

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter October 2022

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

October Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 15th October in Craiglockhart Church Hall. Trisha Gow and Marilyn Caddell will be talking about dyeing with fungi and the showing the amazing spectrum of colours which can be obtained from toadstools. Below is a beautiful display of silk scarves dyed with fungi which was exhibited by the Scottish Fungi Dye Group at the Tolbooth Gallery in Lanark in 2019.



The Weaving Interest Group will be having its first meeting at around 1pm. The topic for study is to attempt something new. A broad topic indeed! Please bring along anything you have done to share with fellow group members.

Last Month's Meeting

The spinning group had its first meeting last month and discussed progress with long draw spinning. We marvelled at Erika's lighter-than-air rolag and learnt that many of us are making our rolags far too densely. Some examples of first attempts at long draw were passed around and methods for achieving success with long draw were discussed. It was decided that the group would continue trying to make progress with long draw for the time being, and that those who wanted to, would experiment with spinning from the fold prior to our next meeting in January.

After the meeting Erika circulated a link to a video showing English long draw, and alerted some of us to the fact that there was such a thing as American long draw, and that it is different to the English style. Amazing!

Jan Beadle tutored an excellent workshop introducing members to double weave. She brought warped up 4 shaft looms so that we could immediately start weaving two layers of cloth as tubes, pockets, stuffed pockets, leno and double cloth, and learning to change our top and bottom layers. We were each able to take home our woven sample at the end of the workshop.



November Meeting

Unfortunately Rod Grant is no longer able to give us a talk about Spinning Wheel Maintenance in November. After some minor surgery he will not be able to drive for at least a month and regrettably he feels that, as a result of some other health issues, he is not able to commit to another date. He is now constructing his last spinning wheel and is moving on to violin building in the future. He says that he would still try to help guild members with wheel issues/ problems and would be happy to advise.

As Rod Grant's talk has been cancelled there will be a discussion about the topic for the November meeting at the meeting on Saturday.

WhatsApp Group

We have set up a WhatsApp group for our Guild. Membership is voluntary. If you want to be a part of this group and have not yet done so, joining instructions will be available at the October meeting.

Hall Wifi

There is wifi availability within Craiglockhart Church Hall. If you wish to use it during a meeting the password is CPChurch1889.

Name Badges

Following the success of the introduction of sticky name labels at recent meetings we have decided to reintroduce the plastic clip-on name badges. If you have (and can find!) your badge, please wear it at the next meeting. If you do not have a badge you can message Jane Howorth via WhatsApp, and she will make one up for you, or give her your name at the next meeting. Sticky labels will still be available at meetings for anyone who forgets their badge.

Gorgie Farm Spinners Alpaca Fleece

Kitty Johnstone says *"L.O.V.E. Gorgie Farm were most appreciative for the recent donations from some individual Guild members, and they hope the donors enjoy using the Alpaca fibre from*

animals at the Farm.” She also mentioned that there is still some fibre available for sale and anyone interested should contact Kitty or Frida Bleakley at the October meeting.

Message from Ann Thorpe

Unfortunately Ann Thorpe has decided to retire from membership of the Guild but she wishes to thank all those who have known her for their friendship and company and wishes everyone good luck for the future.

National Exhibition September

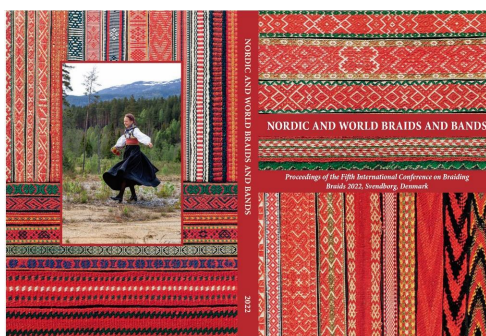
John Palmer managed to make the journey to see the National Exhibition at Leigh Spinner Mill in Lancashire last month. He says

“The Guild national exhibition at Leigh Spinners Mill was not the easiest place to get to, but the building itself - a work in progress - was fascinating and everyone was very welcoming. I loved practically everything I saw; the tapestries, a knitted gandsey, and even some quilts for my wife. Trish Gow’s freeform tapestry and Penny Skett’s two woven rugs stood out. Use of colour fascinates me, with this green scarf being a royal blue warp and acid yellow weft. The ‘clasping technique’ which produced the geometric forms is a must try, and the waterfall triptych just flows. Finally a thank you to all the volunteers at the exhibit, who were so easy to talk to and willing to share.”

John took some pictures of his favourite pieces and you’ll be able to see them in next month’s newsletter.

Nordic and World Braids and Bands

In August, the Braid Society held its fifth international conference in Denmark on Nordic and World Braids and Bands. As part of the Conference, a stunning book has been produced that contains information from the lectures and workshops held at the conference. The book is for sale at £38 plus postage from <https://thebraidsociety.wildapricot.org/Books>



Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Braiding

The Proceedings are now for sale at £38 plus postage and packing on the website, www.braidsociety.com under books. This book which is 234 pages with 45 contributing authors is a fabulous book and worth every penny.

To buy the book, email booksales@braidsociety.com stating:

- Nordic and World Braids and Bands
- Where in the world the package should be sent
- Whether you will pay by Paypal (preferred) or alternatively by cheque or direct bank transfer.

We will email you the cost of postage and packing and arrange to have the book shipped.

