

Welcome to the April newsletter, especially to our new members!

## **April meeting**

The next meeting will be on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, at Craiglockhart Parish Church. We hope to have the main hall for this meeting.

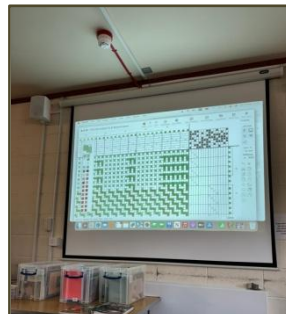
## **Equipment dating day**

Bring along your fibre-related equipment for other members to see and try out. Anything from a diz to a drum carder to a warping mill will be most welcome. Sheila MacIsaac, a former member, will bring a number of interesting items from her collection.



## **February meeting**

Guild member John Palmer delivered a very useful talk on using software to design weaving patterns.



## **Association News**

The latest edition of the Association News is attached to the same email as this newsletter.

## Committee News

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The committee has co-opted Katrina Balmer, long-time organiser of the Broughton Gathering, as an ordinary member.



## Book review - *Yarnitecture*, Jill Moreno

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After years of languishing on my 'Books to Buy' list, I finally picked up *Yarnitecture* by Jillian Moreno and I'm very glad that I did! Moreno explains how the choices we make during the spinning process affect our final yarn. This book goes step by step through the spinning process and includes chapters on types of fibres, fibre preparation, drafting, plying, colour manipulation, finishing, and using your handspun yarn. Each section features lovely photos demonstrating each point so that you can directly see the different yarns each choice creates. I was particularly a fan of the chapter on colour because I have a tendency to buy brightly coloured tops and have no idea what to do next with them! The book also features twelve knitting patterns designed for handspun. None of them really caught my fancy, but that is more reflection of how incredibly picky I am rather than their quality.

This is not a how to spin book so it wouldn't be my first recommendation for new spinners. However, it does a great job of breaking down and explaining everything that influences hand spun yarn so I would recommend it as a second book for new spinners! I've been spinning for almost ten years, and I still found it a very useful guide. Although the book is technically for spinners looking to knit with their handspun and all of the samples are knit, it would still be helpful for weavers, crocheters, etc. who are looking to design yarn for their craft. In particular, I would recommend this book to my fellow guild members who are undertaking the Certificate of Achievement in Spinning. I'll be referring to it heavily when designing and sampling for that! *Yarnitecture* by Jillian Moreno can be ordered through your local bookstore or online [here](#).

Isabella Rossi



## Woolly Good Gathering

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We are delighted that the Gathering is able to accommodate a rota for volunteers to demonstrate and publicise the Guild. If you previously expressed interest in demonstrating, please check your emails for a quick form to complete regarding your availability.

If you hadn't previously put your name down, but would like to now, we have a few spaces left - please complete the form here: <https://forms.gle/wzwRd7ucBthKih77A>

## Examples of work

We would love to be able to display members' work at the Gathering. If you have anything you would be happy to have on display, please bring it (if you are able) to the April meeting, or, if you are demonstrating at the Gathering, directly to the Festival.

It would be great to display examples of weaving, spinning and dying, and from various stages, so everything from finished objects to fibre would be welcome.



## Royal Highland Show (20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June)

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Entries are now open for the Royal Highland Show – more information here: <https://www.royalhighlandshow.org/trade-competitions/competitions/other-competitions/>

We encourage all members to consider submitting something!



## Open Day – May meeting

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The May meeting is our Open Day, and plans are well underway.

We already have offers and ideas for activities and roles, and we now formally invite everyone to let us know if and how you would like to contribute.

Katrina will co-ordinate the display of members' work – if you've something you're particularly proud of, please bring it along!

Frida, Kitty and Margaret will present a fleece-to-fibre display – please discuss with them if you'd like to get involved!

We will have refreshments available, and home baking will be gratefully received for this.

If you have any particular ideas for what should happen on the day, please get in touch! We want the event to be as engaging and interesting as possible.

In particular, we would like to offer visitors the chance to have a go at spinning or weaving, and so we would like to have a few 'tutors' available to support this.

Please email [Edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com](mailto:Edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com) with any questions, ideas, or to volunteer for something specific, or put your name on the list at the April meeting.



## Contributions

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The next newsletter will be distributed at the start of May. Items for inclusion can be sent at any time to [edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com](mailto:edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com). Show us what you've been working on, share the name of the book or website you found really useful with everyone, tell us about really cool exhibitions or events you've been to or you've found out about!