

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter September 2022

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our October meeting (Saturday 15th October) at Craiglockhart Church Halls. If you have any photos or links for inclusion in next month's newsletter just email them to pennyskett@gmail.com.

September Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 17th September in Craiglockhart Church Halls. Both the Centenary Room and the Large Hall have been booked. Jan Beadle will be running a Weaving Workshop on double weave and the new Spinning Interest Group will be meeting at around 1pm.

Last Month's Meeting

Everyone had a very productive meeting last month and the spinning, weaving and dyeing interest groups were started. Jane Howorth has summarised what was agreed -

The interest groups for spinning, weaving and dyeing met for the first time during the August meeting. It was agreed that these groups will continue meeting in turn during regular guild meetings, one per month, on a rolling programme. We agreed a start time of around 1.00pm. We might need to adjust this to 'lunchtime' if members are involved in day-long workshops, so that everyone who wants to, has the opportunity to meet.

The first three meetings will be: September - spinning; October - weaving; November - dyeing. We can review meeting frequency after this.

The study areas agreed by each group are initially quite broad, and can be interpreted however wished. This is what was agreed by each group:

Spinning

Practice long draw spinning, experimenting to find the most suitable fibre and preparation method. Explore online resources (eg Longdraw James on YouTube)

Bring to next spinning meeting: Any samples you have made, recommendations for favourite books (or bring the books for others to look at) and other resource recommendations. The Online Guild was mentioned as a great resource during this meeting.

Weaving

Members of this group agreed to try something that was new for them. This subject is deliberately very broad so as to include all members, regardless of the type of loom they have. The subject can be interpreted however is wanted. The group also agreed to bring to the meeting any unwanted yarn to redistribute within the group. Members also agreed to make resource recommendations next time.

Dyeing

Members of the dyeing group agreed to experiment with any types of plant dyes that they had access to, and to bring their samples the next time the dyeing group met. There was also discussion around the possibility of organising a future dyeing visit to a member's house.

Alpaca Farm Day

Five members had a great day at the BobCat Alpaca Farm Day in aid of Marie Curie earlier this month. After a rather damp start the sun came out and we had lots of visitors with plenty of people wanting to have a go at spinning the alpaca fibre which the farm had given us. Over £4000 was raised on the day for the Marie Curie charity so it was a very successful event.



Dumfries and Galloway Guild Gathering

Sue McNiven of Dumfries Guild has sent a poster advertising their Guild Gathering on Sunday 9th October at Lincluden Community Centre, Dumfries DG2 0DL. They will be having demonstrations on Preparation techniques, Felting, Dorset Buttons, Spindle spinning and there will be stalls selling all sorts of goodies, home made buttons, pottery fibres and fleeces.



Don't Discount the Distaff 16th October 2-5pm

The Wheel Ewe has made places available for a Sunday afternoon session at their Spinning Retreat in October for those who cannot make the full 3 day event. You can learn how to make your own wrist distaff using some hand-spun and commercial yarns, together with beads. Then master the technique of dressing the distaff. The cost is just £32 and more details are available at <https://www.thewheelewe.co.uk/sunday-afternoon-class/dont-discount-the-distaff-sunday-afternoon-class-with-janet-day-ruth-robinson>

2022-23 Membership

Thank you to everyone who has completed the new membership form and paid their fees for the current membership year. This is a gentle reminder to those who have not yet done so. The new membership form is now available on the Guild website at

https://www.ewsd.org.uk/downloads/EWSD_Guild_Membership_Form.pdf with details for payment by bank transfer. However if you want to pay by cash or cheque you can do so at this month's meeting and forms will be available there. It's still just £25 for the year.

Fabric of Flowers

The Gardens Trust have organised a 6 part online lecture series exploring how flowers and gardens have inspired textile artists. The series starts on Monday 19th September at 6pm. Tickets for individual talks are just £5 and you can subscribe for the whole series for £24. More details can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-fabric-of-flowers-tickets-333794728017>

The Wandering Vine

Carmen Wright has sent an interesting link to the work of a professional American weaver who designs and weaves her own cloth and tailors the cloth herself. She is interested in experimenting with the interplay of colour and weave structure and dyes a great deal of the cotton and wool herself. Some of her designs and garments can be found at

<http://www.thewanderingvine.net/6552.html>

Royal Highland Show

The Scottish Women's Institute has published a draft schedule for the 2023 Scottish Handrafts Championship. The overall theme is 'Rainbow' and the theme for the Handspinning, Weaving and Dyeing Section is 'Golden Shears'.

