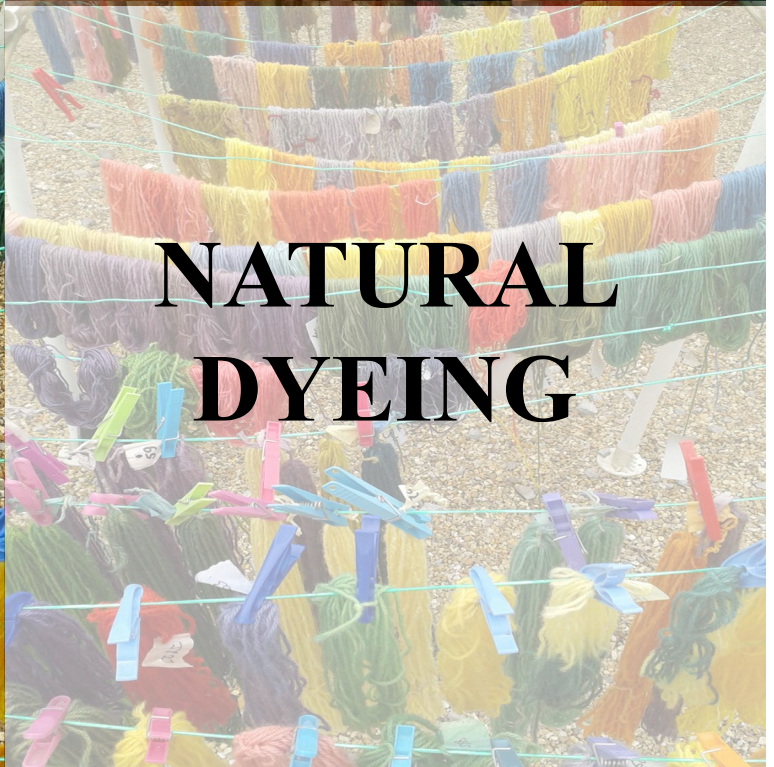


SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019



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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Guild Members,

Changes and Challenges



The world keeps changing and as it does so it presents us with many challenges on how we cope with these changes. In the last 50 years work patterns have changed, in the 1950s and 60s most mothers gave up work when they married or had children. This period was also what I think of a golden age for many groups such as the W.I, Towns Women's Guild, Spinners and Weavers etc. Women especially had the time to attend and run these groups. But times change most women now have to work. Work practices mean that many people now have to work in a what is known as a 24/7 society. All this leads less time for leisure and as a result many groups have closed or are struggling to survive.

At the Hampshire Guild we are not immune from these challenges. In the last year 6 members have or are going to stand down from the various jobs they do within the Guild. All of these members have given long and valued service to the Guild, however only 2 new people have come forward to replace the 6. Also one position is going to be filled by someone already doing several jobs within the Guild. So to cope with the position we find ourselves in we may need to change.

As you know I asked members at the last News and Views to approve some changes to the committee structure and the way we conduct meetings in an attempt to reduce the workload. These changes may take up to a year to fully implement and then they will have to prove viable, if not we will have to be flexible and adapt to make sure we have a workable system.

It may be that to continue as a Guild we look at unusual ways of doing things. An example may be programme organiser. Jenny asked over a year ago to stand down, currently no one has come forward.

Thankfully Jenny has continued to look for Speakers for next years programme but there are still a number of months to fill. One solution could be that we put members names and the months we need a speaker in a hat, draw out a name and a month and that person is responsible for that month's programme.

A proposal full of snags and problems but please, start thinking of how we meet these challenges. One thing is certain that for the Guild to continue to function, it maybe we have to seek unusual solutions.

So it's up to you, members of the Guild, how do we fill the current vacant or soon to be vacant positions? Those of you with long service to the guild can perhaps suggest ways that could make some of the jobs easier. Those of you who have yet to serve the guild please take the plunge, consider how you could help. Put your hand up so we can put "Vacancy Filled" on all the positions.

As the world changes so as a Guild must we. Only then can we be sure that our ancient craft skills are being passed on through the generations.

Richard Grapes



Spinning a Yarn, Weaving a Thread

Guild exhibition at Whitchurch Silk Mill, 30th November to 5th January

Coral Newton

As the sun shines, it is hard to think of winter, but the closing date for entries, October 19th will soon be here. Hopefully you are thinking of what you would like to put into the exhibition, if not already making your items.

