



## EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

### Newsletter December 2021

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our January meeting (Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January) so please do think about sending something for inclusion and many thanks to those who have sent contributions for this edition. Just email anything to [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

There's no 'in person' meeting this month as Craiglockhart is not available. Instead there will be a zoom meeting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. The topic will be Christmas craft ideas – Christmas gifts, decorations, and anything else associated with crafts and Christmas. Do look out any gifts you have received, things you have seen or items you have made to talk about and exchange ideas.

It was wonderful to meet again in November and members brought an amazing array of woven items to display and discuss. In addition there was a sale of items kindly donated by Jenny Lettice and a total of £245 was raised for Guild funds. Here are a few pictures from the day.



### **Ebb and Flow Tapestry**

In last year's December newsletter there was a picture of Trisha Gow's 'Ebb and Flow' tapestry which, inspired by Jess McCaffery's Bird Tree in the November newsletter, she had decided to display outside on her garden fence. It has survived the elements over the past year and Trisha brought it to the display of weaving. Here it is again.



### **Climate Change**

Her 'Ebb and Flow' tapestry, and its survival of the year's weather, emphasised Trisha's concern for the effect we are all having on the climate. She has sent a link to the report of Scotland's Climate Assembly. In 2020 over a hundred ordinary people from throughout Scotland were brought together to discuss climate change and propose ways forward. Information and the report can be found at <https://www.climateassembly.scot> We can all make a contribution and play our part. Maybe we should have a discussion about how we can contribute in our work with textile crafts at a future meeting.

### **Guild Equipment**

The Guild has three spinning wheels which are available for hire to members when required – two Ashford Joys and one Ashford Traditional (with a Lazy Kate). Members are needed to look after the wheels when they are not required for hire. If any member is willing to keep any of the wheels please email [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).

### **Corners**

A suggestion for a future meeting in the spring is to have an event with "Corner Sessions" where groups sit in separate corners/areas of the hall learning a new skill or technique from another member. Marilyn Caddell has offered to show her Triangular Weaving, Penny Skett has offered Nalbinding and Pat Laing has offered Pin Loom Weaving. What skills, techniques can other members offer to enable an event to be organised. Or if a topic is of particular interest then let us know what would be of interest. Please email [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com) with all offers/suggestions.

### **Wise and Foolish Virgins**

The depiction of 'wise and foolish virgins' is a frequent subject in Norwegian tapestry.

There is an interesting video showing some of the tapestries at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lrEekPazEw&list=PLE3r5-AUJI-plvLofzffqaWR1ch6B0P73&index=5>

### **Artisans Beyond Borders**

In April Val James talked to us about the work of Artisans Beyond Borders in supporting asylum

seekers on the US/Mexico border by enabling them to work together to make their traditional embroidered manta cloths.

This is a link to the latest update about their work.

<https://artandfaithinthedesert.com/2021/12/06/artisans-beyond-borders-winter-update-2021/>

### **Royal Highland Show 2022**

The Scottish Craft Championships were an online event this year. A reminder of the events can be found at <https://www.royalhighlandshow.org/the-show/the-scottish-championships/>

It is hoped that it will once again be a live event in 2022 and the Handcraft Competition Schedule is now available.

The overall theme for 2022 is 'Celebration of the Countryside' and the theme for the Handspinning, Weaving and Dyeing Section is 'Birds and Bees'.

Although the full schedule has not yet been published the date for submitting entries is usually in April with items having to be completed and submitted for the event in June. It is a great opportunity to showcase textile crafts so please do think about putting in an entry so that the crafts of Weaving, Spinning and Dyeing are well represented at the event.

Details of the section are:

*Section F: Handspinning, weaving and dyeing. Theme "Birds and Bees"*

24. *Hank of Shetland Yarn – 2 ply for knitting. Hand spun from Shetland sheep. Include sample of fleece staple.*

25. *Three hanks of Hand spun yarn using different natural fibres and dyes inspired by the title - mounted on card identifying plant sources.*

26. *Hank of fancy yarn i.e. slub, loop or spiral. Specify intended use and include a small worked sample.*

27. *An article in homespun yarn – knitted, crocheted or woven.*

28. *Wall hanging inspired by the theme. Any hand weaving technique – able to be hung.*

29. *Tote bag in any hand weaving technique.*

### **Topsy-Turvy World**

Avril Nicholson discovered that the author of the poem Marilyn Caddell had found last month was William Brighty Rands, a Victorian author, who specialised in writing poems for children. The poem has an additional, and rather apt, chorus:

*Ba-ba, black wool,  
Have you any sheep?  
Yes, sir; a packfull,  
Creep, mouse, creep!  
Four-and-twenty little maids  
Hanging out the pie,  
Out jump'd the honey-pot,  
Guy Fawkes, Guy!  
Cross latch, cross latch,  
Sit and spin the fire;  
When the pie was open'd,  
The bird was on the brier!*



### Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting – the third Saturday of the month (15<sup>th</sup> January).

Don't forget this month's meeting is an online zoom event on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. **If you haven't already received the zoom link and you wish to join the meeting please email [pennyskett@gmail.com](mailto:pennyskett@gmail.com).**

Do keep sending any photos of your craft projects and contributions

Wishing you all a very good Christmas and an excellent New Year and here are a few more photos from last month's meeting and some of the fantastic display of woven items.

