



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter February 2022

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our March meeting (Saturday 19th March) which will be an 'in person' meeting in the main hall of Craiglockhart Church. If you have any photos or links for inclusion in next month's newsletter just email them to pennyskett@gmail.com.

This month we are having our first 'in person' meeting of the year in the main hall at Craiglockhart. The meeting will be shorter than our usual meetings, starting at 11am and finishing at 2pm. Here is a brief reminder of measures in place for the meeting 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 you have any symptoms or have been in contact with someone with symptoms.

In January Katie Weston gave us a very interesting talk on 'Spinning with a Purpose'. If you missed the talk or want to listen to it again it is still available for a limited time using the following link <https://youtu.be/64ie5fuafw>

If you've been trying any new spinning techniques after Katie's talk last month please do bring along some examples to our meeting on Saturday. The meeting will also be an opportunity to discuss entries for the National Association Exhibition in September. If you have made anything or started something for the non-juried section – a creative textile piece in a 6 inch ring with the theme of 'Still Waters' – please bring it along.

Silk Spinning Online Workshops

You may be interested in Katie's 'Silk Spinning' workshops on 28th February and 1st March. More details are available at <https://hilltopcloudshop.co.uk/collections/frontpage/products/live-online-silk-spinning-workshop-28th-february-1st-march?variant=39642244153422>

Between Islands

Carmen Wright has sent this link to the Textiles section of the Orkney Museum 'Between Islands' online exhibition which includes some fascinating photographs and information. <https://orkneybetweenislands>.

Andean Textile Arts

Andean Textile Arts is an organisation dedicated to supporting the people and communities of the Andes in their efforts to preserve and revitalise their textile traditions. They have an interesting programme of talks and their first talk for 2022 is on Tuesday 15 February. The topic is ‘Textile Traditions of the Peruvian Highlands’.

More details about Andean Textile Arts and their February talk can be found at <https://andeantextilearts.org/>

Alison Morton’s Life and Weaving

Jane Haworth has sent details of an interesting exhibition she visited recently.

“My visit back home to Wales at the end of January fortuitously coincided with an exhibition in Ruthin Craft Centre about Alison Morton’s life and weaving. Born in Cumbria, and the daughter of a weaver, she studied textiles in Manchester before setting up her own weaving workshop in North Wales. She then spent the rest of her life as a weaver in Wales and the Welsh Marches. In the mid 1980s she studied linen processing and wove exclusively with linen from then on.

Alison Morton’s work is utilitarian in nature. She used sober colours and mostly tabby or twill weaving drafts which let the quality of the linen - and the weaving - come to the fore.



The exhibition includes many examples of her work, along with her looms. One of these is a Dobby loom, and the other is an eight shaft, made by Anders Lervad of Denmark.



It is lovely to find some of the items from her workshop included in the exhibition, including a woven birch bark bag stuffed with shuttles and other weaving tools. This item was taken from the wall of her workshop and displayed exactly as it was found.



Alison Morton's was a life both absorbed and fulfilled by the act of weaving.”

Huldremose Woman

A woman's body found in a bog in Jutland gives an interesting glimpse of weaving two thousand years ago. She was wearing a plaid cape, a scarf, and a skirt, all made of wool.

Information about the Huldremose woman and recent research finds can be found at <https://sallymclean1.wordpress.com/2015/11/04/the-huldremose-woman-has-more-to-tell-us/>

More details can be found at the internet site of the National Museum of Denmark <https://en.natmus.dk/historical-knowledge/denmark/prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-early-iron-age/the-woman-from-huldremose/>

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting – the third Saturday of the month (19th March).

Do keep sending photos of your craft projects and links to items of interest to pennyskett@gmail.com.