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March 2017



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Janet Maher
07703 829068

All email to: secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk

✉ Copy deadline for June issue is Friday 2ndrd June 2017. Please email Janet Maher at secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk

Front cover: Three of Adam Jordan's handwoven bags

Message from the Chair

Hello Members,

As I write this message, Spring is finally with us. I look out of the window and see the daffodils, irises and hellebores in bloom and my mind turns to dyeing in the coming season. There is so much out there in the garden that we can use. My planting of weld and dyers camomile has wintered well and I have sprouting of woad and dyers broom in the greenhouse.

I am looking forward to the Fleece Fair. We already have a dozen different types of fleece sellers applied as well as the usual tops/yarn sellers and craft equipment. We also have early volunteers for demonstrating on the day and I will ask for kitchen volunteers soon. If anyone has any new ideas for publicising the event near where you live, please let me know.

The demonstration season is about to start with the Field to Food Day and we already have a number of dates in the diary throughout the Summer and Autumn. As we have quite a few new members, it will good to see some of you at these events. They are good fun and we do gain a lot as a Guild making new contacts.

We have just purchased a new app so that our librarians will have an easier job of cataloguing our stock of books which can then be put on-line on the website so that members can browse at their leisure and know what they want to borrow when they come to Guild.

We are looking forward to a varied skills day in April so please let me know if there is anything you especially want to see or know a little more about. The skills day is very much about taster sessions so that members know where they really want to invest their learning time.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on Saturday.

**Janet Maher
Chairperson**

Tea and Coffee Rota 2017

The tea rota for 2017 is below. If you cannot fulfil your turn, please make arrangements for someone else to be there. Please let Caroline Maltby know of any changes.

| | 10.15 – 12.00 | 12.00 – 1.30 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| March | Norma Sanders/Andrea Stuart | Mandy Stead/Steph Williams |
| April | Jade Wiltshire/Chris Wright | Kay Withers/Paulette Bjergfelt |
| May | Marilyn Biggs/Diana Clarke | Sue Coats/Rosemary Burgess |
| June | Ann Machin/Brenda Hamblin | Emma Kingston/Sophie Fovargue |
| July | Kate Harrison/Willow Iredale | Patricia Ilsley/Julia Jones |
| Sept | Linda McKenna/Caroline Maltby | Diane Colthorpe/June Clark |
| Oct | Muriel Osborne/ Talitha Clarke | Lynne Packer/Lynda Dommett |
| Nov | Sally Bail/Karen Dumbill | Kathy Wright/Yvette Jones |

Christmas Meeting December 2017

The meeting was very successful with 35 people attending. There were some lovely Secret Santa gifts and everyone seemed pleased with the items they received. There was a lot of food. People brought a wide range of goodies. When we looked at the table before lunch, we thought there would be plenty left to take home but, amazingly, we cleared the lot - very few doggie bags!

As always the day was very relaxed with a real chance to go around and chat to people we had not caught up with recently. Maybe next year we should have a prize for the most outrageous headgear and clothes as people do get into the spirit.



The photos cannot substitute for seeing the talking, dancing hat that Lesley Took wore.

Chairperson Challenge



The challenge for January was 'Animal' with an absolutely superb show of creativity. In the end Janet Crowther decided that the entry from Georgina Vye most effectively met the theme.

There were animal bags, animal felts and little animals all from Jacob fleece with some overdyed and other fibres added.

The photos say it all. Well done to everyone!



The next challenge to be ready for the May meeting is:

Socks, mittens or gloves that say something about you – something about your personality or how you approach your craft maybe - lots to work with then!

As always the entry that meets the theme most effectively will receive a £10 John Arbon voucher.



Janet Maher

Guild Competitions 2016

The theme for the competitions in 2016 was 'Recycled'. For all of the competitions, the ingenuity of members has been outstanding. For the weaving competition Jan Arthur, winner of the 'Novice class', used cassette tapes to weave a bag. In the 'Not-so-novice' class Ann Thacker had woven a Japanese style bag using all of the bits of narrow ribbon that we see holding clothes onto hangers.

Our President, John Arbon, was at the Guild to judge the entries. He was impressed with both the creativity as well as the patience of the winners to deal with such fiddly bits of material in the production of the pieces.



