

WINTER *2017* *NEWSLETTER*

THE GUILD CHALLENGE



WINGHAM WOOL DAY



TALKS AND SLIDES



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Della Storr



I was delighted by the number, range and quality of entries we had for this year's guild challenge and well done to Liz Broderick for winning the Daphne Shepherd trophy. As I said, we need to submit these and more of our work to the exhibition being organised at Whitchurch Silk Mill to run alongside the Association Summer School.

And what great speakers we had to finish the year with Andrew Snow talking about Behind the Scenes of a Commercial Sheep Farmer and Ruth Smith with her Story of Folded Secrets.

Now I am not really an IKEA shopper. As I recall, back in the 1980s I visited the one in Croydon and in the mid-1990s I visit one while on holiday in Norway. Well earlier this week, I acquired a 2017 catalogue while re-installing my father back into his home after the restoration work following the flood damage he suffered. I was really surprised when flicking through the catalogue to find an article about an IKEA employee working to improve the design of an old punja loom used for handweaving rugs in India and Bangladesh.

It was somewhat of a struggle, but IKEA supported the action and at the date of the article there were nearly 600 of these new looms in use and the target for 2017 is for 3,500 to be in operation. These looms are enabling many more people (largely women) to be earning a livelihood in weaving, as well as preserving the craft of handweaving. So well done IKEA.

Wishing everyone a great 2017 full of textile craft work and experiences!

Della

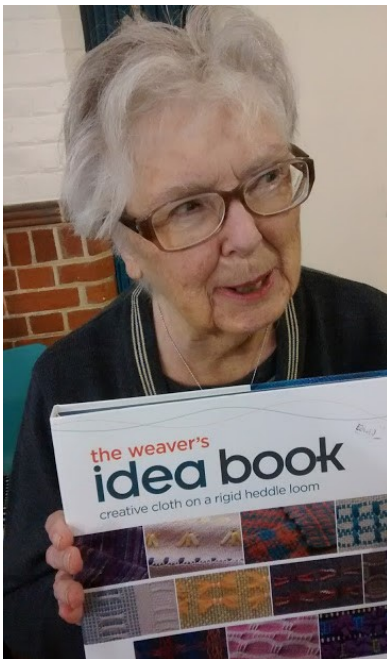
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October Meeting

October is Wingham Wool month and once again they brought a wonderful selection of yarns, dyes and equipment to tempt us all.

Shirley, like the rest of us does not need anything at all and will not buy a thing. She was seen taking a large bag to her car before I could catch her.

Janet Arnold bought some lovely Shetland/merino/silk which was new this year and extremely popular with everybody. She intends to make a vest or waistcoat with it.



Grace treated herself to Jane Patrick's—*The weaver's idea book* and hopes she will be able to design her own patterns after studying it.



Alex was tempted with a multi coloured bat with white silk nepps. She plans to weave overshot on a white background.



Catherine Hopkins bought a beautiful threading hook with pretty beads.



Anne Lovick loves her drop spindle and bought some very luxurious Yak/silk fibre so very soft but so very expensive at £7 per 100 gms.

Sue Brewer wanted some fleece to mix with her alpaca and also bought some new bobbins.



Julie and Naomi Reading, members for some years, have great difficulty getting to the Guild days as they run their shop in Romsey, and Saturday is their busy day. They took full advantage of their day off and bought some cashmere/camel/silk / muskox and some Shetland/silk fleece and plan to make jumpers, cardigans, shawls and socks for all the family.



Joyce Buckland had a bag of different coloured yarns and plans to knit a teddy bear with red head , blue arms and all different colours everywhere. We look forward to seeing the finished bear.



The New Forest Guild was out in force as usual and bought lots of different fleeces. There were 17 visitors in total each paying £5 entrance and all enjoyed themselves spinning and stayed all day.

November Meeting

The meeting started with News and Views. Della reported on the AGM.

