it in three ways:

- I lined some of my hanging baskets with the fleece
- I put it around the plants that are prone to slug damage
- I put it in the bottom of my potato furrows

The results were quite remarkable, particularly the hanging baskets. I had done some tumbling tomatoes: one in a fleece lined basket and one in a conventional liner. I was still getting tomatoes in November in the fleece lined basket and, through the summer, that basket was much more drought resistant. The traditional liner was much less effective.

As a slug deterrent, the results were equally effective. My sunflowers, decimated last year, thrived this time. It does seem the slugs do not like crawling over fleece. I used grey and brown fleece around the base of the plants, which blended well with the soil and was not too visible in the flower beds.

The final use was to line the potato furrows. Apparently workers at the Yorkshire spinning mills started this trend. Again, the fleece helped with water retention over the dry summer we had this year. I have had a good crop where I used fleece, unlike the furrows where I did not. The dry summer in those furrows resulted in a smaller number and size of potato.

I am about to mulch my tender perennials with some fleece and will wait to see if survival rates are improved over the winter. The fleece decays slowly too and feeds the soil.

I feel more justified in buying fleece now and worry less about making a bad buy as I can always use it in the garden!

Janet Maher

Christmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting is a purely social event. There are no speakers or raffles. We ask each person attending to bring:

- A Secret Santa Gift: Value no more than £5 and wrapped in Christmas paper
- Some food for sharing – a variety of food is welcome such as sausage rolls, chicken or other meats, bread, cheese, salad, cakes, mince pies, nice biscuits.

The day will start at 10.30am and finish around 2.30pm. There is no-one in the kitchen – so we all muck in to make drinks and tidy up. *Fancy dress optional!*

Programme for 2016

We have a full programme of speakers and workshops next year. Some of the dates are still being finalised but will be on the website before the end of the year and there will be a new programme card for 2016 at the AGM.

The first three months are:

16th January: **Linda Lemieux**

Rush cutting on the river Isle and uses in basket weaving

20th February: **Amanda Hannaford**

Adventures in Afghanistan teaching cashmere spinning

21st February: Two spinning workshops – woollen and worsted

19th March: **Timbertops**

Spinning wheel surgery and talk on maintenance

Please bring along any wheels for help

The other speakers planned, to give you a flavour for the year, are:

Louise Cottey: The history of Kersy, our local cloth

Michael Watkins: Silk painting demonstration

Valerie Reilly: The history of the Paisley pattern and fabric

Nataliya Cummings: Ukranian crafts

We are also looking to run a two-day workshop in August with Edna Gibson on knitting techniques: cast-ons and cast-offs, shaping, grafting and finishing. There is likely to be some preparatory work required by members to do this workshop and we will come back with more details.

If anyone has any requests for speakers or workshops, please let Lesley Took know as these suggestions help us plan for next year

Association National Conference

The Biennial National Conference will be held 10 – 12 June 2016 at:

Bishop Grossetetse University, Lincoln

The AGM will be held on Saturday 11th June 11.00am – 4.00pm

Further details can be found on the Somerset Guild and Association websites. If anyone would like to go and represent the Guild, please let me know. Full expenses are paid.

Janet Maher

For Sale

Varpapuu Nordia 4 shaft 24 inch table loom

Price £400 o.n.o



Loom with stand in good working order

3 reeds - 10, 12, 16 epi

Texsolv heddles as shown, cross sticks, warp sticks.

Reeds and heddles new last year

Contact: Jaquie Teal jmt5@btinternet.com

Frank Herring Spinning Wheel £200 o.n.o



Frank Herring double band wheel
in perfect order.

There are no spare bobbins but these
can probably be purchased from
Frank herring in Dorchester.

If interested, please contact:

Margaret Knight on email
spinner54498@btinternet.com

Programme 2015

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

17th January

AGM 11.00am

The Silk Road

Tereshina Roberts

21st February

My Life in Textiles

Reverend Andrew Johnson

Committee Meeting

21st March

Ikat Weaving

Helen Price

19th April

**Finishing Techniques for Knitted
Garments**

Edna Gibson

Soup and Bread Lunch

16th May

Indigo and Travel

Jenny Balfour Paul

Committee Meeting

20th June

Fleece Fair

18th July

Skills Day

19th September

Asian Braid Making

Jacqueline Carey

Dyeing Competition

Committee Meeting

17th October

**Felting Workshop: Nuno or
Experimental Landscapes**

Tracey Martin

Spinning Competition

Soup and Bread Lunch

21st November

**Primitive Sheep of the British
Mary Gibbings**

Weaving Competition

Committee Meeting

Soup and Bread Lunch

5th December

Social Event

Shared lunch and Secret Santa