



Oxford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Newsletter April 2024

AGM (March meeting)

Mel Odell and Amanda Henriques were warmly thanked for their time as Secretary and Membership Secretary respectively. They were each rewarded with a £50 voucher. Tim Chapman was elected as Secretary and Liz Roberts was elected as Membership Secretary.

Mike Foster was formally welcomed as Treasurer, having taken over from Kaye Davis in November. Felicity Record was elected to the Committee as a general member.

Kate Gardener, Anne Hughes, Pippa Purnell, Sarah Allan, Janet Farnsworth and Pauline Travis were re-elected to continue in their current roles.

Requests were made for apprentices to support Sarah with the Sales Table and Pippa with the programme.

From the Chair

I'm looking forward to the lighter evenings and (hopefully) some warmer weather. It's been a bit wet recently but at least we all have something to keep us occupied inside.

We received the sad news that Jill Carey has passed away. I realise that some of you will not have known her but Jill was an active member of the Guild, along with her late husband David, and served as Chair about 20 years ago. I remember her running a HAGD on Tapestry Weaving at Stanton St John, and her work was beautiful. Although she had not been able to make it to meetings in the last few years due to ill health, Jill remained a member of the Guild. I hope that those of you who rehomed some of her materials and equipment at the March meeting will think of her when you give them a new purpose.

Coming up this year we have a wonderful varied programme, thanks to Pippa's hard work. As well as opportunities to learn and practice new skills at Beckley Village Hall, we will be visiting Chilton Grounds Farm for our September meeting, which is owned by our own Diana Bird and her partner, Duncan. Our November meeting will also be slightly different because it will take place on the 23rd rather than 16th. Make a note in your diary!

I have to confess I have mostly been knitting with commercial yarn. One project is using yarn that has been in my stash for over 10 years and the other is a treat for me because I liked the pattern too much not to make if for myself. Obviously, neither is

properly finished and I have already started another project, making lots of pin loom squares for a baby blanket for a colleague at work. I have until the end of June so watch this space ...

Kate

Stash Sale in January



Total sales were £692.30 With commission at 12%, and a 50p sale going directly to the Guild £83.51 was added to the Guild bank account

Colour Perception

Janet Farnsworth gave an interesting talk in March (*postponed from February because of projector problems*). She provided a handout of the electromagnetic spectrum showing the range to which the three colour cones in the eye are sensitive. The link

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cone_cell

shows the visible part of the spectrum with the sensitivity of the cones. Janet showed slides comparing the spectrum from day light and various lamps to explain how colours perceived vary according to the light source.

She explained how to experiment with dyes to get a particular colour. She also showed two 3D versions of the colour wheel which allow colours of different intensity to be compared as well as colours of different hues. (Another version can be found on line if you search Kolormondo).

Show and tell

February

Tim Chapman's test weaving.



The longer narrower piece (left & centre) was made on the four-shaft table loom I bought at the Guild in November or December 2022. The wider piece (right) was made on the four shaft counterbalance loom I acquired through the Guild last April and restored over the summer. The weft is natural undyed Shetland commercially made yarn; the weft is hand spun Galway (white), Herdwick (grey) and a little Zwartbles (brown).

March

What would you do?

At the March meeting I asked for your suggestions about what to do with my cardigan because I wasn't quite satisfied with the outcome.



"I'm not sure what to do with this cardigan. It's made from fibre that I blended on the drum carder (no idea what is in it!) and then spun. I thought it was well blended and uniform in colour but, as you can see, it's not. I haven't worn it because I'm conscious of the colour mismatch in some places."

Several people asked me what I meant about the colour match. More than one person almost forbade me from undoing it and starting again. Janet suggested using 3 balls of yarn and knitting one row at a time.

In the end, I decided that I would undo the cast-off edges of the neckband and cuffs and use a smaller needle so that they would lie flatter. Then I will wear to see how I feel about the colour before taking more drastic action.

I have yet to complete my task but thank you for all of your helpful suggestions. I knew you would help me towards a solution. Kate



Left: Rosie Wyatt's knitting – one piece dyed with food colouring. Right: Jane Ellison's pin weaving.



Left Caroline Goss's weaving on a Brinkley loom Overshot weaving by Sarah Williams (middle) and Angela Pawlyn (right).

Thank Goodness for Wool



We had a lovely start to the Hill End Family Day on 10th April. We were advised not to put up the gazebo because of the wind and instead settled into a pretty wooden building with a roof but no walls. We draped it with examples of our work and set up looms and wheels. At first we were really busy, lots of children weaving on card looms or having a go at spinning and then it started to rain. Then it started to get cold. Sarah and Karin were already wearing

their largest spectacular shawls over their coats, I huddled on a bench, clutching Karin's beautiful wool cushions to me, Tim borrowed my starry cardigan which showed under his jacket and Sandie draped her exotic cardigan over Karin's knees. Then Sarah took control. She fetched a shawl for me then she organised hot drinks. As you can see from the photo we started to revive. Once the drink had done its work we went and got permission to pack up early and headed home. Without the lovely woollen goods we were swathed in the process would have taken a lot longer, and we'd have all been a bit miserable. Nonetheless we had all had fun and are looking forward to the event on 28th April.