The subject of the value of the books was raised and Carol Newton has agreed to value them for insurance purposes. The Charity Status is still ongoing and a proposal for new objectives was passed by the guild members unanimously.

Catherine Hopkins will be stepping down from the Treasurer's position in July and if anybody could step into her shoes she is happy for them to shadow her to see what goes on.

The next meeting of the association of Guilds of Weavers Spinners and Dyers will take place in London on the 22nd April. Any points for discussion must be presented by the 21st January 2017.

The treasurer reported that the regular income is reducing month by month due to increase in costs and not due to lack of members.

Jo Finlow was complemented on her gorgeous web site which on line members enjoy in full colour.

The visit to the Winchester College of Art was very interesting and it is hoped that we will be invited to go again.

Maya Whitmarsh reported on the Youth Guild, where Suzanne did a felting workshop last time which was very successful. The next meeting in February will be weaving.

In A.O.B. The cost the tea and coffee was bought up especially the charges to visitors which will be reviewed before next October, in the meantime our drinks will remain the same as before.

The Guild Challenge

Once again the Guild Challenge proved very popular with lots of entries. It was interesting to see different aspects of the Dots and dashes. There were messages in morse code like Richard's table mat with different chocolate messages all in the stripes



There were dotty toadstools.

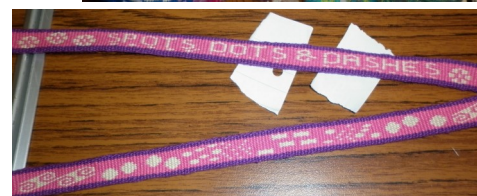
Cushions, bags and scarves.



Weaving, felting and Inkle loom projects



Karen was the runner up with her wonderful book markers, using double weave and pick up techniques on an inkle loom.



AND THE WINNER IS

LIZ BRODERICK, who had the most votes for her nuno felted mitts, scarf and bag which was going to be a hat.



BEHIND THE SCENES ON A COMMERCIAL SHEEP FARM

Andrew Snow



Andrew Snow of Rothercombe Farm, Petersfield gave us all a wonderful insight into the running of a commercial Sheep Farm. He is the third generation and although his grandfather had cows on their 165 acres and his father had cows and sheep his great interest was in sheep.

He explained that he had 1100 ewes and 24 rams and lambed outdoors in May These are sold as lambs in December to April when they have reached the right size.

Brexit has mixed blessings as 50% of sheep food is imported so has become more expensive but meat which is exported is getting higher prices.

He took us through the Farming Year and introduced us to his sheep dogs Tabby and Gary and his new dogs Max and Eddie.

He took us through the history of farming and he explained about marketing and the new equipment that tells the history of each sheep with electronic tags.

Andrews talk was very interesting and the slides and videos added interest. His love and enthusiasm for his farm and the hard work involved shone through and he hopes his youngest daughter might be interested in continuing the farm into the fourth generation.

There were many interesting questions and we all enjoyed his insight into a commercial sheep farm.

Joy Stevens

WEAVING WITH JANET PHILLIPS

Kim Walsh did not enter the competition but she bought her bag to show her friends. She has just finished a two year course with Janet Phillips to learn how to design woven fabrics.

She bought her first loom 2 years ago and would like to weave professionally.



Kim Walsh with her sample and her wonderful finished bag



THE LIBRARY

Maya Whitmarsh organises and runs a fantastic library filled with books to do with our craft. We can browse for as long as we want to.

The initial fee is 25pence and if books are renewed there is nothing extra to pay. (If they are not renewed a fine of 25p per book/per month is payable). Books can be renewed three times, after which Maya would like them back on the library shelves although longer loans may be negotiated. There is no limit on the number of books members can take out at any one time although we don't want the shelves emptied, so a top limit of 20 should accommodate the most prolific reader/crafter.

