

# EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

## Newsletter October 2020

Welcome to our first newsletter. As we have not been able to meet since February and it seems unlikely that we will be able to do so until some time in 2021 I hope this may help to keep members in touch with one another and see what others have been doing. We'll try to produce a newsletter each month while we are unable to meet so please do send any comments, contributions, suggestions to me (email [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com)).

If you have any suggestions of books to read or online craft shops, interesting sites do send them in so they can be included in next month's newsletter.

This month Rod Grant of Innerleithen Spinning Wheels was going to give us a talk about maintaining our spinning wheels. Although the talk has had to be cancelled he has said that he would be happy to come along at a future date when we are able to once again have meetings. Hopefully we will be able to rearrange it for some time in 2021.

### Should we try Zoom?

It has been suggested that we might have 'Zoom' meetings as we're not able to meet in person. Haddington Spinners have been having weekly Zoom meetings and have found it works well. If you would be interested in participating, or perhaps organising, a Zoom meeting let me know.

### Online Events

Some of you may have enjoyed some of the information and videos available from the Shetland Wool Week online event. Many are still available through the website at <https://www.shetlandwoolweek.com/events/>. Another event with some interesting 'How To' videos was Yarndale in September which can be found at <https://yarndale.co.uk/how-to/>.

### Membership Renewal

We are very grateful to the members who have renewed their subscription for 2020-21. If you haven't done so the Membership Renewal Form is available on the Guild website at <https://www.ewsd.org.uk/about.html>. Subscriptions can be paid by bank transfer. Just email me and I'll forward the details.

### How to Spin Alpaca Fleece

Frida Bleakley has made her first YouTube video. She had promised to spin an alpaca fleece for Gorgie City Farm and so was persuaded to make the video with the help of her husband, who filmed it, and Gorgie City Farm, who added the subtitles and music and who published it on YouTube. You can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pbMiz70QK0> or by searching for LOVE Gorgie Spinners in youtube.com. It's well worth a look.

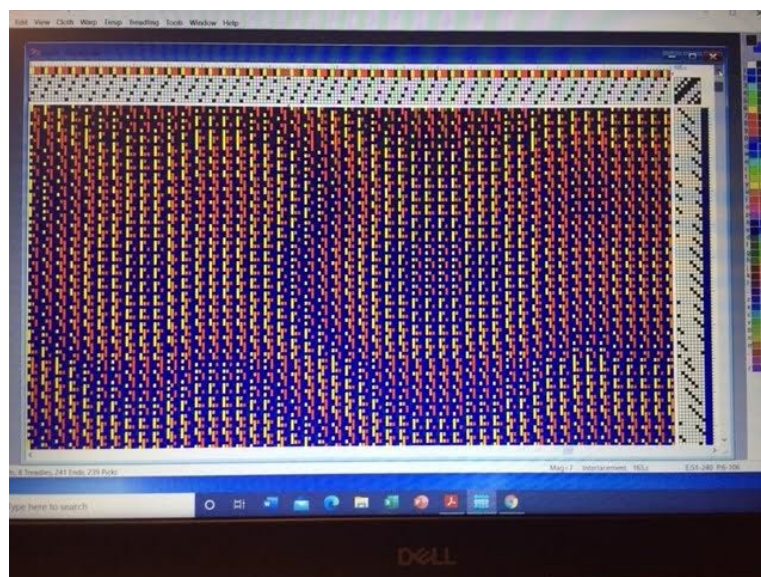
### **Buggy Blanket**

Frida has also been busy weaving a buggy blanket in McIntosh tartan for a friend's grandchild. She used a soft lambswool purchased from Yarnstoyearnfor. It is woven with a 2/2 twill and after it was woven Frida washed it and left it to soak for fifteen minutes, then brushed it lightly and steamed it. The fringes were twisted by hand and have coped well with the chewing, pulling and playing of a new baby who is now 6 months old.



### **Echo and Iris Weaving**

Erika Hollingdale is also a member of the Online Guild and decided to take part in their current workshop which is Echo and Iris weaving structures. It is an introduction to 8 shaft echo weave with iridescence. As part of the workshop Erika has used Fibreworks computer software for the first time and has sent the picture below. It sounds a big challenge and it will be interesting to see the weaving structure as she begins to weave.



### **A New Weaver**

After only recently starting spinning Carmen Wright has now started to weave for the first time. She has bought a 28" Ashford rigid heddle loom and is really enjoying it. Her first piece was woven on a 7.5 dpi reed using oiled wool for knitting machines with nine cashmere warp ends at each side. She has now woven a second piece using a 10 dpi reed and is on to a third piece using her handspun yarn for the weft.

She has sent a couple of pictures of her first piece, one which shows warping up in the sunshine and another showing the finished piece after washing. She put it through a 90 degree washing machine cycle so it shrunk significantly and is felted, fluffy and soft.



### **Fabric of the North**

Trisha Gow has two weavings in the Fabric of the North tapestry exhibition which is running in Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> January. Details of the exhibition can be found at <https://www.fabricofthenorth.org/>. The two tapestries are '57 Degrees North' and 'Carbon Capture' both of which can be seen at <https://www.fabricofthenorth.org/catalogue.html>. A larger view of '57 Degrees North' can also be seen at [http://www.btg-wovenart.co.uk/Exhibitions/btg/fabric\\_of\\_the\\_north.html](http://www.btg-wovenart.co.uk/Exhibitions/btg/fabric_of_the_north.html).

### **Local Fleece Processed at Borders Mill**

Jane Buxton and I spent a day in September skirting fleeces at Beecraigs Country Park in West Lothian. Luckily Jane had constructed a very professional skirting table to make the work easier.



In June Jane had selected about a hundred fleeces to purchase from Beecraigs. There are three different breeds - North Ronaldsay, Hebridean and Border Leicester cross - and she is organising to have them commercially processed. The first samples were processed by Borders Mill in Duns over the summer. The North Ronaldsay wool has been processed into rovings and the Hebridean and Border Leicester cross fleeces have been spun into double knitting yarn. Jane is selling her yarn through her business Wild Cat Crafts (the website is [www.wildcatcrafts.co.uk](http://www.wildcatcrafts.co.uk) but is currently being updated). If you are interested in buying some rovings or yarn contact Jane by email on [jdbuxton@hotmail.com](mailto:jdbuxton@hotmail.com).



### **A Spooky Puzzle**

Marilyn Caddell had a really spooky find during lockdown. In her back garden she has quite a large, deep container for plants in which she had some lovely pansies. When the pansies were getting past their best she took them out and added some fresh soil ready for replanting.

Two to three weeks went by before she did so and weeds had self seeded. She dug them out and forked over the soil. As she did so the prongs of the small hand fork hit something hard, several inches under the soil. When she investigated she found a hard boiled hen's egg still in its shell!!! If she and her husband have eggs for lunch they have them poached or scrambled so she is mystified as to how a hard boiled egg got there. Any ideas? You can email Marilyn at [marilyncaddell@talktalk.net](mailto:marilyncaddell@talktalk.net).

We'll include all suggestions in next month's newsletter.

### **Good Wishes to All from the New Association Representative**

Ann Johnson of Highland Guild, who is the new area representative for Scotland, called me to send her good wishes to all Edinburgh Guild members and to ask if Edinburgh Guild would be interested in getting involved in the creation of a pandemic wallhanging which she is thinking about. I have said we would definitely like to be involved and we look forward to further details of her plan. There will be more news about it next month.

### **Next Month**

I do hope you have found the newsletter interesting and any feedback would be very useful. Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the third Saturday of the month (November 21st). Please send all contributions to me at [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).