

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter June 2022

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our July meeting (Saturday 16th July) which will be in the large hall of Craiglockhart Church. If you have any photos or links for inclusion in next month's newsletter just email them to pennyskett@gmail.com.

June Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 18th June in the large hall of Craiglockhart Church. The Guild AGM will be held at 11 am. It is two years since we were last able to have an in person AGM. Hopefully as many people as possible will be able to attend.

Last Month's Meeting

Our meeting last month was a busy day. Kitty Johnstone introduced members to making spindles using simple materials. We all were able to take away spindles which could be easily made and which could be taken apart so that they would fit into a small bag. Marilyn Caddell then talked about her experiences of dyeing the colour blue and showed us some beautiful examples of pieces she had produced including her magnificent blue patterned quilt. In the afternoon Penny Skett encouraged everyone to try long draw spinning which is particularly useful if spinning very short fibres such as cotton and showed the use of the Ashford Quill which could be used in place of the flyer on a number of Ashford wheels and mimicked spinning on a Great Wheel.

July Meeting

Next month's meeting is on Saturday 16th July at Craiglockhart Church Hall. Lindsay Roberts (The Border Tart) will be talking about Indian Textiles. You can find more details about Lindsay and her work at <https://www.tartsart.co.uk>

Glasgow Indigo Dyeing Project

By coincidence, after Marilyn's talk about dyeing blue last month, the Guild received this email from Elisabeth Culshaw in Glasgow about her indigo dyeing project in Glasgow.

"My name is Elisabeth Viguie Culshaw, I am a natural dyer and tutor based in Glasgow and member of the local weavers guild there as a dyer, currently preparing the certificate of Natural dyes (with a lot of distractions).

I hope you won't mind sharing a project I am running for the next couple of years in Glasgow and with some "at home" growers.

Having started growing Japanese Indigo at home I have branched out into a bigger project and the indigo plot is now a small dye plant garden in the grounds of the Glasgow Botanical Garden. I have attached a post about it below in case it might be of interest to your members. I am growing Japanese Indigo, Woad, Weld, etc... in order to share with the public, Indigo pigment and Indigo

fresh leaves dyeing techniques. I am also growing this year with a group of 25 "at home" growers. This is something I will be repeating next year on a bigger scale and I was hoping some of the local guilds would be interested to have a go. The climate in Scotland is very varied and it is very interesting to record the results of participants scattered from Shetland to the Scottish borders.

During late summer/autumn I will be able to share the garden with garden visits and demonstrations of Fresh leaves dying but I also can animate zoom sessions or in person Indigo dye workshops. If you click my linktree link below you will see the range of activities I cover.

<https://thelansdownehouseofstencils.com/2022/05/30/theindigoplot-at-the-botanics/>

I am at your disposal if you have any questions about the project or would like to take advantage of this experience to share some knowledge in dye plants/Indigo dye techniques."

If members are interested we could organise a garden visit, a zoom session or even an indigo dyeing workshop.

Equipment For Sale

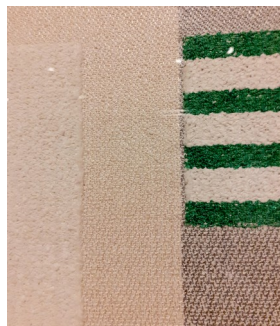
Ashford Blending Board Trisha Gow is selling an Ashford blending board (information about Ashford blending boards can be found at <https://www.weftblown.com/products/ashford-blending-board>). Trisha will be bringing the board to the meeting on Saturday 18th June if anyone is interested. She is asking for £40 for the board.

Drum Carders Jess McCaffery is selling her Drum Carder and will bring it to the meeting on Saturday if anyone is interested. The Guild is also selling its Drum Carder as it has been decided that it is not a suitable piece of equipment for hiring out. It is an older Drum Carder and needs careful use. Please contact pennyskett@gmail.com if you are interested or need more information.

Barbara Hepworth Exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art


Jane Glendinning has sent some pictures from the Barbara Hepworth Exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art which is on until 2 October 2022. She writes that

"Weavers may be interested to learn that Barbara Hepworth turned her hand to weaving on the odd occasion. There is an example of her work in the current Hepworth exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh.



In the weaving Hepworth seems to have been exploring the juxtaposition of colour and texture. Measuring about 4 feet square and dating from 1940, the weaving was made in cotton and rayon, and is normally held at Manchester Art Gallery, who loaned it for this exhibition."

Inspired to Spin – a new book from Alison Daykin and Cath Snape



Inspired to Spin

Alison Daykin
Cath Snape

A beautiful comprehensive guide to spinning your own yarn, using wool, silk, flax, cotton and exotic fibres. Uses British terms and breeds.

- Includes all areas deemed important to be a complete spinner by the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.
- From understanding fibre, through preparation and spinning, to design, fancy yarns and finished projects.
- The authors bring their own unique skills to the book covering every aspect of hand spinning in a very readable format with clear pictures and illustrations
- This book is for all spinners who wish to extend their knowledge.

The authors, Alison Daykin and Cath Snape have spent the last three years not only writing this book, but testing every technique. In addition Jane Deane and Amanda Hannaford have added their expertise by reviewing the book and giving technical advice to ensure it is accurate and up to date.

Crowdfunding

We are crowdfunding this book so that we can employ a high quality copy editor and publisher. Inspired to Spin will be published in January 2023.

The Crowdfunder launches on Friday 27 May.

You can support us by pre-ordering a book. See our crowdfunding page for other opportunities to support us:
<https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/inspired-to-spin>

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A New Loom

Penny Skett decided to arrange to see the Louet Hollandia 8 shaft loom advertised in last month's newsletter by Eden Valley Guild - and bought it. It has now been totally stripped down and reassembled and is looking good although it is going to need a new set of rollers which Louet are still able to manufacture. Here it is with Penny's first trial weave. Weaving on a counter-march loom for the first time was certainly an interesting experience!



Fine Art Graduate Show at Glasgow School of Art

Jane Glendinning visited the Fine Art Graduate Show at Glasgow School of Art which was held in early June and has sent these pictures of some of the work.

“Amongst the many works on display, these weavings caught the eye. As you can see, the first is a small tapestry weaving, measuring about 13cm square and showing a very realistic image of a girl's head. The second work is about 75cm square and demonstrates a very effective use of negative space. The final, evocative work, of which only a detail is shown, used a wide variety of plant material in the weft.”



Next Month

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our next meeting on the third Saturday of the month, 16th July). And don't forget in July Lindsay Roberts (The Border Tart) will be giving us a talk about Indian Textiles.

Do keep sending photos of your craft projects and links to items of interest to pennyskett@gmail.com.