For the Guild challenge 2019, members are invited to submit items for inclusion in the Exhibition which can help showcase what the Guild does. There is no limit to the number of items any member can submit, but we will seek to display items from a range members displaying a range of skills. Items do not need to have been made this year, although it would be nice to be specially made for the Guild challenge. To qualify, items must display at least one of our **core skills - spinning, weaving and/or dyeing**. The exhibition runs up to and over Christmas, so there is the opportunity to offer your entries for sale, subject to a commission which will go to the Mill.

The **deadline** for submitting items is the **October** meeting (Saturday 19th), one month earlier than the usual Guild Reveal, so that we can plan the exhibition.

The exhibition will be stewarded by members of the Guild for the five weeks that it is open. We will be looking for people to sign up for the stewarding rota, and to help with the children's activity on the weekend of 14-15 December, which Veronica has kindly agreed to coordinate.

Pick up a copy of the submission form from the Guild website or request a form from coralnewton99@gmail.com If you need to know more, ask any exhibition committee member; Della Storr, Coral Newton, Suzanne Butler, Alex McArdle.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was a spinning day, with many people teaching and demonstration different spinning techniques.

We had 7 visitors including Jenny and Jackie from the New Forest Guild.



Jackie



Jenny



Maria



Ann spindle spinning

Maria Douglas could use a spindle and was learning to spin on her wheel. She enjoys knitting and is looking forward to knitting her hand spun wool. Ann demonstrated spindle spinning and Beverley was teaching two junior guild members the technique watched by Jean.

Luke, Julie and Sarah Jane came with spinning equipment and accessories, fibre samples and drop spindles to see. They were on hand to give advice and help put wheels right or take them away to repair.

Marianna was delighted, Luke agreed to repair her very old spinning wheel and bring it back looking as good as new.



SHOW AND TELL

Jo bought a Cobweb Shawl kit from the sales table last year. The kit contained skeins of single ply white Shetland wool and the knitting pattern. This the Spring the shawl was completed.

Alex is weaving a rug a month to use up all her stash and this rug was her February one.

Mary used her first piece of weaving in cotton to make a zipped bag.

Joy was wearing a hand woven waistcoat whose pattern changed after removing it from the loom



Equipment for Hire

The Guild has various items of equipment for hire which include;
Drum Carder (standard and narrow), Blending boards, Marudai Stands,
Wool Combs, and wooden tapestry rail

The list of equipment is on the Guild website in the members section.

For more detail on the equipment and how to hire them go to the information on the [website](#) or speak to Maya.

The Guild Library is open at every meeting, you can see the list of books and magazines available, on our website in the Members area

MAY MEETING

After a refreshing cup of tea, Richard gave us the notices and we all had discussions about the different items.

Unfortunately the speaker was not able to come to this month's meeting so we all had a spinning and chatting day with some impromptu braiding workshops taking place.

With May being shearing sheep month I wondered what people use to dye their new white fleeces?

A lot of people use onion skins and **Meryl** puts the onion skins in a muslin bag with white vinegar and boiling water then leaves until cold. She also uses nettles, fruit juices and beetroot juice.

Patricia uses locally grown weld. She has a big tea urn to boil the water. By using Alum mordant and rusty nails she get different colours, she also used onion skins without mordant.

Ann gets a nice orangey colour from the roots of docks and seeding tops. She uses Alum or Ferris Sulphate bought from the garden centre. She also puts aluminium acetate in a bottle of distilled vinegar which she leaves for months and puts copper into a bottle of vinegar for dyeing small amounts.



For this sample Ann used brown and green walnuts, onion skins with alum, brown onion skins with Sumac, Dock tops with alum, green Herb Robert with alum, Golden Rod with alum and iron, dark red Hollyhock flowers with alum, Meadow Sweet with alum and iron, yellow Sweet Cicely and Honeysuckle flowers with alum.

Veronica uses lichen, sometimes with alum mordant although it is not necessary. Also Beech leaves, and Ferns which can be put in a bucket of water for a week.

Alex has dried Avocado skins and stones and used a dozen to make a beautiful terracotta orange.

What are YOU going to use on your fleece..... ?????

SHOW AND TELL

Alex wove a wonderful rug for her hallway as requested by her husband. Unfortunately it is so thick that new doors are required to go over it. She is weaving a rug a month this year to use up her stash.

Helen went to Beverley's workshop and spun enough yarn to knit a pretty cardigan.

Beverley needed a stole to go to a wedding. She started weaving on Sunday and finished it by Tuesday.



