



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter October 2021

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our November meeting (Saturday 20th November). Just email anything for inclusion to pennyskett@gmail.com.

We are finally able to meet again in person this month! The meeting will be in the main hall of Craiglockhart Church from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 16th October for all who want to finally join in a crafting session together again. We are asking all those attending to observe a number of measures to minimise risks and to hopefully ensure that everyone feels comfortable. These are:

1. Please ensure you record your name and telephone number for contact purposes on the sheet provided on the table in the hall
2. Please ensure chairs are placed at a minimum of 1.5 metres apart to ensure appropriate social distancing
3. Please bring any refreshments you require as there will be no use of the kitchen facility and therefore no refreshments provided
4. Toilets will be available but please wipe door handles after use – there will be wipes available in the hall.
5. Please ensure you wear a mask at all times when you are moving about in the hall but the mask may be removed when you are seated
6. Please ensure that you wear warm clothing as the external door to hall will be kept open to aid good ventilation
7. Hand sanitiser will be available for use
8. Do not attend a meeting if you have any symptom of covid or if you have been in contact with someone with covid. Please consider taking a lateral flow test before attending to ensure you do not have covid.
9. The time of the meeting will be reduced to 3 hours (11am to 2pm)
10. At the request of Craiglockhart Church we have agreed that door handles will be wiped with disinfectant at the end of the meeting

September Zoom Meeting - Communal Textile Projects

In September we had an interesting discussion about communal textile projects and Marilyn Caddell has sent some more information for inclusion in this month's newsletter.



Mola embroidered picture.

I bought this picture back in 1993 when I took part in the making of a huge embroidered map of the world, as part as of a Threads of Life exhibition in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow.

As part of the exhibition a few textile artists had been invited from foreign countries to come and demonstrate their traditional art works.

A lady called Liz Nunez Perez had come from the San Blas islands, just off Panama, to show us their Mola embroidery technique. This is the reverse of appliqué and involves layering up to 7/8 different coloured fabrics, then cutting through in different places to reveal the colours. The edges of all these revealed shapes have to be turned in and sewn down to avoid fraying - much patience needed!!

I bought this picture because I loved the wonderful colours and the clever design - a butterfly with two snakes forming the outer edges of the wings. Can you see that? Some embroidery stitches are added, too. If you google 'mola embroidery technique' you will be able to see quite a few images.

More information is available at <https://craftatlas.co/crafts/molas>



Gamelan drummer

Gamelan music is the traditional percussive music of the Javanese, Sudanese and Balinese peoples of Indonesia. I made this panel some years ago as part of a big mobile that hung down a 3 storey stairwell in Glasgow Arts Centre. It was very fiddly, cutting out all the gold shapes!

The panel itself is a see through gauzy fabric. The back had to be as neat as the front as both sides could be seen, as the mobile hung from the ceiling and the panels moved gently. When the mobile was eventually taken down I was able to get this panel back. Our house has two and a half levels and the panel hangs on the wall halfway up the stairs. Perfect!

Haldane Spinning Wheel

Catherine Lyall has contacted the Guild to say that she has a Haldane Spinning Wheel which she would like to pass on, hopefully to a good cause.

It is about 40 years old and she has forwarded the following link

<https://www.ukspinningwheels.info/pdf%20files/HaldaneHebrideanInstructions.pdf>

If anyone is interested Catherine can be contacted by email on cathie@lyall.biz

Embroidered Triangle

Marilyn Caddell has also found an embroidered triangle which she made

I came across an embroidered triangle of bunting and can't remember if it was part of a project with Clare Hunter, showcasing our hobbies and interests, or I made it to take to one of the Fungi Symposia.

It shows my enjoyment of spinning and dyeing - a sheep, my ashford wheel; a basket of dyed yarns, indigo and woad dyed fleece draped over branches of a tree to dry; and fungi dyed skeins hanging

up to dry, again over the branches of a tree, with the fungi dye cauldron below.



Embroidered at the top of the triangle are the words of a poem:-

*The sink is full of dishes and the beds are yet unmade,
Forgotten are the wishes of my family I'm afraid.
My mending basket overflows, my poor husband has no shirt,
I should really wash some clothes and do a little work.
But at my wheel I'm working and as happy as a king,
For I am busy spinning and I HAVE to do my thing!*

Ashford Traditional Spinning Wheel

The Guild has received a generous donation of an Ashford Traditional wheel which can be seen in the picture below



Subscription Renewals Due

If you have not already renewed your subscription for this year you can do so by downloading and completing the membership form available on the Guild website and forwarding the amount due by post or bank transfer. The form can be accessed [here](#) (the form can be downloaded from the 'about' page at www.ewsd.org.uk).

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the third Saturday of the month (20th November).

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 there will be a meeting in the main hall of Craiglockhart Church on Saturday 16th October from 11am to 2pm.