I have recently taken out Anne Fields 'WEAVING with the RIGID HEDDLE LOOM'. Having been lucky to have bought a Kromski rigid heddle loom at Wingham Wool day, I thought this would set me on the right path. I was very impressed with the simplicity of warping and the comfort of plain weaving in front of the fire. With the help of Anne's book I realize there are more things to do other than scarves.



Anne Fields' book is full of photos and illustrations and although not the most up to date (first published 1980) it certainly shows in detail all you need to know to get going on the Rigid Heddle Loom.

Joy Stevens

December Meeting

THE STORY OF 'FOLDED SECRETS'

Ruth Smith gave the name folded secrets to the Chinese folk art of folding paper to make little boxes. There can be 30 or more little boxes linked together and folded in to a book. Each box is beautifully decorated and made to take sewing threads, needles and other small items. In Chinese these books are known as 'Zhen Xian Bao' and translated means 'needle threadpockets'.



In the Dong area the cover is stitched by hand to homemade paper which is very strong and quite thick but which folds beautifully. It is made

from mulberry bark and rice gum.

Dong women emphasise the embroidery by outlining the patterns in white gimp thread.



While the men go into the big cities to find work, the women plant tea and look after the children. Each house has its own indigo vat for dyeing their cloth and the children were taught to make these books from the age of 6 or 7. The children now go to school so that they can get a job in the big cities and the craft is dying out.

In the Guizhou Province the women are encouraged to make these boxes to sell to tourists, both Chinese and foreigners who can now visit these areas. The decorations are now done with felt tip pens and wood blocks as they are easily available and quicker to use

Ruth has been investigating the craft of ‘zhen xian bao’ for many years all over China but in many cases the paper has fallen apart after many years use. There is a lack of records and finding actual objects and dating them has proved difficult. She accompanied her talk with some amazing slides of her findings in China and has written books with instructions on how to make these boxes. She brought a lot of samples for us to look at – many made by herself after studying the originals.

It was a wonderful talk and her love of her subject inspired us all to have a go. Many bought her instruction books and some have already had a go. Hope we can see them at the next ‘show and tell’.

Karen Parkin gave the vote of thanks after many questions.

Joy Stevens

THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH



After our interesting talk we had our Christmas lunch. It is so wonderful that we all bring something and we have a selection of great tasting goodies and not

one dish the same as the next. The anticipation is tense and the eating is even better. Thank you everyone for a wonderful spread. Alex even made some sugar free profiteroles for the diabetic amongst us.



Mariana's Quiz

In answer to the QUIZ that appeared in our last Newsletter, it takes approximately 105 (one hundred and five) rolags that have been hand-carded to stuff a typical pillow as per the photo here! This takes quite a long time, but one is rewarded with a pillow that is like air to lay one's head on, true sheepy luxury, and is recyclable as it can be washed and washed again and re-used to stuff a pillow again! The wool I used was probably dating back to the 1950s when my Mother-in-Law made wool-stuffed pillows and mattresses for her marital dowry. In the olden days, even the ticking fabric was woven in the home on a wooden floor loom. These have long-since disappeared as the machine age took over and replaced home-made commodities. Mariana.



IN HOUSE WORKSHOPS For fully paid up members.

JANUARY Saturday 21st 11.15 Saori Weaving with

AMANDA EDNEY

APRIL Saturday 15th 11.15 Weaving design for the Terrified with

ALISON YULE

STOP PRESS

A message from Della.

Today 15/12/16 we have received a communication from the Charity Commission '***WE are satisfied that HAMPSHIRE GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS is a charity and it has been entered onto the Register of Charities with the Registered Charity Number 1170781.***

Yippee

To read the new constitution, [click here](#)

EVENTS 2017

UNRAVEL 2017 The Maltings Farnham.

FEBRUARY Friday 17th, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th.

For more details visit www.farnhammaltings.com

WEAVING WEEKEND with **MARY KEER** at Cheriton.

APRIL Saturday and Sunday 8th/9th

MAY Saturday and Sunday 6th/7th

Booking essential Tel. 01962 77126

WONDERWOOL 2017 Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Wales.