Patricia made a braid on her Inkle Loom for the neck of a blanket top for her husband to keep warm when using his potter's wheel. She also showed us some backstrap weaving that she did at a workshop held at Whitchurch Silk Mill.



Sue dribbled dye onto a warp and made a very distinctive bag from the result. She also showed us one of the rugs she made on a warp long enough to make two rugs.



SUMMER DEMONSTRATIONS

Summer is the time when guild members visit various venues to demonstrate and teach our special skills.

The first outing was The Totton Arts festival at Hanger Farm. Mary and Shobhna were the first to arrive and set up the gazebo and textile display. Jean, Sue and Cheryl soon arrived. It was a wonderful warm sunny day and Mary had great interest in her Inkle weaving whilst Jean concentrated on small weaving kits for the children to take home. Shobhna, Cheryl and Sue were spinning and it was not long before they had a big audience waiting to 'have a go'.

Jo and Joy arrived in the afternoon and were very busy with children and adults alike having a go at braiding and spinning with lots of happy children going home with braids and hand spun friendship bracelets.

Last year Beverley saw some Kees-hound dogs in the New Forest and she spun yarn from their fluffy coats making a very warm hat. We were lucky enough to meet them and invite them (and their owners) to come in and look around.

Sue donated a bouquet of flowers for the raffle and a good day was had by everyone.



Richard, Caroline and Deborah had a successful and fun day with the Cubs at their camp at Werewell. There was a Japanese theme to their activities.

More events for the Summer for being part of the demonstrating teams are: Petlake Alpacas near Netley Marsh, Little Woodham Open Day, South-down Show and Romsey Show. Speak to Caroline if you would like to volunteer and be part of a demonstrating team at one of the events.

The Hampshire Guild are represented at the Vyne House this summer with spinning demonstrations as part of the project created by Lorna Goldsmith.

If you are fortunate enough to attend any of these venues please send me a little article plus a photo for the next newsletter. Thank you. Joy

JUNE MEETING

While Richard, Deborah, Liz and Jo were busy at John Lewis demonstrating spinning and felting the main hall was full of spinning, knitting and chatting. The sales table was very busy and the raffle exciting as usual.

SHOW AND TELL

Veronica made a ‘stash buster ‘ rug for her garden bench. A lovely colourful way to use up all that spare ‘stash’!



Sue Hartfield was lucky to win some John Arbon yarn in the raffle and these are the socks made from that yarn.

Beverley had a lot of machine knitting yarns and made a double-weave throw in different shades of blue.

THE STROUDWATER TEXTILE TRUST

In the afternoon we had a very interesting talk by Ian Mackintosh from Stroudwater Textile Trust.



The waistcoat that Ian was wearing is an example of the type of fabric that the many mills in that area were famous for. As 400 years ago the horsemen and soldiers wore bright red uniforms. Once again it was the ability to dye the materials the right colour and these mills were the only ones able to do this at the time. They are still made today by the one remaining mill as is the green baize for billiard tables. The reason they were able to make such beautiful fabric was because they used teasels again and again until the cloth was smooth.

The slide show was interesting and pictures of the coloured cloth drying on tenterhooks in the fields must have been a very impressive sight.

More modern materials are used by top tailors for suiting today. We had an interesting look at mills and weaving from 400 year to the present day.



A DYEING WEEKEND

A group of weavers from Wellow were very lucky when Judy Hardman agreed to hold a dyeing weekend.

We all arrived on time on Saturday morning and Judy was already stirring pots and pans. She told us all about natural dyeing and mordants and then demonstrated different natural dyes she had bubbling away.



Before we left we put several non mordanted 10g. Skeins in the Indigo pot, the rest of our 60 skeins we left in piles for Judy to put in Alum mordant overnight. We then went home with great anticipation for the next day.

Sunday we were not disappointed. We started putting our skeins into Weld, Logwood, Cochineal, Dyers Greenwood, Dyers Chamomile, Madder and Coreopsis.

Shobhna tried some tie dyeing with Alex's help. Wendy was looking for her skeins amongst the many others.

At the end of the day we had a wonderful collection of colours all with natural dyes. A wonderful weekend was had by all. Thank you Judy and Jo.



NEWS FROM THE YOUTH GUILD

Since our last newsletter report we have had another two workshops, both of which ran smoothly and were much enjoyed by youngsters and helpers alike.

On 10th April we spent the day dyeing wool with Kool-Aid powder in a good range of bright colours, mostly straight from the sachet but also having a go at mixing powders to see what shade this might produce.

