

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter November 2020

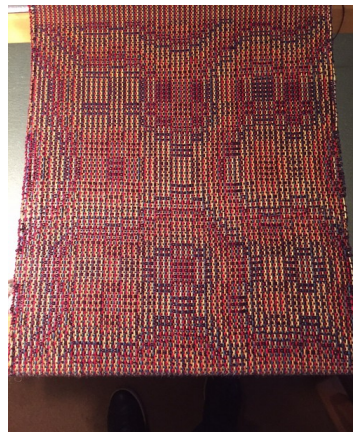
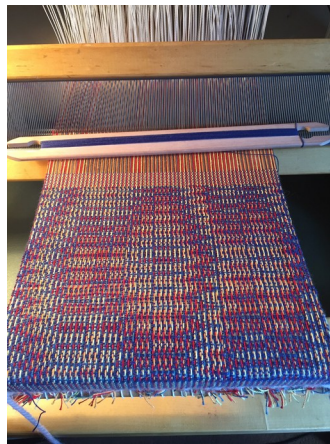
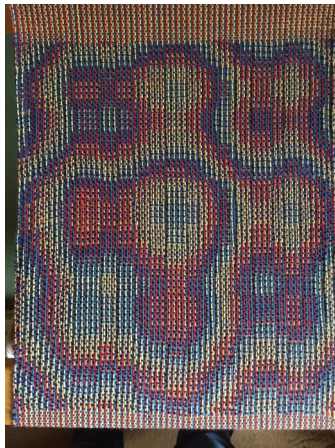
Welcome to the second edition of our monthly newsletter which we are producing while we are not able to meet. Thank you to all those who have sent in their contributions for this month's newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our December meeting on the third Saturday of the month and please do think about including something for next month. Just email anything which you think is interesting to pennyskett@gmail.com.

Poldrate Arts and Crafts Centre Members Exhibition

Haddington Spinners and Weavers who meet in the Poldrate Arts and Crafts Centre have a number of textile items in the members exhibition which is available on line from 16th November. The exhibition is available [here](#) or by accessing the Poldrate Arts and Crafts Centre website.

Echo and Iris Weaving

Erika Hollingdale has sent some pictures of her first weaving samples from the Echo and Iris weaving workshop with the Online Guild. A few of her first samples are shown below. All were woven on the same warp of 8/2 cotton in yellow, orange, red and teal on an 8 shaft loom at 24 epi.



Both samples on the left used a navy blue weft. The design line followed that of the warp with a 3:1:1:3 twill treading pattern. The second sample used an advancing point treading pattern. In the third sample a dark purple weft was used and a tabby pick was added to the twill elongating the pattern. The fourth sample is a more complicated weft pattern using turquoise and dark purple for the weft.

Erika has certainly illustrated the amazing variation in pattern which can be achieved from a single warp – and these are just some of her first samples!

A Bird Tree

In the first lockdown Jess McCaffery knitted a herring gull and hung it on to the bare branches of a plum tree in her garden which had died over the winter. Little children stopped to look and so she decided to knit more birds for the tree – a blackbird, robin, blue tit, green woodpecker, kingfisher, pheasant, puffin, oystercatcher, flamingo, parakeet, hummingbird, capercaillie and a mute swan and two cygnets. All were stuffed with unspun fleece and added to the tree.



They generated lots of interest and when they began to get battered by the weather Jess put them in a box labelled ‘free to a good home’ and they quickly disappeared.

As passers by asked what she would do next she decided to knit different fish for the tree. Again they quickly disappeared when she took them down and put them in the box.

Felted fruit and vegetables were the next ornaments but these did not withstand the weather as well as the knitted items and required repair when they were taken down.



Pat's Shopping Bag

Pat Laing has a new kitten and it has stopped her spinning over the last few months. The kitten thinks a spindle is a great toy and delights in trying to catch it. So instead Pat has been crocheting a shopping bag and has sent the following piece about it for our newsletter.

As I didn't get to Shetland Wool Week as planned this year I have decided to make some presents to take up next year. One present is a shopping bag for my sister. I am using up odd balls for this bag. I used Aran weight wool and it took most of a 500g ball to make the bag (14"x13").



Start with a row of chain to the length required (I made circa 52 stitches) and make a row of double crochet. At the end make 4 dc in the last stitch.

