

EDINBURGH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

Newsletter November 2022

Welcome to another edition of our monthly newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be circulated about the date of our December meeting (Saturday 17th December) which will be a 'virtual' meeting via zoom instead of our usual 'in person' meeting at Craiglockhart. Don't forget that if you have any photos or links for inclusion in next month's newsletter just email them to pennyskett@gmail.com.

November Meeting

This month's meeting is on Saturday 19th November in Craiglockhart Church Hall. Following the cancellation of our November talk on spinning wheel maintenance by Rod Grant we have a new workshop in its place, which will be run by Jane Howorth, making a wrist distaff.

Wrist Distaff Making

A wrist distaff is a handy device you can make for yourself. It's made from yarn and weighted with beads. It hangs from your wrist and can be loaded with fibre ready for drafting. It's very portable, which makes it particularly useful for spindle spinners, but can be used equally well by spinning wheel users.

This is a free class which is open to all members.

If you want to take part, you will need to bring with you a selection of yarns to use. These can be handspun and/or commercial yarns; dk, aran and/or chunky weights work best. You will also need beads, buttons, charms or other items to fasten onto the distaff, and a fine crochet hook or yarn needle for threading these items onto your yarn ends. Scissors and a medium sized crochet hook are also useful.

You can also bring some fibre, a spindle or spinning wheel if you want to try out your newly-completed distaff straight away.

The class will start at 11.00 and will last about 2 hours.

The Dyeing Interest Group will be having its first meeting at around 1pm. After last month's fascinating talk about fungi dyeing there will be plenty to discuss!

Last Month's Meeting

Carmen Wright has sent a wonderful report on the fascinating talk given by Marilyn Caddell and Trisha Gow last month as well as sending some photographs to remind us of the beautiful examples which Marilyn and Trisha brought along to show us on the day.

"Like falling down the rabbit hole. Magical, mysterious and beautiful. That is what it felt like

listening to Marilyn Cadell and Trisha Gow's presentation on dyeing with fungi. I counted sixty four shades of browns, yellows and purples on the woven wool samples. All methodically and scientifically labelled with the typed Latin names of the foraged fungi used for dyeing the fibres. The colours are vibrant yet soft and they work well together in any combination. A labour of love. I liked that they are mindful foragers, they gather only enough fungi for the vat and no more, trying to live harmoniously within the ecosystem. So many ideas to try.

Here is a publication with photographs and text detailing Marilyn Cadell and Trisha Gow's beautiful work.

<https://issuu.com/tiscali582/>”

And some photographs of the wonderful work they brought for display.



Carmen also reported

“Had a fruitful meeting at the weavers' group, where people showed the double weave from the September workshop, weaving with Colinette art yarn, brought books with example worked from the book, intricate linen work. We decided on some homework for next time: to weave a piece of cloth with floats.”

Summer School Bursaries

The National Association has asked that we remind all guild members that the deadline for bursary applications for the 2023 Summer School is 22nd November.

The form (either in word or pdf) can be downloaded from the AGWSD website -

<https://www.wsd.org.uk/summer-> Alternatively just email pennyskett@gmail.com for the form.

National Exhibition September

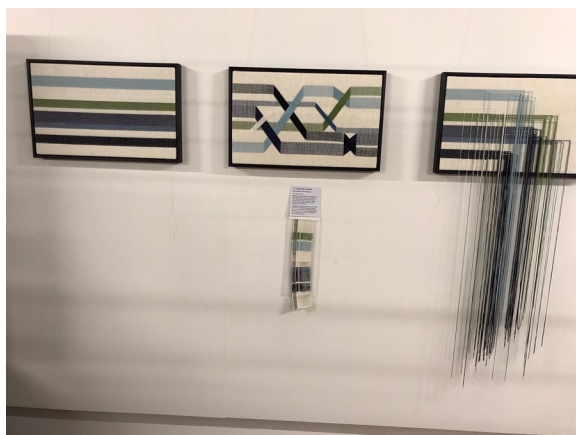
As promised last month here are some of the pictures which John Palmer took when he visited the National Association's exhibition at Leigh Spinners Mill in September.



Jane White – Raindrops



Mayemi Kaneko – Linked In



Sarah-May Johnston - Coal, Cotton Canals Triptych



Susan Head – Along the Usual Lines

Damask Weaving

Rebecca Brown, a third year product design student at Edinburgh Napier, has written to say *"I'm Rebecca, I am a product design student at Edinburgh Napier. It was suggested to me to contact your group to ask for a lesson on weaving. I have to for a project take an old technique and bring it into the future. I have chosen damask but have been having trouble finding someone who knows how to weave it. Or to teach me weaving in general. Any help would really be appreciated as I'm working to a tight deadline."*

If you are interested in contacting Rebecca just contact pennyskett@gmail.com and I can forward her email address.

December Meeting

Don't forget that there will not be an 'in person' meeting in December. Instead we are having a zoom meeting on Saturday 17th December at 11am. Janet Crowther of the National Association will talk to us about the Association's Certificates of Achievement. Laura Baigrie is currently undertaking the Certificate of Achievement in Spinning and she will tell us how she is finding it.

Here is some general information about the Association's Certificates of Achievement

<https://www.wsd.org.uk/about/certificates/>

More information about the different Certificates of Achievement can be found at

<https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/certificate-of-achievement/>.

And the link to the syllabus of the Certificate of Achievement in Spinning can be found at

https://wipagwsd.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/coa_syllabus_spinning_amended_sept_2017.pdf

Next month's newsletter will be circulated at about the date of our Deember meeting on the third Saturday of the month (17th December).

Do keep sending photos of your craft projects and links to items of interest to

pennyskett@gmail.com.