



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter April 2023

Hopefully you have been able to enjoy the spring weather we have had over the Easter weekend. Here is the April edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our May meeting (Saturday 20th May) which will be in the large 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.

April Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 15th April in Craiglockhart Church. Marilyn Caddell will be leading a skillshare introducing Triangular Board Weaving for those members who are interested and who have registered for the event. The main meeting will be in the large hall and the skillshare event with Marilyn will be in the Centenary Room.

The Spinning Interest Group will be meeting after lunch at about 1pm in the large hall.

Last Month's Meeting

Guild Library

The Guild library was relaunched at last month's meeting. It is planned that the reference only books and the books relevant to individual interest groups will be brought to future meetings. Spinning books will be brought to those meetings at which the Spinning Interest Group is due to meet and Weaving Books will be brought to those meetings at which the Weaving Interest Group is due to meet.

Ise Katagami

The Guild has another author - Carmen Wright. Carmen has published two volumes of beautiful Ise Katagami stencils on Apple Books.



“About eighteen years ago I bought, on impulse at an auction, a folder with 19th century letters

with black penny stamps and 18thc Drury Lane theatre tickets and other ephemera. Or so I thought. I arrived late at the auction that day, no time to inspect the lots. There were quite a lot of antique Chinese and Japanese lots that day and I ended up buying an antique Chinese photo album, inlaid with abalone and mother of pearl, a Chinese hand painted room divider and the folio sized folder. All impulse buys. I paid for the three lots and took them home. On inspection, I found the coveted penny blacks and the hand written letters. There was also a large quantity of unusual papers, leather like, with hand carved designs of exquisite beauty and fine detail. It was only before the pandemic that I found out what those mysterious designs were! 19th century Japanese stencils, Ise katagami, used to print designs on fabric (the printing technique is called katazome). Then, in 2020, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and operated on on Hogmanay. I have felt the need, since, to express my gratitude to all the people who helped me: nurses, doctors, surgeons, researchers, to the NHS, to my husband and to my son.

I was probably the only one (in my family at least) who knew what those stencils were. They were designed to be used and discarded, but someone looked after them. They survived the centuries and arrived in Scotland and they chose me to be their guardian. I survived as well. Serendipity. Robert, our son, graduated with a digital graphic design diploma. I asked him to help me put the book together and list it on Apple Books. We acquired the book barcodes and Robert learnt about publishing while I researched Japanese fashion, history and craft printing techniques.

We tried Amazon first but they take 70% of the sales so we thought there would not be much left for our purpose, as we had decided to give 25% of the sales to Western General for research to sort out breast cancer.

The e-book is in two volumes and it contains a list with descriptions of the Edo and Meiji Japanese stencils and one hundred and twenty detailed scans of the stencils themselves. It is priced at £10.99 per volume and is available through Apple Books.”

Here are links to the two Apple Books which also allows a preview of both volumes.

<https://books.apple.com/gb/book/ise-katagami-120-original-japanese-paper-stencil-textile/id6446066517>

<https://books.apple.com/gb/book/ise-katagami-120-original-japanese-paper-stencil-textile/id6446125476>

Lady MacEwen's Tweed Loom



Mary Marshall has sent the Guild the following email -

“Dear EWSD

Fifty years ago, a weaver from the Black Isle gave me her tweed loom and stool. Her arthritis had become too bad for her to continue weaving and I had just returned from a summer teaching very basic weaving at a USA summer camp.

This tweed loom had some use in the 1970s and 1980s but has barely been touched since. It is 27 inches. I am now 77 and keen that it goes to a good home, ideally someone who could not afford a loom but is very keen to use one.

There are two envelopes addressed to Lady MacEwen, a Kessock Weaver, who is the person who gave it to me. There is the loom itself, a really nice seat full of shuttles etc, a bag of extra bits and pieces and a warping frame made by a friend of mine.

I do hope you can find some deserving person or organisation who can make good use of it.”



Here are pictures of the stool and warping frame. Is there anyone who is interested or who knows of someone who would be interested in this historic table loom? It is a four shaft loom with a weaving width of 27”. Mary’s email address is marymarshall491@gmail.com

Scottish Handcrafts Championship 2023

The schedule and application forms for the Scottish Handcrafts Championship 2023 are now available on the The Royal Highland Show website and can be accessed from the following link.

<https://www.royalhighlandshow.org/competitions/start-your-application-here/>

There are six handspinning, weaving and dyeing classes and the closing date for entries is 21st May. If you enter six classes you get a free entry ticket for the show! It’s a great opportunity to showcase our crafts so do put in an entry.

Shipping Roots - Inverleith House to 27 August

Keg de Souza is resident artist at the Royal Botanic Gardens and she explores the ‘colonial legacy of plants’ in an exhibition at Inverleith House. In her installation ‘Fleece Fugitives’ she highlights how the import of wool from Australia resulted in seeds tangled in the fleeces being accidentally carried across the seas. The introduced ‘plants’ then spread out from Scotland’s woollen mills.

The exhibition includes some beautifully dyed samples.

Further details can be found at

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on/climate-house-presents/shipping-roots/>

Bernat Klein: Design in Colour – National Museum of Scotland to 23 April

If you haven't had a chance to drop in to the colourful Bernat Klein Exhibition at the National Museum there are still a few days left before it closes.

Further details can be found at

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

Kaffe Fassett The Power of Pattern – Dovecot Studios to 6 July

And there's more vibrant colours in the new Kaffe Fassett exhibition which has recently opened at Dovecot Studios. Every Thursday at 1pm there is a guided tour available at no additional charge.

Further details can be found at

<https://dovecotstudios.com/whats-on/thursday-lunchtime-tour-kaffe-fassett-the-power-of-pattern>

John Arbon Textiles Mill Invitation

The Guild has received this email from John Arbon Textiles Mill – a date for the diary if you could be in Devon in June!

“We wanted to drop you a quick message, as last week we officially announced this year's Mill Open Weekend and would love for you to join us, if you are able.

As you might already know, each year we open our giant roller shutter doors and welcome folks inside our little corner of the world to meet those trusty machines, give all our wares a good squish with our pop-up shop (including brilliant guest vendors), enjoy some fab talks and workshops, and a slice of cake and cuppa from our café.

Our aim is to give the weekend the feel of a mini fibre festival by hosting tours around our Mill, along with a programme of classes and talks, led by some fab speakers and tutors. This year we're thrilled to be joined by Aleks Byrd, Sylvia Watts Cherry, and Amanda Hannaford, amongst others. As part of the celebrations, we host a rather large pop-up shop, with not only our wares but also a few guest vendors too.

Here's the link if you fancy finding out more - <https://www.jarbon.com/mill->

This year's MOW runs from 16th-18th June 2023 in South Molton. We'd love to have you and your members come visit us, if you're able!”

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our May meeting on the third Saturday of the month, 20th May). Dr Cynthia Thickpenny will be talking about the research she has been undertaking concerning 'Women Textile Makers in Early Medieval Ireland and Britain'

Do keep sending photos of your craft projects and links to items of interest to

pennyskett@gmail.com