

Edinburgh Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Newsletter

September 2023

The August Meeting: The Guild Gathering was held in Broughton for the first time since Lockdown, and it was a great success that was enjoyed by all attendees. Our thanks go to Katrina Balmer and her helpers for organising and managing the day. Read a report and see some photos of the day on page 3.

The September Meeting: This is the day for our big de-stash opportunity.

How the de-stash day will work: All items you are bringing to de-stash must be fibre-related (fleece, fibre, yarn, tools, equipment, accessories, books etc). Items for sale will be grouped together on the tables, so look for the right table when laying out your things. All items must have a label securely attached stating the price wanted and your name. If you are bringing items to donate to Guild funds, it does not need a label; just make sure you put it on the 'Donations' table. If it is a potentially significant donation, you can add a suggested donation value on a label if you want to.

If you are bringing fleece, fibre, yarn, felt, fabric etc it should be bagged up and free of moth damage/infestation. **To avoid loss or confusion, purchase money must be given directly to the seller.** If you want to buy a donated item, give the money directly to the Treasurer, Secretary or other committee member. **I need a few helpers: if you can arrive a few minutes early to help with setting up tables, please let me know via email or WhatsApp. Helpers at the end of the day will also be needed for tidying up.**

Note: The Library will not be available at this meeting.

As there is a lot happening at the 17th September meeting it may be helpful to have a quick run-down:

10.30 – 3.00	Sale	12.30	Secretary's notices
11.00 - 11.30	See Membership Secretary for Membership renewal and/or form submission	1.00	Spinning interest group meets
11.30 – 12.00	Committee Meeting for committee members only	2.00 – 2.30	See Membership Secretary for Membership renewal and/or form submission

The October Meeting: This will be a special, dual meeting for the Guild. Those members who have a place on the dyeing day organised by Joanne Roberts will be meeting in Shotts. All members who are not going on the dyeing day will be meeting as normal in the Centenary Room at Craiglockhart Hall, for an informal, "chat 'n' spin" type session. You will find more information about the dyeing day on page 4. **The sign-up sheet for the dyeing day will be available at the September meeting. There are 15 places.** If demand for places is high, we will look into organising another dyeing day.

Your contributions for the October newsletter can be sent to me at janehoworth@live.com

Deadline for contributions: 1st October

Guild News

EWSD Membership Renewal: All fees for membership renewal are now due. If you have already renewed your membership online, thank you. If you need to pay by cheque or cash (cash preferred), you can do that at this month's meeting. The annual membership fee is just £25. Please make your payment by bank transfer if at all possible.

The bank account details for the Guild remain unchanged and are:

Account name: Edin Guild Weavers Spinners

Sort code: 80 11 20

Account number: 00233082

Reference: Your surname and initials

If you need to pay by cash or cheque, please do this at the September meeting. Please see Sam Case at the appropriate time (see page 1). **All members** should fill out the annual membership form to enable us to maintain accurate records.

Spinning Interest Group: I am pleased to let you know that Laura Baigrie will become the informal leader/facilitator of the Spinning Interest Group. Laura is undertaking the AGWSD's Certificate of Achievement in spinning, and I am sure she will be perfect for the role. It will be the turn of the Spinning Group to meet in September, and here is a message from Laura about that meeting:

The spinners' interest group in September will look at fancy yarns, using as a catalyst Sam's success at the RHS.

Bring any examples you have, your tips, and your questions and problems. It would be particularly interesting to see any finished (or partly finished!) objects made using fancy yarn.

Refreshments: At the recent meeting between Church members and hall users, it was reiterated that the refreshment supplies in the kitchen are intended for the use of all hall users. We will therefore be using these items (tea, coffee, biscuits etc), kindly supplied by the Church, from our September meeting onwards.

The Broughton Gathering

From Katrina Balmer: After four years the Guild once again hosted the Broughton Gathering at Broughton Village Hall near Biggar. We had around 45 attendees, fewer than in the past but a good number for socialising with friends old and new. People came from other Guilds and spinning groups and a few individuals who heard about the event. The chatter was lively, people sat spinning, knitting, tapestry weaving and other crafting as they enjoyed a lot of tea, coffee and cake.

We had stall holders: The Border Tart, Joan Brunton, Sealy MacWheely, Sue Macniven and Woolly Originals. Selling a wide range of yarn, fibre, embroidery and sewing kits, project bags, fleeces and more they answered questions about their products but also joined in the camaraderie.

Those attending were able to put items on our sales tables and this is always a popular part of the day. Some quality prizes were generously donated for the raffle and many tickets for this were sold.

Throughout the day six entries for the Chrissie Ann competition were on show and at the end of the day the votes were counted and the winner was our own Carmen Wright. A well-deserved winner, she was presented with a basket of goodies from our sponsor, The Knitting Gift Shop, and will have her name engraved on the competition quailch which she will keep for the year.

My thanks go to everyone who helped make it a great day out, those who physically helped on the day, those who brought raffle prizes, donated baked goods for refreshments and everyone else who attended.



