



# Oxford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

## Newsletter July 2024

### From the Chair

What a difference a year makes! This time last year I was looking for projects that didn't make me too hot. Nothing that would sit in my lap as I put it together. This year I'm happy to make a blanket or a jumper to keep me warm, and I did finish a baby blanket for a colleague. What have you been making? It would be great to see your work on the Show & Tell table.

I would like to that this opportunity to thank some of our members for sharing their expertise with us. I am always amazed at the range of talents of our members, and appreciate your generosity in sharing with others.

- Anne has shown us her skills with tablet weaving. Her sheep band workshops have been very popular.
- Anne and Sarah showed us how to use a warping board or a warping mill at a HAGD. I heard lots of good things about this session.
- Sarah and Bob will be showing us how to maintain our spinning wheels at the July meeting and we will have the opportunity to try some different wheels, with the permission of their owners of course.

A few reminders as we approach our summer break. There is no meeting in August and our September meeting will take place at Chilton Grounds Farm. I will send out directions nearer the time. Also, a change of date for our November meeting from 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> – make a note in your diary.

Have creative summer break.

Kate

### Recent Meetings

April: Anne Addyman and Sarah Williams's Have a Go Day



Lots of warping boards and frames were bought in by members.



Anne and Sarah brought in a selection of bags and rugs so that people could see examples woven at 4 ends (threads) per inch. Also a selection of scarves and shawls woven at 8 ends (threads) per inch.

.So that it didn't take too long, they suggested making either a warp at 4 EPI to give a weft faced weave or for a balanced weave scarf set at 8 EPI. The weft faced weave could be used for either a basket or a small rug

May: Roger Sheldon told us about making a tapestry using wool from British breeds

He used all but one of the 72 wools listed by the British Wool Marketing Board



The project resulted from Roger looking for yarns from more breeds to finish a lovely bag for his sister. This culminated in him finding more than he needed and led to this new endeavour. His search was then extended with the gift of the British Wool



Board book of sheep with the 72 breeds listed. He found all but the Vendeen. which should have been used for the last square in which Roger put his initials.

Not all were available as yarns. As he does not spin, he needed help. He had been to Fibreworks at Chipping Norton and purchased some of Chris Seers spun yarn. They suggested visiting Wymer's and Co, Lyn's shop in Witney. He arrived at the shop when there was a gathering which led to Sarah Allan spinning as many of the remaining breeds as could be sourced. The worst fibre was Grey Face Dartmoor. One of his favourites was Castlemilk Moorit.



He enjoys making stitched tapestry. He passed round this cushion made from a selection of the yarns.



Roger had used tent stitch for the cushion, but when we were able to have a closer look at the panel, we could see that he had used a variety of patterns

### Show and tell- May

Sarah's "Breeds Throw" was inspired by Roger's work.



Each square is made up of four smaller Zoom Loom woven squares, mattress stitched together to create a larger one. These in turn were semi icord knitted together, with a full icord knitted to the edge.

The squares are made up of 30 British bred breeds from mill spun yarn collected from various producers and mills across the UK and donated to her by Roger.

The inner i-cord is hand spun Gotland/Alpaca mix and the outside is hand spun Coloured Ryeland fleece.

Karen Pigott wove this lovely top in Shadow Weave with 3 treadlings. From a project by Jannie Taylor in Handwoven May/June 2023, adapted to have set-in



sleeves with New Look sewing pattern #6483. The bodice, yoke and sleeves have different treadling. Warp and weft are linen, set at 24 epi, 8 shafts.

Mel's test knit for the next John Arbon annual.

The pattern was designed by Marie Wallin. There was an option of knitting a 14 colour design or a pared back 5 colour design. I chose to knit the 14 colour option using 12 hand-spun yarns from Hilltop Cloud Tour de Fleece 2023 fibre and two commercial yarns. The pattern was very easy to follow. The annual is due for publication in September.



Cecilia's spinning.

The blue skeins are handspun with 10 different supported spindles and then plied on a spinning wheel. 230 gram, 808 meter in total. 16 wpi sport yarn (350 m/100 gram)



The skeins with 1-ply thicker yarns are made of coarser fibres (Gotland, Shetland and Zwartbles) and therefore spun thick with a lower twist, then fullled and reskeined. They are around 10-12 wpi Aran weight yarn (157-178 m/100 gram).

### June Susan J Foulkes

We were very lucky to be able to welcome Susan, a leading authority on many types of band weaving, to our guild on 15 June to give a fascinating talk on the history and usage in the Sami culture of band weaving.



For those who don't know Susan, she is a leading authority on band weaving and has published 5 excellent books on the subject (one of



which she has kindly donated to the OGWSD library).

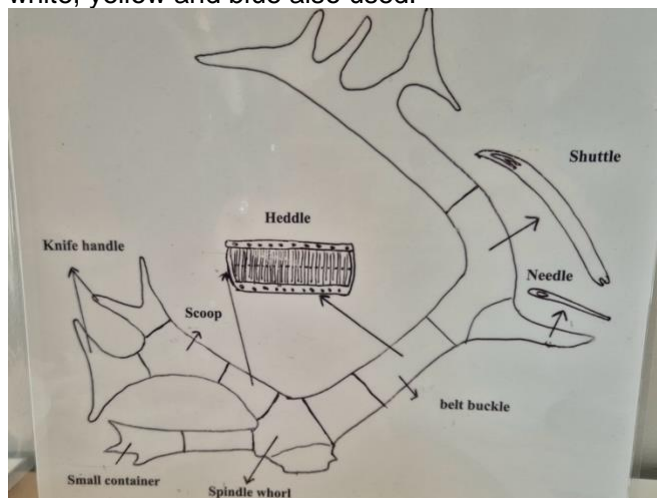
Susan brought along to the guild samples of her band weaving (some still on the heddles), Sami bands that she had woven, and lots of photos of bands and braid being used by Sami people in Jokkmokk, Sweden.



bands and braid being used by Sami people in Jokkmokk, Sweden.

