

Welcome to the June newsletter!

June meeting – AGM and Talk

Three things are happening in June:

1. John's wife will be coming to the meeting at 10:30 with things from John's stash for sale, as well as photos of larger items. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to Medecins Sans Frontieres, so please bring cash!
2. AGM – see separate notice.
3. Talk about the Golden Tapestry Reawakened (13:30).



May meeting

Alice from the Rare Breeds Survival Trust presented a fascinating talk about rare breeds in the UK, and fielded equally interesting questions from members afterwards.

She discussed the importance of diverse livestock breeds, the organisation's efforts to protect these animals, the successful conservation stories of various sheep, and how we can help by promoting native wool in our crafts. Do you have ideas, collaborations, organisations, links, etc. that you would like to share with the Rare Breed Survival Trust? Email us, and we will compile everything into one email to Alice.



The Trust is holding a conference in Perthshire on 31st July – see the attached flyer for more information.



Librarian

We currently have a vacancy for a librarian to care for the Guild's books. Responsibilities include:

- Bringing a selection of books to each meeting
- Storing and organising library books
- Tracking book loans
- Removing any unwanted books from collection
- Purchasing new books

Please let us know if you would be interested!



Misc.

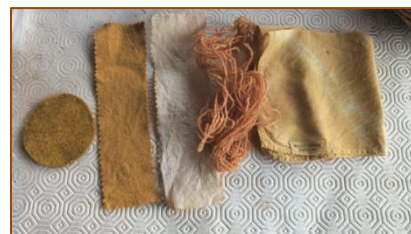
BBC Two screened *The Warp, the Weft, and the Weaver* at the end of May, a documentary about damask linen weaving. You can watch the programme here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002cwb7/the-warp-the-weft-and-the-weaver>



Members' news

Trisha attended a basket weaving workshop, and though she has experience and made baskets previously, she really liked doing this one! Trisha has also been working with Sarah Clarkson to teach fungi dyeing to the Edinburgh & Lothians Fungus Enthusiasts committee.



Janet attended an introduction to weaving course and wove a lovely tartan scarf.

Leonor knows a person with some longwool sheep being imminently sheared, with fleece available – contact Leonor for details!

Joanne has acquired a sock machine and time to use it!

"After a little bit of a wait I finally received my circular sock machine (CSM) from Erlbacher. Although the first recorded CSM was invented in the UK by William Lee in the 16th century, it was not until 1864 that Samuel Slater patented the first commercial machines. There were many different manufacturers of CSMs from all around the world but getting an antique machine is no easy task. Luckily there are some companies which make new CSMs, or if you have a 3D printer and are technically minded you can 3D print your own! I looked at several different makes and decided to purchase an Erlbacher machine, partly because they provided a lot of useful information and also because it had an equal slot ribber which provides more flexibility.



Having followed other users on Facebook (and heard a few horror stories) I was a bit frightened to start unboxing my latest toy. However, once I finally plucked up the courage I discovered it was very straightforward to unbox and set up.

I thought I was the only person in Scotland interested in these machines but then discovered Sam was also drawn to them. In fact there were enough

people to have a 2-day meeting. These events are normally called “Crankins” but as this one was a Scottish meeting it was renamed the “McCrankin”, taking place in Killiecrankie in May.



My first project was to make a sock bonnet, which is needed to start your socks. Once the sock bonnet is in place you crank some waste wool for several rows then change to your project wool. Care is needed to ensure the correct tension is maintained but it is quite straightforward - so long as your cat doesn't bite through the wool and you don't notice! I am still experimenting with different wools and tensions and heavily reliant on YouTube videos, but have managed to make a couple of pairs of socks. I am happy to discuss this technique in more detail, so please ask if you want to know more!

My socks are a bit “baggy” but I am getting there!”

<https://tiesthatbindyarn.com/blogs/news/history-of-the-circular-sock-machine><https://www.csmlove.com/>



Broughton Gathering

A quick reminder that the Broughton Gathering takes place on 16th August, at Broughton Village Hall, Broughton (near Biggar), 10am to 4pm. Entry is £4, which includes refreshments (but not lunch, so bring a packed one!).

The Gathering includes the Chrissie Anne competition – anyone can enter something they've made since the last Gathering, which contains an element of hand spinning. Bring it along on the day to enter!



Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed at the start of August. Items for inclusion can be sent at any time to 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!