John and Jan with her bag



John presenting Ann with the trophy

Guild Competitions 2017

The Guild Committee considered a number of suggestions for the theme for competitions throughout 2017. The following was considered to give ample scope to people thinking about entries: "**At The Seaside**"

As always the competitions will be held in the months of:

Dyeing – September
Spinning – October
Weaving – November

Erratum: In the last edition of the Newsletter, the winner of the 'Not-so-novice' class was named as Pauline Smith. It was, in fact, Kathy Wright (right photo, wrong name). I can only apologise for my senior moment – I really do know the difference between the two people!

Janet Maher

Ukrainian Crafts: Nataliya Cummings

19th November 2016

Nataliya was born in the Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine and came to the UK seven years ago where she married and had a family. To support local Ukraine enterprise, she works to organise eco-tours to the Carpathian region. There are seven different types of tours, a number with crafts as the focus. Different parts of the region specialise in particular crafts.

Hand embroidered sheepskins are popular with each village having its own stitch patterns. Local artisans also make woollen blankets felted in local rivers. Sheep are kept primarily for meat and milk with the fleece as a bi-product. The fleece is spun on a spindle, woven on a wooden loom and then fulled. The local designs on the kilims are reminiscent of South American designs. Nataliya believes the impact of living in mountainous regions leads to patterns from the natural environment being used, hence the similarity. Lizhnyks are the name for both rugs and blankets and are very hard wearing. They originate from a small region in the Carpathians and are passed down through the generations.

There are 24 different regions in the Ukraine each with its own regional costume and headdress. The different embroidery patterns on the shirts tell which region it was made in. The patterns are generally based on cross-stitch. The stitching is mostly in red and black apart from one type where indigo based thread is used. The colour was brought in by Jewish immigrants historically and is called Jew embroidery.

There has been resurgence in wearing full dress costume and headdresses. Coral and silver necklaces are also popular. Young women collect a traditional 'bottom drawer' of shirts, headdresses, aprons and towels. All are made by hand, embroidered and given to groomsmen, bridesmaids, Godparents and in-laws. Couples are married standing on an embroidered towel and one goes into the coffin. Everyone can embroider in the Ukraine - curtains, towels, cushion covers and clothes.

Different villages specialise in different crafts: basket weaving using sweet corn leaves in one area, egg decorating in another, Lizhnyks another, leatherwork another and wood carving another. Lizhnyks use 2 ½ - 3 kg wool. Skilled weavers can make a Lizhnyk in a day. Each family has its own design and colours. The villages come together on a Saturday to sell their wares at the Regional Market.

Nataliya brought lots of examples of the crafts with her. The Lizhnyks were very popular with members as well as the smaller embroidered items. Nataliya spoke with such passion about the crafts from her birth country that we were all inspired, maybe some of us to go, see and try out doing the various crafts.

For those interested, the company that organises the visits is **Experience Ukraine** and can be viewed on:

www.experienceukraine.co.uk

My Weaving: Adam Jordan

18th February 2017



Adam began his talk by saying he was passionate about what he does, something that came through in every aspect of his presentation.

Originally he had wanted to be a cartoonist but his grade at Art GCSE made this impossible. He was introduced to textile courses and did a foundation course. He then looked at a number of colleges near to his home and ended up at Loughborough as they provided what he wanted. Once there he fell in love with weaving.

His first loom was a countermarche, which he bought in pieces. Once he had put it together, he realised there was a lot of changing of tie-ups to achieve what he wanted. He kept it and got a Harris table loom but the levers on the side for raising shafts was too difficult with his disability. He took the plunge and used his long time savings to buy a Megado dobby loom 120cms wide.

He started his career doing wall panels as artwork (see photo below). He ultimately saw these as limiting and moved into making custom handbags as on the front cover of the Newsletter. He uses elastic in the warp, which gives some interesting textures once it is taken off tension.

Pieces are very structured and much sought after. He also uses a lot of feather decoration in his handbags.

Adam has many more ideas than he has time to turn into actual pieces. He noted that most textile courses do not actually teach weaving or tailoring. His experimentation has been totally self-driven.

He mostly does not plan the final piece before starting weaving, as he cannot tell how the fabric will perform. The elastic warp is on a separate beam to the other fibres.

For the future Adam wants to explore weaving fabric for corsetry using elastic – particularly bustiers. He may explore using wire for the first time in this context.

Adam puts his heart and soul into each piece he makes.