Here are the six classes for next year's event and more details and the schedule can be found at <https://www.theswi.org.uk/events-news/royal-highland-show-2023.html>

Handspinning, weaving and dyeing

24 *Hank of Shetland yarn, 2 ply extra fine hank of Shetland yarn for lace knitting. Hand spun from Shetland sheep. Include a sample of fleece staple.*

25 *Three hanks of hand spun yarn using different natural fibres and dyes inspired by the theme, mounted on card and identifying plant sources.*

26 *Hank of fancy yarn (I.e. slub, loop or spiral). Specify intended use and small worked sample.*

27 *An article in home spun yarn, knitted, crocheted or woven.*

28 *A belt in any hand weaving technique.*

29 *A shopping bag, any hand weaving technique.*

There were not many entries in the classes this year so please do think about entering at least one class next year. You will have plenty of time before June 2023. It's a great opportunity to showcase the crafts of spinning, weaving and dyeing.

For Sale

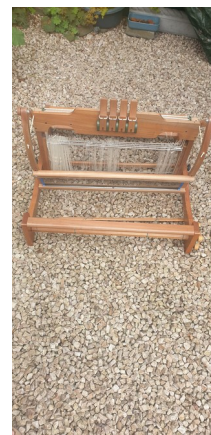
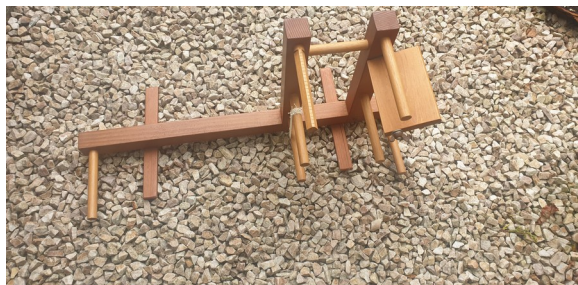
Pat Laing is selling some weaving and dyeing equipment. If you are interested you can contact Pat on 07881 380134.

I am selling some of my stash. The first picture shows dyeing materials. It is going for £12. The two mordants are ferrous sulphate and alum, there are a number of natural dye stuffs and the Dyers Companion which is a boon for any serious dyers out there.

The second is a tapestry loom 16" x 27" along with a beater with metal teeth, 2 shuttles and a reel of cotton 12/6. The price for that is £30.



I have also decided to sell my 4 shaft and an inkle loom. The inkle loom has a beater for adjustment and is very solidly made. I am selling it for £30. The four shaft table loom is an Ashford and has a couple of stick shuttles with it. I am selling that for £300.



Guild Programme 2022-2023

An outline of the programme for the coming year is listed below. As some members expressed concern that there was not an opportunity to meet in either December or January the January meeting has now been changed to a meeting in Craiglockhart Church Hall. A printed programme with more details of all events will be available at the September meeting.

Saturday 17 September 2022	Weaving Workshop (Jan Beadle)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 15 October 2022	Fungi Talk (Trisha Gow and Marilyn Caddell)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 19 November 2022	Spinning Wheel Maintenance (Rod Grant)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 17 December 2022	Certificates of Achievement (Janet Crowther)	Zoom
Saturday 21 January 2023	Spinning the Blues Away –	Craiglockhart

	fibre challenge	
Saturday 18 February 2023	‘Loom Dating’ Event	Craiglockhart
Saturday 18 March 2023	Special Interest Groups Catch Up and ‘Corners’	Craiglockhart
Saturday 15 April 2023	Triangular Board Weaving Skillshare (Marilyn Caddell)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 20 May 2023	Women Textile Makers in Early Medieval Ireland and Britain (Cynthia Thickpenny)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 17 June 2023	AGM and Talk (Assam Textile Crafts – Erika Hollingdale)	Craiglockhart
Saturday 15 July 2023	Visit to Ashfield (11-2)	Ashfield
Saturday 19 August 2023	Broughton Gathering (10-4)	Broughton

Guild WhatsApp Group

There is going to be a Guild WhatsApp group for all members who are interested. If you wish to join it Jane Howorth will have a sheet at the meeting on Saturday for you to sign and give your mobile number.

Next Month

Next month’s newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting on the third Saturday of the month (15th October). Trisha Gow and Marilyn Caddell will be giving a talk about dyeing with fungi.

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