

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter December 2022

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our January meeting (Saturday 21st January) when there will be a spinning challenge to 'Spinning the Blues Away' for all those who are interested in participating. More news about the challenge in the New Year.

Don't forget that if you have any photos or links for inclusion in next month's newsletter just email them to pennyskett@gmail.com.

December Meeting

This month's meeting is a virtual meeting via Zoom on Saturday 17th December from 11am to 1pm. Janet Crowther of the National Association will talk to us about the Association's Certificates of Achievement. Laura Baigrie is currently undertaking the Certificate of Achievement in Spinning and she will tell us how she is finding it. An email with the zoom link will be sent to all members but if you have not received it and you wish to join in just email pennyskett@gmail.com.

General information about the Association's Certificates of Achievement can be found at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/about/certificates/>

Information about the different Certificates of Achievement can be found here <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/certificate-of-achievement/>.

And the link to the syllabus of the Certificate of Achievement in Spinning can be found at https://wipagwsd.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/coa_syllabus_spinning_amended_sept_2017.pdf

Last Month's Meeting

Members had fun last month making a wrist distaff with Jane Howorth's guidance. Lots of items were brought along to provide the weighting for the distaff from beads and buttons to old coins and curtain weights. Distaffs were made and in use by the end of the morning.

Musk Ox Waistcoat

Julia Szulc has sent this picture of the beautiful Musk Ox waistcoat which she has spun and knitted.



Julia says

“I have at long last finished the Musk Ox waistcoat. My spinning and knitting is quite rough but it’s been such an enjoyable journey for me cleaning the fibre, learning to spin and trying to remember how to follow a knitting pattern. It’s been challenging at times and I’m just so pleased with the result.

I am now knitting another hat to use up the remaining yarn.”

Spinning Highland Cow Hair

The Guild has received the following email from Ken Hitchen in Edinburgh

“I live in south Edinburgh and have been collecting hair from the two Highland cows which 'live' in the field next to me. I've washed it and dried it and it is now very soft. My girlfriend says she'll knit something for me if I can find someone to spin it into yarn. I'm afraid we don't have the skill or knowledge or equipment to do this ourselves.

Can you help? Do you know someone who has tried spinning Highland cow hair? If not, do you know someone who might like to try - just as an experiment? I don't have a huge amount. In the first instance it may be just a test.”

If you can help or are interested you can email Ken at ken13mpa@virginmedia.com

Here is a link on the internet about spinning Highland cow hair

<https://sites.google.com/site/spinningtrials/scottish-highlander?pli=1>

Bernat Klein – Design in Colour

The Bernat Klein exhibition at the National Museums of Scotland, although small, is well worth a visit. It’s running until April next year so there’s still plenty of time to see it. It highlights the

vibrancy of the colours he used and the interesting weave textures he developed.

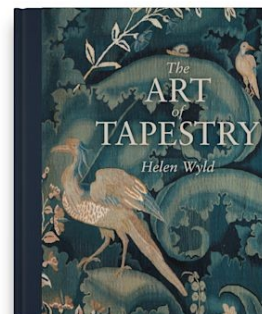
There are more details at <https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/bernat-klein-design-in-colour/>

William Morris Tapestry

An article from House and Garden features an extract from a newly published book ‘The Art of Tapestry’ by Helen Wyld. The extract outlines William Morris’s revival of tapestry production in the late nineteenth century with his interest in Gothic art. He declared that “The noblest of the weaving arts is Tapestry, in which there is nothing mechanical”. In 1912 The Edinburgh Tapestry Company (now Dovecot Studios) was established by the Marquess of Bute and Master Weavers Gordon Berry and John Glassbrook were brought from William Morris’s tapestry workshop.

You can read the article here <https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/article/william-morris-tapestry>

‘The Art of Tapestry’ is an extensively illustrated history by tapestry expert Helen Wyld and produced in association with the National Trust. There is a wealth of information about woven wall hangings and furnishings, including methods of production, purchase and distribution, evolving techniques and technologies, the changing trends of subject matter across time, and how tapestries have been collected, used and displayed in British country houses across the centuries.



Hand Spinning Wool Animation

In the current spell of cold weather the inclusion of this delightful video (which was in the March 2021 newsletter) seemed apt. The video was created by Andrea Love and produced by Hansen Crafts (maker of the electronic mini-spinner). It presents the history of hand spinning in two minutes of needle felted figures and filming. The animation was made entirely out of wool.

The video is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLFw2xsxWsU>

January Meeting

The topic for the January meeting is ‘Spinning the Blues Away’. There will be a spinning challenge on the day for all those who are interested in participating. Details of the challenge will be sent out in the New Year.

Next month’s newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our January meeting on the third Saturday of the month (21st January).

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

Don’t forget to email pennyskett@gmail.com if you have not received the zoom link for the talk on Saturday about the Association’s Certificates in Achievement.

Wishing you all a very good Christmas and an excellent New Year.