



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter March 2021

Welcome to the March edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our April meeting on the third Saturday of the month so please do think about sending something for inclusion and many thanks to all those who have sent contributions for this edition. Just email anything to pennyskett@gmail.com.

Don't forget that we have a talk on the Origins of the Modern Sheep from Katie Weston of Hilltop Cloud on Zoom this month on Saturday 20th March at 10.30. The talk will be organised in two sessions of 45 minutes with a 15 minute break in between and there will be opportunity for questions and discussion at the end. If you haven't already signed up and received the zoom link but would like to join the talk please contact me and I will forward it.

Clare Hunter will be giving us a talk via zoom on 15th May but if you have any suggestions for an event the month before in April just let me know.

Collect 2021

The Crafts Council Collect Art Fair 2021 is available to view on line until Wednesday 24th March. There is an interesting Textile, Weave and Fibre section which can be viewed [here](#)

Hat Making in Lockdown

Joanne Roberts has produced two stunning hats after undertaking an online course with textile artist and master milliner Jeanette Sendler of Hat in the Cat in Perth. Joanne met Jeanette at the 30s Back in Time event at New Lanark back in 2019 when we provided a spinning and craft demonstration. We all admired the hats which Jeanette had on display at the time and Joanne is now making her own.



A Knitted Throw

Jane Buxton has been busy starting to knit a throw:-



“The design was actually for a throw in a book called "Fair Isle Tunisian Crochet" by Brenda Bourg, but I tried a sample and decided it would be easier to knit on cable needles in the round incorporating a steek! I'm using Drops "Lima Mix", which is 65% wool and 35% alpaca. Each round is 329 stitches, so it's definitely a long-term project. I hope it'll end up being 10 x 10 squares, about 52" each side. I'm planning to back it with boiled wool either in another shade of grey or a colourful contrast - but that decision is a few months away!”

And a Knitted Unicorn

Sheena Guz has also been knitting:-



“I have a friend in Edinburgh who is visually impaired and loves unicorns. This is my first attempt at knitting anything 3D with short rows. The pattern is on Ravelry.

I used furry eyelash wool for the body (Nightmare to unpick when I made a mistake) and other yarn for the head and legs. There was a lot of reknitting going on!

I had leftover for the mane and tail and if you look closely you see some striped blue that is hand spun in amongst all the acrylic.

I told my friend that it was a hug made from wool as I couldn't visit her."

Fabulous Fungi Dye Book



Trisha Gow has sent a link to a publication by the Scottish Fungi Dye Group showing the extraordinary dye properties of specific fungi species and textile works created by group members which is at https://issuu.com/tiscali582/docs/fab_fungi

She has also sent a link to a video created by Su Grierson for the Scottish Fungi Dye Group 2010 with dyes by Marilyn Caddell and Trisha Gow which is at <https://vimeo.com/516698623>

Bayeux Tapestry Online

The Bayeux Museum in Normandy has made the whole Bayeux Tapestry available to view on line as a complete panorama and you can select individual scenes to view in more detail. By zooming in you can see the intricacies of the incredible stitching in detail and marvel at the individual depictions of the knights. A side information panel provides a translation (in English as well as French!) of the Latin inscriptions.

You can access the Bayeux Tapestry Museum website [here](#). It's well worth having a look.

To Raise a Smile

Marilyn Caddell has sent in a couple of pieces to provide some amusement for everyone.

"We have a weekly food delivery from Morrisons. Two weeks ago, in amongst the food, there was a sachet of fragranced nappy bags. Given that I have just had my 76th birthday my days of having a baby are long gone!! Luckily a lovely young couple moved into the house next door mid January. They have a six month baby daughter and can make good use of the nappy bags, so they won't go to waste.

I have a friend living up near Perth who has a regular red squirrel who, like our grey one,

takes peanuts from her bird feeder. A couple of weeks ago she had several inches of snow in the garden. She wanted to go to out replenish the peanuts and went to put on her wellies, but couldn't get her foot into one of them. When she tipped it upside down to investigate a stash of peanuts fell out. Her squirrel was using her wellie boot to hide away his peanuts for future use! (her boots were in an open sided porch)"

Weave A Real Peace

You can access last month's Weave a Real Peace discussion about textile traditions in Asia [here](#). The three speakers in the discussion were

Maren Beck - Above the Fray www.hilltribeart.com

Gunjan Jain – Vriksh www.vrikshdesigns.com

Uddipana Goswami - Lahe Lahe <https://lahelahecrafts.com>

The History of Hand Spinning Wool Animation

Hansen Crafts (maker of the electronic mini-spinner) have commissioned a delightful video presenting the history of hand spinning condensed into two minutes of needle felted stop motion. For the creator, Andrea Love, it was her first animation made entirely out of wool and the project cemented her love of fibre.

The video is available on YouTube [here](#).

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the third Saturday of the month (17th April). Please send any photos of your craft projects and contributions to pennyskett@gmail.com.

And don't forget Katie Weston's Origins of the Modern Sheep talk on Saturday 20th March at 10.30.