While the many mini-hanks were queueing up to be “cooked” in the microwave oven, kindly lent to us by Catherine Hopkins, we had a go at producing pompoms out of commercial yarns, using plastic pompom makers to ease the task. After lunch the youngsters assembled shade cards showing the range of colours they had dyed in the morning, for future reference. This was followed by a session of tassel making, trying out different types of heads, again using commercial yarns as the dyed hanks were largely deemed to be too precious for the purpose.



On 29th May we gathered round a square of tables to have a go at weaving with paper and thin card, starting with classical pre-cut paper looms and nothing but straight lines, but trying out different weaves, to wavy weaves with hardly a straight line in sight except for the border which was designed to hide the ends of the paper strips used as weft.

Lunch very nearly did not happen because the youngsters were unwilling to stop but we persuaded them it would be a good idea to refuel for the afternoon. We then went on to produce "subversive art" by weaving a reproduction of an image into that of another, thereby creating a piece of new art. Where time allowed, parts of some of the resulting new images were turned into covers for pencil holders and making greeting cards. Most of the small square classical weavings were laminated to be used as coasters.

We have said it before, but it is worth repeating, that we are always delighted with the level of concentration and creativity that the youngsters bring to whatever task they tackle within the workshop environment. That makes it all worthwhile.

The Workshop Team



EVENTS COMING UP 2019

27 & 28 July | Fibre East | Bedford| [More Info](#)

30, 31Jul & 1Aug | New Forest Show | Brockenhurst| [More Info](#)

3 August | Petlake Alpacas Open Day | Netley Marsh | [More Info](#) |HWSD

4 - 11 August | AGWSD Summer School 2019 | York | [More Info](#)

4 August | Little Woodham Craft Day | Gosport | [More Info](#) |HWSD

17 - 18 Aug| South Down Show | Petersfield | [More Info](#) |18th only HWSD

24 - 26 August | Internationwool Festival | Anglesey | [More Info](#)

31 August - 1 Sept | Southern Wool Show | Newbury | [More Info](#)

14 September | Romsey Show | Broadlands | [More Info](#) | HWSD

28 Sept - 6 October | Shetland Wool Week | [More Info](#)

HWSD = Events where the Guild will be demonstrating

For more Events visit the [Diary page](#) on our website.

Guild event information and to volunteer; [email Caroline](#), or talk to her at a meeting or visit the Guild Demonstration Events page on our [website](#).



HWSD PROGRAMME 2019

August No Meeting

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**21<sup>st</sup> September-** 10am Main Hall ‘TASTER DAY’ open to non-members

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19th October

10am Meet in the main hall for The Guild Challenge Reveal

10am **WESSEX WOOLCRAFT FIBRE DAY**

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**16<sup>th</sup> November**

10am Main Hall ‘News & Views’

11am **GUILD WEAVING DAY** – Bring your loom, try new techniques, have a go.

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7th December

10am Meet in Main Hall for Tea / Coffee

10.30am Main Hall – Speaker PETER HEWLETT-SMITH
‘Journey down the Silk Road’

Followed by our own festive American Lunch

Changes to the Guild Annual Programme for the AGM, Committee Meetings and News and Views 2019/20

MEETINGS:A maximum of 5 meetings each year: 2 Committee meetings, 2 News and Views and an AGM

Suggested meeting months: AGM: July, Committee: November and May, News and Views: February and June

These months are flexible to fit with the program of speakers in the year, however the morning of the committee meetings will be spin and chat days.

Additional meetings may be convened if necessary. An extraordinary AGM may be called at any time as set out in the constitution.

STANDARD AGENDA for each Committee and News and Views meetings;

Those Present /Apologies

Minutes of the previous meeting for accuracy

Matters arising

Any business that requires a decision

Any statement or report

from the Officers as required and then from the Programme organiser/ Events coordinator/ Youth Guild, if requested by the committee or the individual coordinator

Any other business

LENGTH OF MEETINGS for AGM and Committee meetings will last no more than an hour. News and Views meeting will last no more than half an hour. For all meetings; they may be longer in exceptional circumstances.

Our Guild Contact details

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<u>Events Co-ordinator</u>	Caroline	eventshwsd@yahoo.com
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THE COPY DEADLINE FOR THE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 1ST 2019

**ARE YOU VISITING EXHIBITIONS OR GOING ANYWHERE WITH INTERESTING
TEXTILE RELATED ACTIVITIES? CONSIDER WRITING A SHORT ARTICLE WITH A
PHOTOGRAPH FOR THE NEWSLETTER.**