APRIL Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd

For more details visit www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk

BROCKENHURST FIESTA

APRIL Saturday 22nd-Sunday 23rd

For more details visit <http://brockenhurstfiesta.co.uk>

FIBRE-EAST Redbourne Community College, Flitwick Road
Bedfordshire MK45 2NU

JULY Saturday 29th-Sunday 30th.

For more details visit www.fibre-east.co.uk

HILLIERS ARBORETUM, Ampfield.

Children's craft activities each Wednesday 1.30pm-4pm.

JULY 26th, **AUGUST** 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

ROMSEY SHOW Broadlands, Romsey.

SEPTEMBER Saturday 9th.

MEETING DATES 2017

21st January

- 10am Main Hall 'Spin and Chat'
10am Compton Room Committee Meeting
11.15am Saori Weaving Workshop.
2pm Main Hall-Speaker **AMANDA EDNEY**
'All about Saori Weaving'

18th February

- 10am Main Hall 'News and Views'
Announcement of Guild Challenge 2017
2pm Main Hall-Speaker **DEBORAH WHEELER**
'All about the Whitchurch Silk Mill'

18th March

- 10am Main Hall 'AT HOME DAY'
Member's skill sharing workshops

15th April

- 10am Main Hall 'Spin and Chat'
10am Compton Room Committee Meeting
11.15 Workshop-'Weaving design for the Terrified'
2pm Main Hall -Speaker **ALISON YULE**
'Problem solving in Weaving'

20th May

- 10am Main Hall 'News and Views'
12 noon Fibre Sale-John Arbon
2.00pm Main Hall-Speaker **JOHN ARBON**
'Fleece to Fibre at the Mill'

17th June

- 10am 'Bring & Buy' in aid of Guild Funds. 'Spin & Chat'
2.00pm Main Hall Speaker –**RACHEL BROWN**
'Dyeing Porpoise Fur'

15th July

10am Main Hall **AGM**

2pm Main Hall - Speaker **CHRIS JACKSON**

International Guild of Knot Tyers

‘Sailors Knots and Crafts’ including hands on demonstrations

August No Meeting-See events.

16th September

10am Main Hall **‘TASTER DAY’** for non-members

21st October

10am **WINGHAM WOOL - FIBRE DAY**

10am Compton Room Committee Meeting

18th November

10.30 Main Hall ‘News and Views’ including
The Guild Challenge Reveal.

2pm Main Hall - Speaker **FELICITY FORD**
‘Knitsonik’ - Stranded Colourwork.

9th December

10am Meet in Main Hall for Tea/Coffee

10.30am Main Hall – Speaker **PETER HEWLETT**
‘A Journey Down the Silk Road’

Followed by our own festive

CHRISTMAS AMERICAN LUNCH

The 2017 programme is on our website www.hantswsd.org

<u>Official</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
<u>Chairperson</u>	Della Storr	Chairofhantswsd@yahoo.com
<u>Secretary</u>	Ruth Holzer	secretaryhantswsd@yahoo.co.uk
<u>Treasury</u>	Catherine Hopkins	chopkins2011@gmail.com
<u>Membership</u>	Karen Parkin	hallweardesigns@btinternet.com
<u>Programme Organiser</u>	Jenny Crawford	crawfordjenny@gmail.com
<u>Events Co-ordinator</u>	Sue Brewer	info@secretgardenuk.co.uk
<u>Youth Guild and Library</u>	Maya Whitmarsh	maya.whitmarsh@yahoo.co.uk
<u>Website</u>	Jo Finlow	webhwsd@gmail.com
<u>Notice Board</u>	Mariana Perry-Zoupanou	zoupanospetros@talktalk.net
<u>Committee</u>	Ella Doney	bhb386@hotmail.com

<u>Newsletter</u>	Joy Stevens	pendine@gmail.com
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Website address: www.hantswsd.org
Registered Charity Number 1170781.