



**SUMMER
2016**

NEWSLETTER

SHOW AND TELL

WORKSHOPS

SALES TABLE



SPIN AND CHAT

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Della Storr



Hello there Guild members,

Dear Guild Members,

Well July already! I hope you are fitting in lots of spinning, weaving and/or dyeing into your leisure time.

I was disappointed that we didn't seem to manage any entries into the selected section of the National Exhibition – are we all too shy, surely not. Hopefully some of us will get the opportunity to go and see the exhibition at Killerton House, Devon (8th – 18th September).

Early indications are that there will be a southern area exhibition next summer to coincide with the Association Summer School being in the area. So please can we manage some entries to that? We all like to see each other's work don't we? So let's not only see what other guilds produce, but also show them what we can do!

I hope many of you will be out and about demonstrating during the summer and will attract lots of visitors to the September taster day.

Have a lovely summer with your fibres, yarns and dyes, happy spinning, weaving and dyeing

Della

April Meeting.

While the committee were busy sorting out the constitution for the Guild becoming a Charity the rest of the members had fun spinning, weaving and knitting.

James Hibberd and Chandler Divers were visiting from the Culture Unit at Eastleigh Borough Council and were busy filming for the Agincourt website.



We had a wonderful 'Show and Tell' again this month. Joyce Buckland crocheted a colourful cushion from her last visit to Ravelry



Ann Lovick showed us her wonderfully designed blanket.

Dianne Houghton modelled the jacket she had spun, knitted and finally needle-felted. So soft and warm.



Sue Bates was busy finishing off her shawl and Carol Chatten knitted a Shetland fair isle hat. All so beautifully spun.



May Meeting

The meeting started with proposals put forward by Della for the Charity Constitution. Various amendments were voted on and were unanimously passed by all members present. Della had spent a lot of time and effort making the constitution fit for both our Guild and the Charity Commission. Hopefully they will agree and we will be able to vote for the trustees at the next AGM on 16th July.

Shirley will be representing our Guild at the next Main Guild AGM and there were several points that had to be decided. The majority of the members voted for a junior competition at the Guild, but it was decided that small groups of spinners and weavers should not be accepted as guild members if they did not have the necessary constitutions.

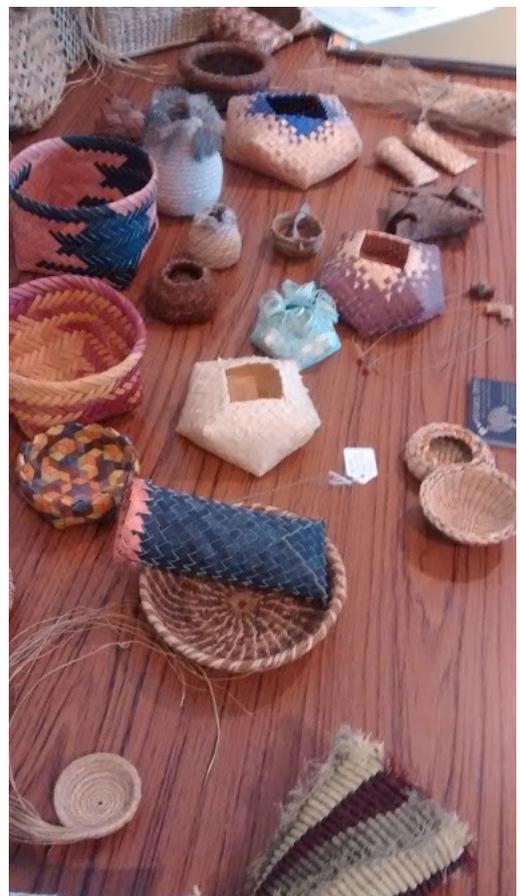
AVERIL OTIV

OFF-LOOM WEAVING

Averil began her day with us by leading a workshop in which around 10 members participated.

Her subject for the day was small woven baskets and pouches.

Now a weaver, Averil's career began with a degree in Botany, then teaching Biology for 10 years. She grows many of her own plants to use in her work and loves to weave outdoors.



Based in Cheshire, Averil weaves, mainly on her favourite 8-shaft loom, enjoys basket-weaving, runs workshops and is to lead a course at Summer School 2017 at Sparsholt



Averil's materials for her basketwork range from old muslin-backed maps, heavy watercolour artists' paper and Japanese shifu paper to plant materials of all kinds—willow, willow bark, rush, chair cane, New Zealand flax, Gibson grass (an Australian lily), hazel, olive wood and “surprise” plants such as day lily, red hot poker, date palm, sisyrinchium (of the iris family), even sweetcorn husks, pine needles (preferably American pine as they have very long needles), the moss polychrinum and a pod of white Japanese wisteria to create a fastening.

