



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter May 2023

Here is the May edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our June meeting (Saturday 17th June) 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.

May Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 20th May in Craiglockhart Church. Dr Cynthia Thickpenny will be talking about the research she has been undertaking concerning 'Women Textile Makers in Early Medieval Ireland and Britain'. Cynthia will present research from her Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Edinburgh. Her Fellowship project is entitled 'The Transmutation of Patterns and the Role of Women in Insular Art' and is funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

Cynthia's talk will commence about 11.30. The main meeting will be in the large hall as usual but Cynthia's talk will be in the Centenary Room as we will be making use of the projection facilities available there.

The Weaving Interest Group will be meeting after Cynthia's talk at about 1pm.

Last Month's Meeting



Members enjoyed Marilyn's interesting Triangular Board Weaving Skillshare event and all completed their colourful mini triangular shawls using a cardboard base.

In the main hall a number of members were busy sorting and weighing the interesting fleeces that they had bought and agreed to share. The photo above is of the beautiful, and very unusual, Cherino (Cheviot x Merino) laid out on the table.

Broughton Gathering

We are finally going to be welcoming spinners and weavers from other guilds to our annual Broughton Gathering again in August.

Volunteers are needed to help things run smoothly during the day and help with clearing up at the end of the day. Please sign up on the sheet at a meeting or contact Katrina if you are able to help.

The Edinburgh Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
invites you to the

Broughton Gathering

Saturday 19th August 2023

10:00-16:00

Broughton Village Hall

ML12 6HQ, near Biggar

The Broughton Gathering is an annual social get-together with neighbouring Guilds and friends. Suppliers, sales table, exhibits and the Chrissie Ann competition.

Home baking and raffle prizes would be appreciated.

SUPPLIERS: The Border Tart, Sealy MacWheely, Sue Macniven, Woolly Originals. There will also be fleeces for sale.

Entry £4 includes refreshments

For further details and information about the Chrissie Ann Competition please contact katrina@ewsd.org.uk

Chrissie Ann Competition Details

The Chrissie Ann Competition at the Broughton Gathering is open to all. For entries please follow these guidelines:

- Do**
- Spin your yarn
 - Make an item incorporating this yarn
 - Include a label identifying the fibre, the pattern if applicable and when the item was made
 - Place item in a bag and give to Katrina Balmer on the day
- Do Not**
- Show item or yarn to anybody else
 - Tell anyone what you've made
- The Winner** Will be chosen after attendees have anonymously voted for their favourite.
- The Prize** The winner will be presented with the Quaich and a gift sponsored by the Knitting Gift Shop.

Ashfield Visit - Saturday 15 July 11am-2pm

In July there will be a visit to Ashfield and its historical collection of artefacts relating to the

Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh. Ashfield has four rooms housing the collection, the Convenery Room and a library. There is no charge for the visit but a donation in support of Ashfield would be welcome.

Ashfield is at 61 Melville Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7HL. If you are planning to join the visit please sign the sheet for the event or contact Katrina.

For further details contact Katrina Balmer: katrina@ewsd.org.uk

Committee Vacancies

New committee members are urgently needed and there are a number of roles which will need to be filled for the coming year. These include a Membership Secretary, an Equipment Co-ordinator and a Workshop Co-ordinator. Please do consider joining the committee. If you would like more information contact Penny (pennyskett@gmail.com) or one of the other committee members.

Help setting up the hall at the beginning of our monthly meetings and clearing up at the end of the day is always appreciated.

Programme 2023-24

Here are some of the committee's suggestions for next year's programme. Any other ideas would be very welcome and there will be a discussion at the May meeting to decide the proposed outline for next year.

- another 'Spinning the Blues Away' challenge in January
- an Open Day in April or May
- a Dyeing Day in Lanarkshire (a neighbour of Joanna Roberts has a garage with appropriate facilities) in September/October
- Broomstick Crochet
- Blending Colours
- Rag Rugs
- Wheel Dating Day
- Fleece Processing
- Stash 'Swap'

Donated Ashford Traditional Wheel



Unfortunately Jean Bruce has not been well recently and, as she is moving house, has decided to very kindly donate her Ashford Traditional wheel and various yarn and fibre to the Guild.

Jane Buxton will be bringing everything to the May meeting and the items will be available for members in return for an appropriate donation to Guild funds.

Gordon Reid, Gansey Knitter in Wick

You may be interested in an item which Carmen Wright found about Gordon Reid, a gansey knitter, who lives in Wick.

<https://scottishgansey.org.uk/2020/12/21/marriage-lines-and-heopies-a-life-in-ganseys/>

Fibreshed

Fibreshed Scotland, which is committed to promoting locally produced wool, linen, leather and natural dye products, has sent the Guild a link to their updated website. The website includes a directory with details of a number of businesses committed to the processing of natural fibre/dye resources and the directory can be found at <https://www.fibreshed-scotland.org/directory>

Tangled, Galashiels Fibre Festival, 2/3 June 2023

Details of the Tangled Fibre Festival in Galashiels in June can be found at

<https://www.tangledgalashiels.com>

The Festival is being held at the Galashiels Volunteer Hall in St John Street and there are also exhibitions and demonstrations at the Haywards Scout Centre close by. Tickets are only £6 for the day and there are also a number of workshops available.

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our June meeting on the third Saturday of the month, 17th June). It is the date of our AGM and Erika Hollingdale will also be giving us a talk about her visit to Assam in India and the beautiful textiles she discovered.

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

pennyskett@gmail.com