AGWSD Summer School 2023

Two members of our guild, John Palmer and Jane Howorth, went to Summer School in Shropshire in August. They both chose weaving courses, which meant taking along their 8 shaft looms and associated paraphernalia for their classes. Here is Jane's report about her experience:

"Summer school is very busy and very noisy. There are so many activities, and FOMO (fear of missing out) soon kicks in (which is how I found myself attending a lecture about creating medieval tunics for re-enactment on a Thursday evening). My class was on lace weaving, and it progressed at a very gentle pace. The other two weaving classes looked a bit more intense, and I was very glad I chose the one I did. We learnt how to weave Swedish, Huck and Bronsen Lace. Each topic began with an analysis of the weave. Most valuably for me, I learnt how to design my own drafts for these weaves. At the end of the week, it was good to be able to see what the other classes had produced; some of the spinning classes looked particularly interesting, and I'd like to try for one of those in the future".



The Dyeing Day

Our thanks go to Joanne Roberts who has organised this.

The day will be held in Shotts, at the home of a friend of Joanne's.

The day costs £8 per person, and is only open to members. Numbers are limited to 15, and are on a first come, first served basis. A signing up sheet will be available at the Guild meeting in September.

There is a lot of information about the dyeing day on the pdf sent to you along with this newsletter.

Those members who are not going on the dyeing day have the opportunity to come along to the Centenary Room at Craiglockhart Church Hall for a relaxed, spin and chat session between 11.00 – 3.00.

Here is a little information to get you started:

Space-dyeing

Space dyeing is also known as hank or skein painting. The wool is soaked in a citric acid solution then the dye is applied to the wet or damp wool. The dye can be applied by brushing, dropping or spraying to produce a multicoloured effect and can be added in blocks or blurred into each other using co-ordinating or contrasting colours. Once the dyes have been applied the wool is wrapped in plastic (or a microwave dish) and "cooked" in the microwave. Using this process and if followed correctly there should be very little waste dye in the washings.

The dyes and mordants are included in the cost, below are some websites for un-dyed materials, the dyes are suitable for animal fibres:

https://www.laughinghens.com/search?page_size=96&sort=rank&q=Undyed

<https://www.georgeweil.com/fibres-carders-combs/undyed-wool-fibres/>

<https://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk/wool.html>

<https://www.dtcrafts.co.uk/product-category/undyed-yarns-blanks/all-yarns/>

Please also bring disposal gloves to wear, a clean bucket to soak your fibre in the citric acid and plastic bottles or jam jars to mix your dyes. Please bring a test piece of fibre to start with.

Out and About

SWW 2023

Shetland Wool Week is now taking pre-orders for its 2023 annual (Volume 9).

It contains 12 patterns and 4 articles.

If you want to see the designs and find out more, take a look at

www.shetlandwoolweek.com which will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Shetland Wool Week.

SHETLAND
woolweek

Pre-orders for SWW Annual Volume 9 are live!



Online Dyeing Resource: www.wildcolours.co.uk is a recommended site for learning about and purchasing all manner of dyestuffs. They even have seeds, so you can grow your own!

Elisabeth Viguié-Culshaw is a natural dyer and botanical printer from Glasgow. She has an event as part of the Doors Open days in Glasgow. Find out more & free tickets (**16 17 September at Glasgow Botanical Gardens**):

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/feeling-blue-fibre-and-dye-from-the-indigo-plot-tickets-655089629717>

Find out more and paid-for event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-indigo-plot-for-glasgow-doors-open-days-2023-tickets-657483128737>



West of Scotland
Guild of Weavers,
Spinners and
Dyers

Open Day

Saturday 9th September
2023, 10-12am
CE Centre, Allander Road,
Milngavie, G62 8PN

Come along and have a go at
spinning and weaving, and watch
demonstrations. All welcome.

for further information email weavers-in-glasgow@gmail.com

Open Day

Our friends at the West of Scotland
Guild are having an Open Day next
Saturday; surely worth a visit if you are
in the area.

Odds and Ends

Did you know?

The word 'tabby' (as in tabby weave) is a way of describing plain weave, but this wasn't always the case: *Tabby* comes from the late 16th century, when it referred to a kind of silk taffeta, which originally had stripes, and later had a watered finish. The English word comes from the French *tabis*, which is itself based on the Arabic word, 'al-*Attābiyya*. (Still with me?) This word does not describe the fabric at all; it is the name of the area of Baghdad where tabby was woven.

And yes; tabby cats also get their name from the same source; the wavy stripes of their coats resemble the watered silk taffeta.

Sorting a Fleece

An interesting blog post from Jamieson and Smith led me to this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D0EpiOVL1Y> In this video Oliver Henry goes through how to present a Shetland fleece for judging at an Agricultural Show (in this example it's the Cunningsburgh Show) He presents some examples of different fleeces and what makes a prize-winning fleece. It's not something I'm going to be doing any time soon, but it's still an interesting watch.

Job Opportunity

The DovecotStudios in Edinburgh are looking for an Apprentice. Could this be someone's dream job? Closing date is 18th September. If you want to find out more:

<https://dovecotstudios.com/about/vacancies/dovecot-apprentice>



Down the rabbit hole

I've been sent the link to this very interesting site:

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/textile-industry-articles/1>

There are lots of textile related articles to read. They are written for the textile industry, and are very interesting, well-researched and up to date.