

Welcome to the May newsletter!

### **May meeting - Talk: The Rare Breeds Survival Trust**

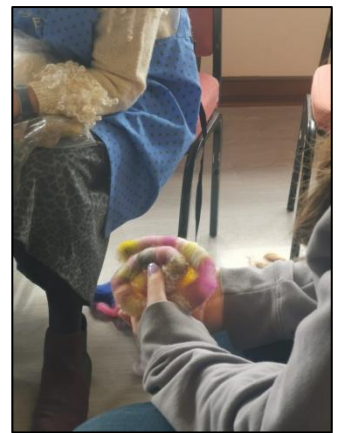
Alice from the Rare Breeds Survival Trust will be visiting. Exact time TBC, as Alice is travelling from Aberdeen! The talk will last around an hour, and normal activities will continue outwith.



### **April meeting**



Many thanks to Isabella Rossi, Sheila Syrett and Sam Case for demonstrating Swiss darning, fancy yarns, and support spindle respectively. Members enjoyed learning new skills, and it was great to share knowledge.



### **Events**

#### **The Loom Shed; 10<sup>th</sup> May; Online.**

The Loom Shed's annual regional weavers day is this year shining a light on Weavers of the Midlands. It's an online event, hosted on zoom and this year the line up is: Jennie Parry (10:00), Helen Foot (11:30), Momoka Gomi (13:30), and Sue Russell (15:00).

More information here: <https://theloomshed.com/calendar-event/weavers-of-the-midlands-online-talk-day>

#### **West of Scotland Weavers Exhibition**

26<sup>th</sup> April - 5<sup>th</sup> June

Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch. Free!



#### **Bobcat Alpacas**

The guild has again been invited to demonstrate at their fundraising open day in support of Marie Curie on **31<sup>st</sup> August, 10am - 4pm**. This event has less strict rules on numbers of Guild attendees, but please still let us know if you would like to be there so we can ensure we have a minimum number of people!

## Kirking of the Deacons

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A very special Kirking of the Deacons of the Convenery of the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025, at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh before the Blue Blanket (the standard of the Crafts within the Burgh of Edinburgh). It was unique because our very own member and Deacon of the Websters (weavers), Katrina Balmer, presided as Deacon Convener of all fourteen Trades. Katrina has modestly brushed aside that as 352 Deacon Convener she is the first woman to hold the position. We should be proud to recognise this feat bearing in mind that historically, despite in many cases the women doing the majority of the work (such as the Baxters where women laboured to made the bread whilst their husbands who sold it were recognised as the artisan), they were not permitted to be members, let alone hold the post of Deacon.

Katrina delivered a reading in her ceremonial red robe and chain of office following our procession from the Magdalene Chapel in the Cowgate, up Candlemaker Row and into the Kirk. The service was conducted by Gillian Couper and thereafter we processed - to much tourist interest - to the grave of Mary Erskine within the Covenanters Prison.

Truly a ladies' day!

Karon Gilhooley



If you'd like to watch a recording of the service, you can find it [here](#). Thanks to Carmen for finding and sharing the link!



## Storage

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The Guild has lots of lovely equipment, but the committee is currently struggling to store this in a safe and sustainable way. We're looking into solutions to this, but we would love to chat if you have ideas, or if you can help.



## Contributions

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The next newsletter will be distributed at the start of June. Items for inclusion can be sent at any time to [edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com). Show us what you've been working on, share the name of the book or website you found really useful with everyone, tell us about really cool exhibitions or events you've been to or you've found out about!