

Welcome to the May newsletter, especially to our new members!

May meeting – Open Day

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 18th May, at Craiglockhart Parish Church, in the main hall. This will be our Open Day, a chance to welcome interested people to see what we do, and to show off our talents!

How you can help:

- distribute flyers and share the event with people you know,
- bring your fabulous fibre and finished objects to display,
- contribute cake to the refreshments,
- sign up to do a specific thing on the day – click [here](#),
- bring your lovely selves and smile at people!



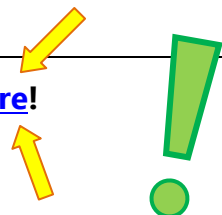
Committee News

- Current Guild Treasurer Nicola has announced her intention to stand down at the next AGM, and we are now seeking nominations for the position of treasurer. Chat to the committee or send us an email if you'd like to know more!
- The Committee is planning the programme for 24/25, and we're inviting ideas for workshops! We'd love to hear all ideas, from the very specific to the very general.



Dates for the diary

31 st May – 1 st June	Tangled Galashiels – sign up to volunteer here!
15 th June	Guild AGM
20 th – 23 rd June	Royal Highland Show
July, date TBC	Guild visit (Borders Scrapstore, Selkirk)

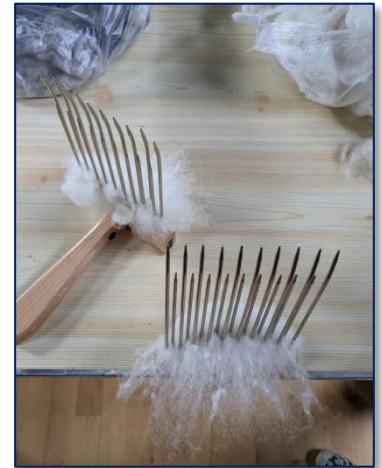


Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed at the start of June. Items for inclusion can be sent at any time to 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!

April meeting

April saw an equipment dating day, with a number of members bringing interesting – and some potentially lethal! – bits of equipment for folk to try.



Top line, L-R: Wheel, S. MacIsaac; Drum carder, S. Case; Table Wheel, S. MacIsaac.

Bottom, L-R: Wool picker, Combs, both M. Miller.



Photos: I. Rossi



Kirking of the Deacons of the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh

The annual Kirking of the Deacons took place at Greyfriars Kirk on Saturday 27 April. The Convenery of the Trades of Edinburgh were represented by the Surgeons, Goldsmiths, Skinners, Furriers, Hammermen, Wrights, Masons, Tailors, Baxters, Fleshers, Cordiners, Websters, Waulkers, Bonnetmakers & Dyers, and Candlemakers.

Guild member, Deacon of the Websters and current Boxmaster of the Convenery Katrina Balmer raised the Websters' banner and gave a reading before the Blue Blanket. The Blue Blanket is the banner of the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh, reportedly carried by the incorporated trades at Flodden in 1513.





A candle was lit by Reverend Peter Sutton, who conducted the ceremony, and representatives of the Jewish and Muslim faiths. The congregation then moved to the grave of Mary Erskine where words were said in hope and unity for the people of Gaza.

Mary Erskine's financial legacy permitted the founding of the Trades Maiden Hospital, now the Edinburgh Trades Fund, a charitable organisation administered by the Trades. This year the charity is supporting Ukrainian children living in Edinburgh, among other causes.

Karon Gilhooley (in attendance)



Woolly Good Gathering

On 26th and 27th April, our Guild demonstrated at the inaugural Woolly Good Gathering in Edinburgh. Our members showed their talents on the rigid heddle loom, spinning wheel, and spindle to visitors and encouraged them to have a go themselves. We also advertised our upcoming Open Day on 18th May.

The event itself was mainly knitting yarn focused with some spinning fibre, haberdashery, and general craft supplies. A special thank you to all of our members who demonstrated including Margon, Leonor, Laura, Charlotte W, Charlotte J, Lisa, Sheila, Jane, Sam, Kitty, Holly and Ravana!

If you're interested in demonstrating at an event for the Guild, we will also be at Tangled in Galashiels on 31st May and 1st June, and the Smallholders Festival in October.

The Tangled table was next to ours at Woolly Good, and I heard some exciting things about the Fleece Market!

Isabella Rossi



Photos: R. Eagleheart