Proceed with dc into each loop on the underside of the chain and 4 dc in the last loop.

Continue in a spiral, working both sides, to the length required.

(I made 4 dc in the two ends for another 2/3 rows which gave a nice rounded corner and made the bag a bit wider. Sometimes it is a bit difficult to imagine the width when starting with a chain row.)

At the top I changed to a jersey tape and made one row still in dc.

For the handles measure and mark with a pin the positions making sure the two sides are even.

Attach the yarn to the first position with a dc and make enough chain for the length wanted (remembering to count as you go so you know the length for the second handle!).

Then dc into the second position to complete the handle.

Jersey is very stretchy so I left a long tail and wove it back up through the chain and secured at the first position. This stabilised the jersey and made a nice triangular handle.

Alternatively you could turn and dc back along your chain and again secure at the first position.

For the lining cut a piece of material to the width of the bag + seams and twice the length + turn in.

Try not to have a seam along the bottom as that makes a weak point. Machine sew the sides and hand sew the top edge of the lining to the top edge of the bag.

It is a really simple little bag to make and so effective.

Marilyn's Fungi Dyed Cushion

Marilyn Caddell has sent a picture of her fungi dyed cushion with news of what she has been doing.

The image below is of a cushion I made, using fungi dyed yarns, in 2001 to take to Finland to the Fungi and Fibre Symposium. As you can see, the logo is 'When it Rains it Spores'. During the winter I would like to try and make a matching cushion showing the activities that helped me get

through lockdown. Spinning, playing my harp, walking and gardening. This time the logo would be 'Keeping my Sanity in 2020 Lockdown'



Spinning - a German friend in my spinning group became ill and died two years ago. Her husband brought me the fleece that she had dyed but not been able to spin. I have been spinning it and plan to make something for her daughter and granddaughter.

Harping - I learnt to play a harp in 1995, graduating to a full size clarsach in 2000. I now have five friends that also play and normally we get together once a week to play. Not in person at the moment but on zoom. I have to admit that I haven't been practising as much as some of them!

Walking - we have been having a one hour walk most days since March. The weather has mostly been good and we have only missed doing so on 10/12 days. We are so lucky in Lanark in having several lovely walks from our doorstep, so the Clyde and a pair of walking boots could feature.

Gardening - in recent years we have flown to Australia to visit our daughter and family in our autumn (their spring) before the hot summer temperatures kick in. It means that we have not pruned trees and cut back shrubs as we should have done. Catching up on this has taken quite a lot of lockdown time and we also have five areas of grass to cut!

Marilyn received a couple of suggestions of animals which might have been responsible for the hard boiled egg buried in the plant container for her pansies – a squirrel or a fox. However it still does not explain where a squirrel or a fox might have found a hard boiled egg!

Textile Pandemic Project

Ann Johnson, the Scottish and Northern Ireland representative of the Association of Guilds, has begun to develop the ideas for a textile pandemic project which she is hoping as many people as possible from Scotland and Northern Ireland will become involved in.

Her idea is to create a wall hanging to represent the pandemic and our slow emergence from it

which is created during the pandemic. She hopes that it will bring together guild members from throughout Scotland and Northern Ireland. At the bottom of the wall hanging would be a dry stone dyke with a gate opening to a path which leads through hills into the distance and to light and sunshine. To the surface will be attached symbols of the covid virus, those at the bottom being large and ominous and then getting smaller and lighter towards the top of the hanging as they recede into the distance.

A lady from Highland Guild is currently preparing the design and the concept is that members of guilds and groups will participate by spinning yarn for the project and/or weaving/decorating panels which can be sown together. There will be a need for handspun grey wool for the dyke and brown wool for the gate. Ann is thinking it should be 2 ply and 15-20 wraps per inch. If you are interested in producing some yarn for the project let me know.

A zoom meeting will be organised for all those interested in participating in the project from Edinburgh Guild and also from Haddington Spinners and Ann is going to join it to give an outline of the project. The meeting will be on **Wednesday 25th November at 6pm**. If you would be interested in being involved please do let me know so that I can ensure you are sent an email with a link to the zoom meeting. Please do think about participating.

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 (19th December). Please send all contributions to me at pennyskett@gmail.com.

Don't forget to send me an email if you are interesting in learning more of the Scotland and Northern Ireland Textile Pandemic Project.