

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter September 2021

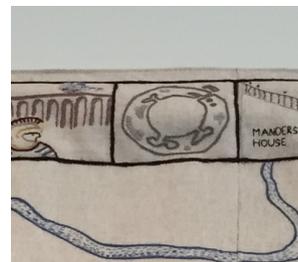
Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our October meeting (Saturday 16th October) so please do think about sending something for inclusion and many thanks to those who have sent contributions for this edition. Just email anything to pennyskett@gmail.com.

And don't forget that there will be an opportunity to meet in person next month. We have booked the main hall at Craiglockhart Church from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 16th October for all those members who wish to meet up again in person and join in a crafting session together.

The Guild meeting this month is a zoom meeting starting at 10.30am on Saturday 18th September. With the opening of the new gallery for the Great Tapestry of Scotland the topic for discussion this month will be communal textile projects. Marilyn Caddell was involved in stitching one of the panels for the tapestry and will talk about her experience and how she became involved. Another member, Laura Baigrie, was involved in the creation of the tapestry for the entrance to the museum and will tell us about her experience. Trisha Gow will also talk about her involvement with the creation of the Great Scottish Canvas. Hopefully other members will have experience in communal textile projects to add to the discussion.

Just email pennyskett@gmail.com for the zoom link if you are able to join the meeting.

Great Tapestry of Scotland



The Great Scottish Tapestry is now on display in a purpose built gallery in Galashiels and is well worth a visit. Galashiels is easily reached from Edinburgh with the new Borders Rail link to Melrose. There are 160 beautifully embroidered panels outlining key events and developments and

the lives of people in Scotland throughout history and includes the work of Marilyn and Laura among many others.

Information about the new gallery is available at <https://www.liveborders.org.uk/culture/the-great-tapestry-of-scotland/>

The Colour Purple

Last month Isabella Whitworth from Devon gave us a fascinating talk about The Colour Purple. She led us through an intriguing story which included the ancient Tyrian purple extracted from thousands of sea snails to provide the coveted deep purple edging the togas of wealthy Romans, her discovery and researching of the Bedford family archive relating to dye manufacturing from orchil (obtained from lichen) in Leeds in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the discovery of the first synthetic dye, Perkins mauve. It was a fascinating insight into dyeing history.

Subscription Renewals Due

A reminder that subscription renewals for the year 2021-22 are now due. If you have not already done so you can renew your subscription by email or post by downloading the membership form available on the Guild website. The form can be accessed [here](#) (the form can be downloaded from the 'about' page at www.ewsd.org.uk). Alternatively you can renew your subscription at the October meeting.

Fibre Art Magazine

Carmen Wright has sent an interesting posting on Facebook from Fibre Art Magazine, the new editor of which is from Shapinsay.

<https://www.facebook.com/213317032425864/posts/1243744319383125/>

Gorgie Farm Spinners

Frida Bleakley is a member of Gorgie Farm Spinners and has sent some information about the group.



Until last week we operated through the open patio doors showing the public some of our yarns and items produced from our handspun yarns. Though we have not been able to tutor anyone we have had some very interesting conversation with folk who clearly had a very genuine interest in these traditional crafts. As always there is a keen interest from children and we also engage with them as regards the history of the traditional craft of spinning and some touchy feely toys for them. We are also trying to show the connection to the farm and at the moment we are spinning some of the Alpaca from their herd of Alpacas.

Until a few weeks ago our focus has been from fleece to finish basically based on members' interests. However our new recruit Sheila Syrett has brought a contemporary approach to spinning such as Art yarn, sparkles, curls and brighter colours. It's a lovely addition to the group and may in fact get more interest from younger people.

We have had a group of young women showing interest in being taught how to spin and we agreed that we may also do some natural dyeing with them. This week we have 2 people coming to learn to spin so this is a return to the more normal. I must add we are still operating with open doors and wearing masks.

We are a total membership of 7 people but 2 of our members continue to observe some degree of distancing and are not able to join us until Covid numbers have reduced further. We do not pay a rent but we each pay a small amount of money each week which provides a regular donation to Love Gorgie Farm but also enables us to obtain new equipment or get workshop tutors to assist us develop further skills. We welcome new members.

The original farm closed down late 2019 due to financial difficulties. The farm, which is now run by the charity Love Learning Scotland, reopened just before the first lockdown. During the lockdowns they have been running a food bank including some fresh vegetables from their vegetable garden. There has been a very marked positive change since the take over by Love Learning and the organisation is very diverse and inclusive both in terms of staff and the people for whom they provide a service. Love Learning work with people with Learning Difficulties and people who have missed out on education. They have developed a very strong connection with a number of local schools providing input for both teachers and the children. They also run a number of classes for children during the holiday period.

For those who live near or in Edinburgh it is a lovely day out with or without children.

Come visit us on Friday mornings in the Education room at Love Gorgie Farm between 10 and 12.

Teeswater Fleece For Sale



Jessica Sellers (email jessellers@hotmail.com) has contacted the Guild about Teeswater fleece which she has for sale from her small flock of pedigree Teeswater Sheep on her family's organic farm in East Yorkshire.

She has the following available:

Raw Fleece - well skirted

'Betty' 3kg Shearling Teeswater Fleece

Price for the Raw Fleece is £22.50 per kg (Plus £5 postage). If you would rather half a fleece that's no problem.

Washed & Carded Fibre (pure Teeswater) - this has been professionally washed & carded and is lovely to spin or felt.

Prices for the carded fibre:

100g = £7 (+£3.50 P&P)

250g = £20 (+£3.50 P&P)

500g = £35 (+£5 P&P)

1kg = £70 (inc delivery)

If you are interested email Jessica at jessellers@hotmail.com

Alpaca Fleece



Gorgie Farm spinners have been gifted some alpaca blankets by the farm. We cannot use them all so if anyone is interested please let me know. We suggest a donation of £10 per half fleece to Love Gorgie Farm.

Contact Frida Bleakley on 07896 789856 or email Frida at fridableakley@hotmail.com

Scottish Fungi Dye Group

Scarves dyed by The Scottish Fungi Dye Group are included in Mycota an exhibition in London which is part of the London Design Festival 2021

More details can be found at <https://www.materialconnections.co.uk/mycota>

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the third Saturday of the month (16th October) and there will be a meeting in Craiglockhart Hall from 11am to 2pm. Details of arrangements for the meeting will be circulated nearer the time but it should be noted that members will need to provide their own refreshments and there will be no use of the kitchens.

The newsletter will be continuing for the next few months so please do keep sending any photos of your craft projects and contributions to pennyskett@gmail.com.

Don't forget this month's zoom meeting is on Saturday 18th September at 10.30am. Just email pennyskett@gmail.com for the zoom link.