Part of Adam's display of work

His work has been shown internationally in Italy, Ireland, Sweden and Australia. Part of the entertainment of the talk was the engagement of Adam's father in his son's work. He offered many insights and comments throughout the talk.

New Guild Committee

Following the AGM, the new committee is:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson: | Janet Maher | |
| Treasurer: | Caroline Murray-Gourlay | |
| Secretary: | Willow Iredale | |
| Members: | Helen Cridland | Debby Hills |
| | Sophie Fovargue | Steph Williams |
| | Caroline Maltby | Sue Coates |
| | Patricia Ilsley | Jacky Calderbank |
| | Lesley Took | |

Please feel free to approach any of the committee with ideas, concerns or queries. We are there to support you.

Courses and Workshops

Fancy Yarns Weekend

Date: Saturday 1st July and Sunday 2nd July

Times: 10.00am – 3.30pm

Cost: £75 per person (Limited spaces - £35 deposit required to reserve place)

Saturday 1st July: Knickerbocker – Tufted – Slub Cloud – Seed or Knop – Snarl yarns and designing a yarn of your own

Sunday 2nd July: Boucle – Rose Navajo plying and designing a yarn of your own

All fibres are included but bring along anything you may wish to use of your own

Wheels can be borrowed with prior notice

Tea/coffee/soft drinks/biscuits provided. Please bring a packed lunch

Contact: Margaret Knight at 3, The Beacon, Ilminster TA19 9AH

Email: spinner54498@btinternet.com

Tel: 01460 54498

For Sale

Glimakra Ideal Floor Loom £450

Counterbalance/countermarche.

Weaving width: 70cms Footprint: 103 x 130 cms Height 163cms

Comes with 8 harnesses, 8 treadles, 3 reeds, bench and other equipment

For more information contact: Jenifer Ferguson (Minehead) on 01643 709816
or email:

mhferguson2@btinternet.com

Various Items

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Wooden bead car seat cover (suitable for a felting wool on - or taking apart and using the beads) | £5.00 |
| Weighing Scales (as new) £12 to buy retail Ideal for weighing tops or rug wool oz and gms. | £5.00 |
| 2 X 25mm Giant Needles (use for lace knitting or broomstick crochet) | each £2.00 |
| Polystyrene Hat Block 22.5" circumference £18 - £20 to buy on-line. | £10.00 |
| Assorted Dryad leaflets x 5 | each 50p |

Contact: Margaret Knight
spinner54498@btinternet.com

Books

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Mabel Ross: Fancy Yarns Very rare book - Amazon asking £89 - £300 | £25.00 |
| Peter Collingwood: Tablet Weaving | £20.00 |
| Ann Dyer: New Ways with Tablet Weaving or "There's a snag in it somewhere" Very rare book | £30.00 |
| Ann Sutton & Pat Holtom: Tablet Weaving | £10.00 |
| Temari - Traditional Japanese Embroidery Technique Margaret Ludlow (including a started temari ball with bell) | £5.00 |
| British Wool Marketing Board: Warp and Weft | £2.00 |
| Crafts Council: Ikats - Woven Silks from Central Asia | £3.00 |
| The Treasure Chest of Swedish Weaving (on Amazon at £67) | £20.00 |

Contact: Margaret Knight
spinner54498@btinternet.com

Programme 2017

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

21st January

Design: Colour, texture and pattern
Janet Crowther
AGM 11.00am
*Chairperson Challenge: "Animal" using
Jacob fleece*

18th February

My weaving
Adam Jordan
Committee Meeting

18th March

Textiles of Japan
Jennifer Hughes

19th March

Shibori workshop

15th April

Members Skills Day
Soup and Bread Lunch

20th May

Breeding coloured sheep in
New Zealand
Fiona Gardner
Committee Meeting

17th June

Fleece Fair
Craft demonstrations

15th July

Lace making: bobbin and shuttle
Margaret Flux

19th August

Rigid heddle workshop: warping and
making a sampler of different patterns
including lace
Janet Maher

16th September

"Just an Inkling"
Ann Dixon
Dyeing competition
Committee meeting

17th September

Inkle weaving workshop

21st October

Flax to linen: spinning workshop
Margaret Knight
Spinning competition
Soup and Bread Lunch

18th November

Colours of Scotland: dyeing traditions
Carole Keepax
Weaving Competition
Committee meeting

16th December

Social event
Shared lunch and Secret Santa