Most of the plant materials require lengthy preparation by drying completely and storing dry, then rehydrating immediately before use. Some, such as hazel, will regenerate though many need thoughtful harvesting to maintain a supply.

Starting with a two-corner shape she produced pouches—“glasses-case” baskets. Starting with 3 or 4 corners, the possibilities were very varied, including square-woven, bias-woven and introducing further corners during the weave to produce stars and octagons. The most complicated version is known as “mad weave!” It is even possible to produce a cone or sphere and Averil’s examples were shaped round a mould, binding the grasses with waxed linen thread.



Often the baskets would include a smaller matching inner pouch with perhaps a third, in the manner of a Russian doll, and some had tiny peep-hole surprises.

Baskets made with old maps have interesting areas of colour and Averil sometimes applies colour using indigo before weaving or, on completion, with acrylic paints.

We finished with a show and tell by the workshop participants when we congratulated them and admired their lovely baskets, all different.

Janet Arnold gave the vote of thanks.

Hilary Dunwoody

June meeting

Shirley took the June meeting and also took membership subscriptions which will enable members to vote in the July AGM. We had a good spin/knit chatter and a good look at all the lovely items for sale on the sales table in aid of guild funds.

The show and tell took place after lunch with Beverly starting with a chair cover made on 2 peg sticks.



Karen showed us her lovely jewellery made by braiding using beads and Eslon thread for strength.



Tricia bought her pot made of inkle braids.

Suzanne bought lots of paper weaving that she did after last month's workshop .



Our afternoon speaker was Emma her subject being

Sustainability in weaving, spinning and dyeing.

Emma gave a lovely talk on sustainability in weaving, spinning and dyeing with the help of her little daughter.

She explained that as craft people, we already do a lot of upcycling, recycling and reusing. Although we must meet our needs it should not be to the detriment of other people now or in the future.

It is a good idea to check if what we think is sustainable and environmentally friendly is actually so.

Emma gave examples of rabbits producing angora who are tortured to remove their fur. She also found that goats used for cashmere are grazed on barren land. Even silk is produced by boiling the worms to kill them so that the silk can be removed in one thread.



The most sustainable yarns are from our own animals or if this is not possible from neighbour's animals. Not only does this cut down on transport but we know that these animals are looked after properly.

Dyeing yarns are a difficult area to be completely friendly but research is ongoing to produce a yarn that is both environmentally friendly and colour fast.

Although it is important to keep craftsmen busy making wheels, looms and accessories it also helps the environment if we buy second hand equipment where possible.

Emma finished up by persuading us all to try and do one thing regularly to help sustainability and the environment. Despite having to nurse baby and cuddle her while not stopping her flow Emma made us realize that it is up to all of us to make sure our children and grandchildren have a nice world to inherit.

Well done Emma.

Joy Stevens



A date with Eric

I have long been Eric's number one fan. So when I heard Sue had made a date for the annual shearing of her six Alpacas I was very pushy and invited myself along to help.

When we eventually arrived at Sue's 'the boys' were already penned, waiting and wondering why they were not out in the field where they usually spend their days. Reassuring them Sue explained, but they continued to complain, they were not happy! However Zeus was very obliging when I attempted to take a selfie with him.



Kirsty finally arrived and things swiftly got underway. Soon 'the kit' was unloaded, & instructions on set-up received and understood. As an interested bystander I was intrigued by the various implements coming out of the van! Evil looking clippers, rope, extension leads along with some medieval looking restraints, oils & potions? But soon all would become clear. Kirsty discussed the way she was planning to work with Melanie. Sue decided who would be the first for a haircut, it would be Zeus the tan Alpaca, followed by Ernie the black one. Then all the white ones would follow. All went according to plan, the most difficult was getting the animals legs tethered in the restraint, this sounds and seems at first to be harsh, but it is clearly for the safety of all concerned, both shearer and alpaca.

Once this is done the animal can be splayed onto its belly safely to enable the shearing to be completed. Zeus and Ernie continued to grumble throughout the process. With Melanie as the calming influence all was well.

It was fascinating to watch Kirsty's systematic way of working which meant the job was completed without any stress to the animal at all. As well as general MOT including any required jabs, Kirsty attended to their feet, clipping nails where necessary. Their nails need to be clipped about every 6 months. Sue's boys have hard standing as well as grass, this helps keep the nails down. When they are kept on only grass their nails grow rapidly, needing clipping more often.

Kirsty started by guiding the shears on the upper part of the back leg and across towards the belly and up to the 'blanket' the best bit, it was a joy to watch the fleece roll off and fall onto the tarpaulin.



