



EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter February 2021

Welcome to the February edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our March meeting on the third Saturday of the month so please do think about sending something for inclusion and many thanks to all those who have sent contributions for this edition. Just email anything to pennyskett@gmail.com.

Don't forget that next month, on 20th March, we have a talk from Katie Weston of Hilltop Cloud on Zoom. The details can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please email me for the Zoom link. While we are not able to meet in person we hope that we will be able to organise a 'virtual' meeting on Zoom at least every couple of months. All suggestions for future events are welcome.

Orkney: Between Islands

Ann Mitchell has sent information about an online exhibition 'Orkney: Between Islands' which might be of interest to members. Launched in December 2020 it is part of a Between Islands project promoting the heritage and culture of Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides. The online exhibition includes a 'Crafts' section with pictures, photographs and information relating to 'Textiles', 'Fair Isle Knitting' and 'Harris Tweed'. A link to the website can be found [here](#).

Christmas Break Weaving and Knitting

Nicola Stock has been busy weaving and knitting over the Christmas break and here are some of her resulting finished pieces.

This array of colourful samples is the result of Nicola's first foray into overshot patterns with her 4 shaft table loom as part of the Tien and Janet Weave-Along.



Nicola wove this stylish alpaca/wool poncho on her 24” rigid heddle loom. It was woven in two strips and then partially seamed together



In addition to weaving Nicola also completed some knitting projects – some British wool socks with rainbow miniskeins and Britsock yarn from the Knitting Goddess and a ‘Strandwanderer’ scarf using Wollmeise variegated yarn which involved some interesting two-direction knitting and required learning to purl backwards!



North Country Cheviot Fleece

During the first lockdown last year Laura Baigrie acquired a freshly sheared black North Country Cheviot fleece through her village Facebook swap-shop group. The fleece drop happened on a sunny Saturday outside the town hall (with appropriate physical distancing) and she felt it was rather like an exchange of illicit goods. She has sent pictures and some details below.



“The fleece is quite varied, with some incredibly soft springy sections, some coarser grey sections, and in testing seemed to come out best as a worsted. I did card some of the shorter bits, and had enough to long draw for a hat, which went to the lady shepherd who provided the fleece. Then I had to go back to proper work, so things went on hold for a bit.

I'm now getting around to processing it - on my new Christmas-gift combs - and I think I'll have enough for a jumper. Maybe it'll be finished by the time we can have a proper Guild meeting!

*Photo 1: fleece laid out in the garden on a tarp ready for skirting;
Photo 2: neatly stacked in a tub ready for washing.”*

Stitched Motif of Eden's Hall Broch



Laura has also become involved in producing a stitched panel with a local sewing group:

“The local sewing and tapestry group were given custody of a panel for the welcome tapestry which will be displayed in the new building housing the Great Tapestry of Scotland. They held an open-stitching evening (pre-Covid) where anyone could add a few stitches, and I attended. Recently I was offered the opportunity to complete one of the small, outline-style motifs that will make up the border of the welcome tapestry, which is very exciting and a bit daunting - there's no real guidance on stitch choice, and I really don't want to make a mess! However, I've completed my outline of Edin's Hall broch, and just need to add some bits to give the suggestion of stones.”

Weave A Real Peace

If you missed the Weave a Real Peace discussion about textile traditions in Guatemala last month but would be interested in looking at it you can access it on WARP's YouTube channel. The link to WARP's YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/>

Below are the websites of the three speakers involved in the discussion

Mari Gray - Kakaw Designs - www.kakawdesigns.com

Anne Kelly - Mayan Hands - www.mayanhands.org

Alisa Woofert – UPAVIM - www.upavim.org

WARP are holding another discussion on 20th February. The topic will be 'Continuing Textile Traditions – Asia'. It is a free event and will run from 1pm to 2pm Eastern Standard Time (6pm to 7pm for us). If you are interested you can register for the event [here](#).

Dovecot Studios

Dovecot Studios are organising a number of online events including 'Transforming Turner' on Friday 19th February. To mark the end of a three year apprenticeship at Dovecot Elaine Wilson has been weaving an interpretation of a Turner watercolour. The one hour talk on Friday discusses the creation of the tapestry and includes seeing the work being cut from the loom. Information about events being organised by Dovecot, including the event on 19th February, can be found on their website [here](#). There is a cost for each event but the fee helps to support the continuing work of the Dovecot.

Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk

If you are interested in colour and design you may be interested in the curator's tour of the Victoria and Albert Museum's exhibition 'Kimono: Kyoto to Catwalk' which is available to watch online via You Tube. The exhibition traced the evolution of the kimono from the 1660s to the present day and outlined its significance both in Japan and in the rest of the world. There are stunning pictures of some of the beautiful garments in the V&A collection. There are five videos in all and a link to the first video is [here](#). The link to the second video is [here](#), to the third [here](#), the fourth [here](#) and the fifth [here](#).

Flags of Hope

The Threshing Barn are hoping that there will be some wool shows which they are able to attend in 2021 and are offering to provide packs for anyone interested in producing a 'Flag of Hope' to help decorate their stand when it is finally possible again. There are four different packs and so you can choose between a Weaving Pack, a 2D Needle Felting Pack, a Knitting and Crochet Pack and a Sewing/Mixed Media Pack. Details of the 'Flags of Hope' can be found [here](#).

Next Month's Virtual Meeting



Next month we are going to have our first 'virtual' meeting. Katie Weston of Hilltop Cloud is going to give a talk about 'Origins of the Modern Sheep'. Hopefully this topic will be of interest to all members whether or not you are a spinner. The following is Katie's outline of her talk.

"Sheep are intrinsically linked with the history of the British Isles. These hardy creatures have been an essential part of our agriculture going back to pre-historic times. However, the sheep we see in our fields today look nothing like the sheep our ancestors would have known. In this talk we'll take a whistle stop tour through time and space, learning how this species has played its part

in shaping our countryside and our craft.”

The meeting will be held via Zoom which is very easy to use. You don't even need to have a Zoom account to join the meeting. Just email me and I will send you the link to enable you to join the meeting. I do hope everyone will be able to participate. The meeting will commence at 10.30 and will be organised in two 45 minute sessions with a 15 minute break between the two sessions. There will be opportunity for questions and discussions at the end of the talk.

You can find out more about Katie and her business Hilltop Cloud [here](#).

Don't forget to email me for the Zoom meeting link! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's faces at next month's meeting.

Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the third Saturday of the month (20th March). Please send any photos of your craft projects and contributions to pennyskett@gmail.com.