



## EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

### Newsletter November 2021

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our December meeting (Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December) 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](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

Don't forget that there will be an opportunity to meet again in person this month. We have booked the main hall at Craiglockhart Church from 11am to 2pm on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November for all those members wishing to meet up in person and join in a crafting session together.

At last month's meeting it was suggested that, as weavers are usually unable to bring along what they are working on because the looms are too large, they should bring some pieces they have woven to discuss fibres, structures and weaving on different looms. So please do bring some woven samples to the meeting on Saturday.

Last month's meeting was a great success. Here are a few pictures of some of the various crafting activities going on.



Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to finally get together again and the hall was full of chatter after such a long time since we were last able to meet in person.

The measures put in place to reduce the risks associated with meeting in person again worked well although the large hall was cool and quite noisy. Ventilation of the area is important but we will try to keep it warmer by keeping the external door ajar rather than fully open for most of the next meeting and there will be seating available away from the outside door. Seating will be in several small circles to help people hear one another.

A brief reminder of the measures in place to reduce risks for everyone when meeting:

- leave your contact details on the sheet
- appropriate social distancing
- wear a mask unless seated
- bring your own refreshments
- wear warm clothing as external door ajar for ventilation
- don't attend if have any symptoms or have been in contact with someone with symptoms
- hand sanitiser and wipes available
- toilet door handles to be wiped if used
- hall door handles to be wiped at end of meeting

### Jess's Banner for the Climate Day of Action



Jess McCaffery produced a banner (in two days!) to be added to others produced by Haddington Spinners for the Climate Day of Action at Glasgow Green on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Jess based her banner on 'The Lorax', a children's book written by Theodor Geisel (or Dr Seuss – author of 'Cat in the Hat') fifty years ago this year. The story illustrates what can happen when the desire for industry to produce more and more ends in the destruction of all nature's resources. The beautiful forested land of the Lorax becomes a wasted desert. The message is that we need to care and we need to act. The book ends with the message that "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Jess brought the banner along to a meeting with Penny Skett and Trisha Gow who helped in adding some of the pieces.

## **Stitched Stories**

On a visit to Weftblown at West Kilbride Pat Laing, Jane Buxton and Penny Skett stopped for a coffee at the beautiful Barony Centre art gallery where there was a wonderful exhibition of crafted postcards. The postcards were 'A Stitched Conversation', an idea which was started in October 2020 and which included people from Cornwall to the north of Scotland. The exhibition will remain at the Barony Centre until early 2022 and is worth a visit if you are in the area.

You can read more about the exhibition and Stitched Stories at <https://www.stitchedstories.co.uk/a-stitched-conversation-exhibition>

## **The Large Tree Group Tapestry**

A recent visit to the Scottish National Museum reminded Penny Skett that it's an opportunity to view the beautiful tapestry woven by Dovecot Studios in 2013 of Victoria Crowe's painting 'Large Tree Group'.

The subtle colours of the tapestry have been achieved using only the natural colours of native sheep fleeces. A number of handspinners were involved in the project and it would be great to know if any member of the guild contributed wool for the tapestry. The link below giving some of the background to the project includes a picture of a lady (Nancy Wilson) spinning at Broughton Village Hall.

Here is the link to the National Museum of Scotland's post about the tapestry - <https://blog.nms.ac.uk/2015/06/01/large-tree-group-behind-the-tapestry/>

## **A Poem**

Marilyn Caddell has sent a poem which she wrote when she was at primary school.

*"I came across a nature book I made at primary school many, many years ago!! Loose inside it was this poem I must have written about the same time.*

*At primary school in Twickenham I had the same teacher for the 4 years. He was a great teacher and went on to write a book about primary education and lecture at a teacher training college. He is 97 now and I am still in touch with him which is wonderful.*

## **Topsy-Turvy World**

*by Marilyn Bryon aged eleven*

*If the butterfly courted the bee and the owl the porcupine;  
If churches were built in the sea, and three times one was nine;  
If the pony rode his master, if the buttercups ate the cows;  
If the cat had the dire disaster to be worried, sir, by the mouse;  
If mamma, sir, sold the baby to a gipsy for half-a-crown;  
If a gentleman, sir, was a lady - the world would be upside-down!  
If any of all these wonders should ever come about,  
I should not consider them blunders, for I should be inside-out!"*

## **Next Month**

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting – the third Saturday of the month (18<sup>th</sup> December).

There will be no meeting in person in December as Craiglockhart Hall is not available on that day (or the other Saturdays in December) and so a zoom meeting will be arranged in the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> December. The subject will be crafted Christmas items. It will be a chance to exchange ideas about crafted Christmas gifts (made or received), crafted Christmas decorations or anything else relating to crafts and Christmas.

Please do keep sending any photos of your craft projects and contributions to [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

Don't forget this month's meeting is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November in Craiglockhart Large Hall from 11am to 2pm.

And do bring along some samples of weaving!