Janet



Janet braving it outside.
I think it is a lot of skeins hanging on the left (not a dead sheep)

Editor

Favourite things



My favourite bit of kit is my drop spindle. I take it everywhere and if I have to wait for any reason, say in a queue, I pull it out and spin a bit. Usually, I only do a metre or less, but I find it adds up. At one point I spun as I walked but I started falling over, so I stopped. This is a picture of two Turkish spindles I made with the help of David Knight. Their advantage is that as you spin you make a neat ball which can be unwound from either or both ends.

Janet Farnsworth

Programme

20th April Guild: Anne Addyman and Sarah Williams are running a warp making demonstration for members who have expressed an interest. Anyone attending should be at guild for a 10.30 start, Anne and Sarah will start with a few words about warping, and preparing the warp for the loom. Anne will bring in some baskets/bags and small rugs as samples as these can be woven at 4epi, the warp for these can be used for either baskets or bags. It will be fairly quick to make a warp with this sett. Everyone who has registered interest should bring some cotton, linen or highly twisted wool for their warp. Or it would be possible to make a warp for a scarf in wool at 10 epi, 8 inches wide will be about the same amount of time. If anyone has any questions, please let Pippa know (programme@oxfordwsd.org.uk) and she will pass them on.

18th May Guild

Roger Sheldon is coming to one of them to give us a talk about making a tapestry using all 71 of the wools listed by the British Wool Marketing Board, some of which were harsh and difficult to work with.

15th June Guild

Susan Foulkes, The Durham Weaver, A talk about Sami Band Weaving and Culture based on a visit to Jokkmokk in Feb 2020 and the Sami winter market which has been held for 400 years and was where the Sami people could trade goods with merchants.

Jokkmokk is a small town in Swedish Lapland. It's known for the centuries-old Jokkmokk Winter Market, an annual event that draws thousands for handicrafts made by the indigenous Sami people.

Sunday 16th June

Susan Foulkes Workshop,
Sámi Band Weaving with 9 Pattern Threads
Participants will weave patterned band weaving using traditional patterns. They will use the backstrap method with both a standard heddle and a Sunna 9 pattern slot heddle.
Booking details to be sent out soon.

20th July Guild: Sarah Allan will give a talk followed by an interactive session based on all things spinning wheel: how to choose the right spinning wheel: how to maintain your spinning wheel correctly; how to utilize all the features of your wheel correctly. We hope to have different types of spinning wheel brought in for members to try, and for Sandie to bring in her Great Wheel.

21st September Guild:

The Wensleydale Experience: we will be visiting Chilton Grounds Farm which is owned by member Diana Bird and her partner, Duncan.
Address: Chilton, Aylesbury HP18 9LP. Sarah and Chris will have a fibre stall on the day as well.

19th October Guild a talk by Frances Pritchard Textiles and Clothing in London 1150-1450'. Among the most evocative items to be discovered by archaeologists are the scraps of silk and wool and other fabrics that signal so eloquently their owner's status and concerns.

Sunday 13th October: Bobbin Lace Workshop by Anne Hughes at Stanton St John Village Hall. To be advertised in due course.

23rd November Guild: a talk by Liz Mitchell: How Wool changed the Cotswolds

Anne Hughes workshop "Tablet weaving sheep" on 14 April was fully booked, but she may run another one at some point if there is enough interest. Please send photos for the next Newsletter.

Guild Outside Events

28th April

Farmability Day for people with a learning disability or autism

8th June 2024

Ffennel Festival

13th July

West Oxford Funday

26 August 2024

Rollright Stones Family Fun Day

Also we may be going to:

BBOWT Wildfest

Wolvercote Festival (22nd June)

Charlbury Festival

Combe Mill Steaming Sunday

(There is no Wychwood Forest Fair this year)

Other Outside Events

27–28 April 2024

[Wonderwool Wales - The UK's Premier Wool and Natural Fibre Show](#)

Until 1st June

Work by tapestry artists Katharine Swailes and Caron Penney inspired by their time living and working in the Arun Valley in West Sussex.

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery,

<http://tinyurl.com/4kxyav4p>

Until 26th May

An international group exhibition of work by artists from the 20th and 21st centuries using textiles to communicate ideas about power, resistance and survival.

Barbican Centre <https://www.barbican.org.uk>

5th -6th July

Weftival – Whitchurch Silk Mill. Production tours, talks, workshops, and weaving and spinning demos from the Kennet Valley Guild, plus a show of handwoven work by Janet Phillips.

27th - 28th July

Summer Wool Festival, Ampthill

Further details and information on wider events can be found at Journal Website [Diary \(journalwds.org.uk\)](#) and at [UK yarn festivals: dates and details for 2024. \(beingknitterly.co.uk\)](#)

Committee

Kate Gardener - Chair

Tim Chapman - Secretary

Mike Foster - Treasurer

Pippa Purnell - Programme Secretary

Liz Roberts - Membership Secretary

Pauline Travis - Catering

Anne Hughes - Library and Website

Sarah Allan - Sales Table

Janet Farnsworth - Outside Events

Felicity Record

Other responsibilities

Angela Pawlyn - Newsletter Editor

Lyn Wymer - Equipment

From the Editor.

Many thanks for the contributions to this newsletter.

The deadline for next issue is 11th July. No need to wait until then to send me input. Please email to newsletter@oxfordwds.org.uk.