



# EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

## Newsletter January 2023

Happy New Year and welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our February meeting (Saturday 18th February) which will be 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](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

### January Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the main hall of Craiglockhart Church.

***Spinning the Blues Away*** At the January meeting of the Guild we have planned an optional all-day activity entitled '*Spinning the Blues Away*'. This is a lighthearted, fun activity for our spinners to get together and chat while they spin. We aim to start by 11.00.

If you want to take part, bring along 50 grams of ready-to-spin fibre, wrapped up in a little 'mystery' parcel. This can be any kind of fibre, prepared as roving, rolags etc, so that the recipient of your parcel can get going on spinning straight away. To exchange our fibre, we will have a lucky dip, so that everyone who contributes a parcel will receive another in return.

We hope to be able to spin and ply our fibre on the day, so bring along your wheel or spindle and any extra equipment you'll need, such as a lazy kate. At the end of our session we'd like to have a little display of the yarns we have made, so that we can all enjoy looking at and admiring each other's work.

***Spinning Special Interest Group*** It is the turn of our spinners' group to meet in January, at about 1.00. The current subject for study is experimenting with long draw and/or spinning from the fold. If you have had a chance to work on either (or both!) of these areas, we would love to see and hear about your results. Please bring along anything you would like to share. We are particularly interested in **sharing** spinning techniques, so perhaps one or two group members will be willing to demonstrate? This could be about your fibre preparation, to achieve those lovely, light rolags, or how you go about spinning to actually achieve long-draw, or spinning from the fold.

Can members of this group also give some thought to what topic they would like to study next, so that we can have a short discussion about this.

### Last Month's Meeting

With the icy roads and difficult conditions on 17<sup>th</sup> December we were lucky to have a zoom meeting

organised for the day. The zoom meeting gave us the opportunity to meet and speak with the Association Chair, Janet Crowther. Janet is also the Co-ordinator of the Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate of Advanced Textile Studies and it was the Association's Certificates which were the topic for the meeting. Janet gave us an interesting outline of the Certificates and the assessment procedures which had been recently revised to ensure consistent quality standards. She explained that the learning process, personal development, and understanding and practice of the particular discipline were paramount for those undertaking a certificate. Janet showed us photos of the work submitted by candidates for final assessment which looked excellent.

Laura Baigrie spoke about her experience undertaking the Spinning Certificate of Achievement and suggested that a digital record of design development could be considered as evidence. Janet agreed that this should be considered. A revised Certificate of Achievement Handbook has now been published and, as a result of Laura's suggestion, the possibility of a digital presentation has been included. The revised Handbook can be found at <https://wipagwsd.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/agwsd-certificate-of-achievement-handbook-2023-.pdf>

### **New Book Out!**



We have an author in our midst!

Jane Howorth has just published her new book, entitled Colour Crochet Unlocked. It's all about understanding and using colour, and it includes lots of different stitch patterns and colour crochet techniques. Published by Search Press, you can find it on Amazon, and in good bookshops everywhere!

Jane will bring a copy of her new book to the January meeting so, if you're interested, you will have the opportunity to have a look at it. You can also have a 'Look Inside' and find more details at [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Colour-Crochet-Unlocked-ultimate-how/dp/1782219773/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=37UHIH5EAKFAS&keywords=jane+howorth&qid=1673549447&s=books&sprefix=jane+howorth%2Cstripbooks%2C204&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Colour-Crochet-Unlocked-ultimate-how/dp/1782219773/ref=sr_1_1?crid=37UHIH5EAKFAS&keywords=jane+howorth&qid=1673549447&s=books&sprefix=jane+howorth%2Cstripbooks%2C204&sr=1-1)

## Christmas Mittens

Karon Gilhooley has sent these pictures of a recent project. She handspun green and red merino red fibre and knitted these colourful, and very practical, mittens.



## Fungi Dyed Yarn

If you have some samples of the fungi dyed yarn which Trisha brought to the November meeting don't forget that we agreed to bring examples of how we had used it to the February meeting. Penny Skett has woven some warp faced book marks. She dyed some handspun Ile de France fibre with lichen to use with the fungi dyed yarns. The light yellow lichen dyed yarn highlighted the wonderful colours of the fungi dyed yarns and was also used for the weft. She will bring the bookmarks to the February meeting and they will be available for anyone interested for a small donation to Guild funds.



## A List of Yarn Suppliers in UK

Marie Henderson of Haddington Spinners and Weavers has put together a useful list of weaving yarn suppliers. It is not exhaustive and if you have experience of any other yarn supplier to add to the list send details to [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

Handweavers Studio, London - [www.handweavers.co.uk](http://www.handweavers.co.uk)

Weaving Yarns - [www.weavingyarns.co.uk](http://www.weavingyarns.co.uk) (taking over after My Fine Weaving Yarns)

Frank Herring & Son - [www.frankherringandsons.com](http://www.frankherringandsons.com)  
George Weil & Sons - [www.georgeweil.com](http://www.georgeweil.com)  
William Hall Yarns - [www.williamhallyarns.com](http://www.williamhallyarns.com) (need to order via phone 0161 437 295,  
info@hallyarns.com)  
Weft Blown West Kilbride - [www.weftblown.com](http://www.weftblown.com)  
Wool Warehouse - [www.woolwarehouse.co.uk](http://www.woolwarehouse.co.uk)  
Wingham Wool Work - [www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk](http://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk)  
Knoll Yarns - [www.knollyarns.com](http://www.knollyarns.com)  
Uppingham Yarns - [www.wools.co.uk](http://www.wools.co.uk)  
Fairfield Yarns - [www.fairfielddyarns.co.uk](http://www.fairfielddyarns.co.uk)  
Jamiesons - [www.jamiesonsofshetland.co.uk](http://www.jamiesonsofshetland.co.uk)  
Jamieson & Smith - [www.shetlandwoolbroker.co.uk](http://www.shetlandwoolbroker.co.uk)  
Yarn on Cone - [www.yarnoncone.co.uk](http://www.yarnoncone.co.uk)  
Yarns to Yearn for Langholm - [www.stores.ebay.co.uk/Yarns-to-Yearn-For](http://www.stores.ebay.co.uk/Yarns-to-Yearn-For)  
Woolyknit - [www.woolyknit.com](http://www.woolyknit.com)  
Weavers Bazaar - [www.weaversbazaar.com](http://www.weaversbazaar.com)

### **Spinners on Eriskay**

This delightful video was included in an earlier newsletter but, for those who have not seen it before, it's included again this month. It shows crofters on Eriskay carding, spinning, woolwinding, winding a warp and waulking cloth. You can find it here  
<https://www.facebook.com/scanlife/videos/361100789044687>

### **Next Month**

Next month we are having a 'Loom Dating' event to give an opportunity to everyone to try different looms. It will be similar to the 'Wheel Dating' event we held some time ago. We need as many different looms as possible so if you would be able to bring a loom to the February meeting please email [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com) with details of the type of loom, size etc.

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

Do keep sending photos of your craft projects and links to items of interest to [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).