Contents

Lectures

Bente Skogass – A glimpse into tablet weaving from early Viking times
Ulla Mannering & Charlotte Rimstad – The Danish Prehistoric Cord and Band Tradition
Randi Stoltz – Band weaving in Norway over 2000 years
Ragneidur Thorsdottir – Table weaving in Iceland
Sonja Berlin – Why choose Tablet weaving?
Anna Sjursen – Sami weaving, traditions and techniques
Noomi I Dali – Faroese cords bands, braids and garters
Katia Johansen – After the Vikings: The decline of hands in Denmark

Kumihimo – articles by Shirley Berlin (Canada), Makiko Tada & Masumi Tada (Japan), Diane Watanabe (Japan), Bob Galivan (USA), Yuko Yoshida (Japan)

Kuteuchi, Loop Braiding – articles by Masumi Tada (Japan), Jacqui Carey (UK), Jean Leader (UK), Joy Boutrup (Denmark)

Cords, Whipcording, Lucet – articles by Annette Herbst, Ziggy Rytka (UK), Georgia Olsen (USA)

Ply Split Braiding – articles by Julie Hedges (UK), Katoko Kitade (Japan), Erroll Pires (India)

Rigid Heddle, Inkle – articles by Shahla Amini (Iran), Susan Foulkes (UK), Ane Rasmussen (Denmark), Dee Sayce (UK), Tamaki Takagi (Japan), Laura Thode (USA), Marieke Kranenberg (Netherlands)

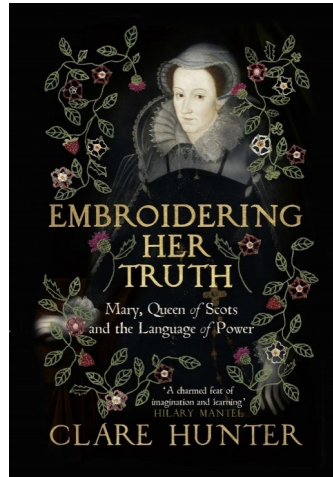
Sprang – articles by Carol James (Canada), Bodil Dago (Norway)

Tablet weaving – articles by Inge Dam (Canada), Bente Skogass (Norway), Rasmus Jorgensen (Denmark), Cathy Smith (UK), Randi Stoltz (Norway), Louise Strom (Sweden), Keiko Kusakabe (Japan), John Mullarkey (USA)

Other techniques – articles by Anna Sparr (Denmark), Ilta Hamari (Finland), Gil Dye (UK), Lena Bjerrresgard (Denmark)

Mary Queen of Scots – Embroidering Her Truth - 27th October

Clare Hunter, who talked to us about her book ‘|Threads of Life’ will be talking about her new book about the embroideries of Mary Queen of Scots at Holy Trinity Church, Haddington on Thursday 27th October at 7.30pm. The event is free. If you wish to attend just register at admin@lampoflothian.org.uk. The event is sponsored by The Lamp of Lothian.



Clare will be interviewed about her new book by Kristian Kerr, publicity manager at Birlinn Ltd, followed by questions from the audience. There will be an opportunity to buy books and have them signed by Clare after the talk.

Warping Mill/Warping Board

Does anyone have a Warping Mill or Warping Board which they no longer use? Lindsay Girvan says *“I bought Pat Laing’s loom from her and am looking for a warping mill. Am happy to pick up from anyone happy to let one go. Am flexible on price but would love to have something that isn’t being used and can give it a second life!”* If you have one you are willing to part with you can email Lindsay at lindsaygirvan@gmail.com

Knitwear – Chanel to Westwood

The Dovecot Studio’s latest exhibiton which runs from 15 October to 11 March 2023 is ‘Knitwear – Chanel to Westwood’. You can find more information about the exhibition and the events associated with it at <https://dovecotstudios.com>

Maya Weaving and Textiles in Guatemala

Endangered Threads have produced an interesting video about Maya Weaving and Textiles in Guatemala. Beginning with photographs and textiles collected in 1902 from the Phoebe A Hearst Museum of Anthropology and going on to examine Maya weaving during the ensuing decades, all interwoven with footage of present-day Maya, it shows the effects brought about by extensive cultural changes, not least the importation of large quantities of cheap new and used clothing. You can watch it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ehwx_ZGXcVY

Autumn Projects

If you are needing inspiration for an autumn project Carmen Wright has sent this link https://littlelooms.com/unexpected-autumn-projects/?utm_source=drip&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Unexpected+Autumn+Projects&utm_content=LL+10.02.22+Newsletter

Shetland Wool Week

For those unable to participate Shetland Wool Week in person the organisers have provided a number of interesting videos. As well as the broadcast produced each day during Wool Week topics include 'A Shetland Dye Garden', 'Preparing Shetland Fleece for Handspinning', 'Colour Blending Inspiration' and lots more. The videos can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb18JfR9eUPQa4bo0sHdJQ8OS9yxzgfQA>

'The Damask Weaver'

The Guild has received the following email from Alan Addison.

"I am the Great Grandson of a damask handloom weaver. I live in Edinburgh and have just published a novel, The Damask Weaver, set in 19C Fife. Although a novel, it is based around the lives of a handloom weaver's family and the changes from handloom weaving to steam loom mills. It also includes the family of Andrew Carnegie, who, as you may know, were handloom weavers in Fife." The novel is on Amazon Kindle and paperback.

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting on the third Saturday of the month (19th November). As Rod Grant is no longer able to come to talk to us about Spinning Wheel Maintenance an alternative topic will be agreed at the October meeting.

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