So clean, so soft. Followed by the legs, the neck & topknot being last, under Sue's very keen eye as to the finished look! Josie and I did our bit by bagging up and labelling the fleece & sweeping up 'the rubbish' bits ready for the next one. We were amazed how beautiful Ernie's fleece was, so black and soft to the touch. As they were released from the restraints they very quickly stand and jog into the field looking more like deer than Alpacas, slim & sylph-like, so different. Zeus seems to be the leader of the pack, taking his role very seriously, standing by & checking each animal over, just to be sure all was in order as they came back into the field. George, Elgar, Eric and Mash were in turn given their beauty treatment and returned to their buttercup field looking fabulous.

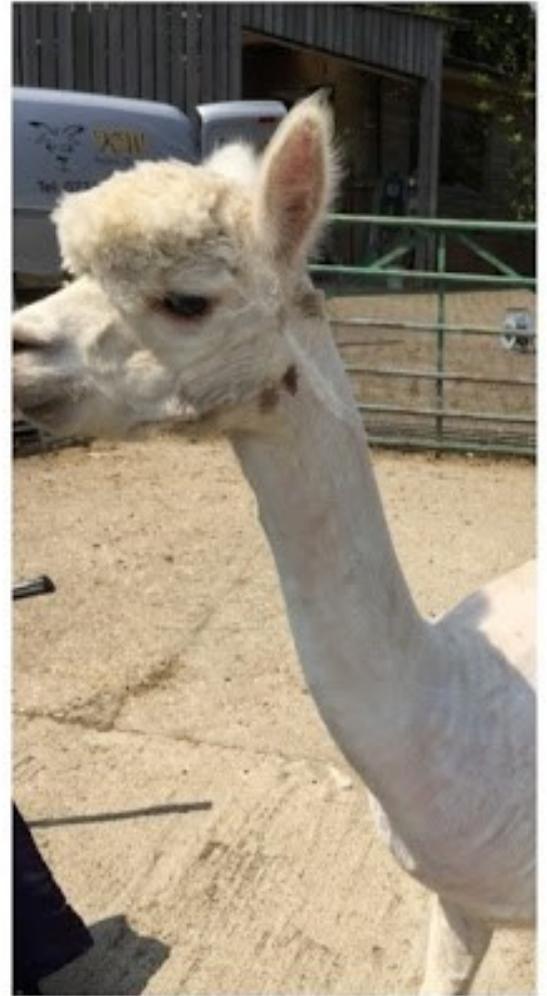
Mash is Sue's White Suri Alpaca, her fleece being very different is more like dreadlocks, sheared in the same way but such a different feel, still soft I was amazed how much heavier it was, with a high lustre and very silky. Much prized I understand.

Many thanks to Sue and the boys for letting us hang out with them on a very busy time. A very interesting & enjoyable day, Oh and I think I have now fallen for Ernie



. Oh Ernie!

...But don't say anything to Eric if you see him, will you? Veronica Biddlecombe



A note from your editor.

First of all may I thank you for your contributions to the newsletters. This time a special thanks to Hilary for her article about Averil Otiv's workshop and afternoon talk on 'Off Loom Weaving'. Veronica's experience of shearing Alpacas is very enjoyable so many thanks especially for the photos. We will not tell Eric or Ernie of your feelings.

Thank you again for all the contributors to the 'show and tell'. I love taking photographs of your projects and hope that you can come and see me when you have finished telling the Guild about them so that I can take photos and better descriptions of your work.

I would like to give a great big thank you to Jo for taking over the technical side of this news letter and also for her contribution to the web site. This newsletter is now easily readable on the web-site and pictures are in colour. She has great ideas for the future so watch this space.

Please, please can I have more items for the news letter. I would love to put pictures and a write up about – The Hillier Craft Workshops, The Romsey Show – The Silk Mill and anything else that you are busy with in the summer especially if it is under the Guild Banner.

Any ideas or suggestions for making your news letter more interesting would be gratefully received.

Joy Stevens

(email: pendine@gmail.com)

Events 2016

FIBRE-EAST, 30th-31st July

Redbourne Comm. Coll, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

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

HILLIERS ARBORETUM, 27th July, August 3rd, 10th and 17th

Ampfield. Children's Craft Activities each Wednesday

ROMSEY SHOW, Saturday 10th September. (See page 4)

Broadlands

2016 Meeting Dates

August No meeting

17th September

10am 'Taster Day' for non-members.
Committee meeting-Compton Room.

15th October

10am Fibre Day - Wingham Wool

19th November

10am Spin and Chat
11.30 am The Guild Challenge Reveal
2.00 pm Behind the Scenes of a commercial Sheep Farmer
Speaker Andrew Snow

3rd December

10am Meet for Coffee
10.30 am The Story of Folded Secrets
Followed by
Festive American Lunch

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