Jokkmokk is a small town in Swedish Lapland where an annual winter market is held that draws thousands of visitors for the handicrafts that are made by the

indigenous Sami people. Susan visited Jokkmokk in 2020 a few days before the annual winter fair took place giving her time to visit the Sami Duodji Centre, a Sami museum and cultural centre, to view the exhibits and catalogue patterns. Sami people craft woven bands for a variety of different uses, from wrapping around trouser legs and boots to stop the rain and snow getting in, as straps for bags and even in the construction of the Sami baby cradles. The bands are traditionally woven in bright colours – red being the most common pattern colour with white, yellow and blue also used.



I think that one of the most fascinating pictures that Susan brought was a picture of a deer antler depicting the different things that are made from an antler, including a shuttle, heddle and spindle whorl!

Sam Austin

### Workshop on Sami band weaving

A few quotes from the WhatsApp group:

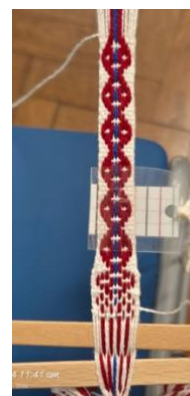
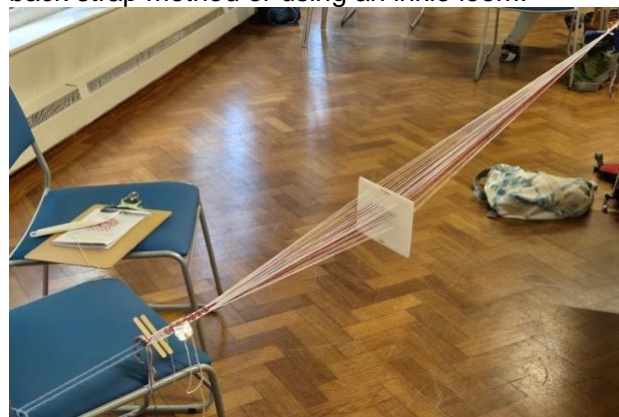
*It was a lovely workshop and talk. Susan was so informative and enthusiastic. (Mel)*

*Susan was a wonderful engaging tutor I knew nothing and now I can weave a band. (Pippa)*

*I learnt so much. When I got home, I set up the backstrap and showed my Swedish daughter in law. She was instantly hooked. (Mary Ann)*

*it was lovely to spend the day learning a new yarny skill among such an enthusiastic expert and tutees! (Karin)*

Participants had the choice of using the back strap method or using an inkle loom.



### Tablet Woven Sheep (May)

Anne Hughes ran a very popular workshop on another excellent technique for weaving bands

Louise's inkle loom ready for action



Mary Ann's sheep

Anne will be running the course again (Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October) There are a few places available Anyone who attended the first workshop could do self directed workshop for £20 rather than the normal £40.

## Guild Outside Events



Not all days at Hill End are cold and windy. The weather at the Ffennell Festival in June was sunny and cloudy by turns and we managed to have

some lovely breaks between groups of participants.

It was a lovely day, Sandie brought her Model sheep. Liz used them as a visual aid to explain that not all sheep look the same, even having a conversation about rare breeds with a small boy. At least one person wanted to talk about the great wheel with Sandie and Sarah brought weaving cards, both for a little stretch of flat weaving and for braids and I had enough children wanting to try spinning. Of course, the breaks were the best bit!

I had no idea Bloxham Steam Rally was going to be quite so big, possibly 10 times as big as Wychwood! We were opposite the main arena and saw endless streams of vehicles, from the big fields full of vintage cars and tractors, lots of steam engines, even tanks. As well as troops, American civil war re-enactors and possibly others provided hours of enthrallment for visitors.



We were between an enormous log splitter, too big to parade with an engine that cut logs into longitudinal slices, and a stone carver.

There was a healthy interest in our stall. I got the impression that we would be invited next year, especially as some of the craft stalls didn't turn up. All the organisers were very helpful, even putting up our gazebo for me, I had wandered off to get a coffee and when I looked at our site I realised our gazebo was nearly up.

### We will be at:

Rollright Stones Family Fun Day 26<sup>th</sup> August,  
Combe Mill Steaming Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September,  
and possibly Harcourt Arboretum Autumn Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Janet Farnsworth**

### **Other Outside Events**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Southern Wool Show – Newbury Race Course

Until 7<sup>th</sup> September

Mary Farmer: A Life in Tapestry  
Crafts Study Centre, Farnham

13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September

Unravel Autumn - Farnham Maltings

10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> October

The Knitting and Stitching Show  
Alexandra Place London

26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October

The Big Textile Show, Leicester

Details and information on wider events can be found at Journal Website [Diary \(journalwds.org.uk\)](http://Diary(journalwds.org.uk)) and at

[UK yarn festivals: dates and details for 2024. \(beingknitterly.co.uk\)](http://UKyarnfestivals:datesanddetailsfor2024.beingknitterly.co.uk)

### **Guild programme**

#### **21<sup>st</sup> September**

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.

**19<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> October**: Tablet Weaving Workshop with Anne Hughes at Stanton St John Village Hall.

**23<sup>rd</sup> November Guild**: a talk by Liz Mitchell: How Wool changed the Cotswolds

#### **21<sup>st</sup> December Guild**

Christmas meeting including Chair's Challenge

### **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. I am sorry I could not use all the photos.

The deadline for next issue is 11<sup>th</sup> October  
No need to wait until then to send me input. Please email to [newsletter@oxfordwds.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@oxfordwds.org.uk).