



# ***AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2017***



**Hillier Garden  
Summer Crafts**



**The Whitchurch Silk Mill Exhibition**



**Talks**



**Show and Tell**



**Demonstrations at Summer Events**

## List of Contents

Title	Page
List of Contents	2
Chairman's Letter	Della Storr 3
<b>JULY MEETING</b>	
AGM	4
Show and Tell	5
Sailors, Knots and Crafts	
Talk by Ken Yalden	Alex McArdle 5
An invitation from Sabine	6
<b>AUGUST</b>	
Hillier Gardens	Caroline Tilley 7
The Whitchurch Silk Mill & Touch of Silk Exhibition	10
AGWSD Summer School 2017	10
<b>SEPTEMBER MEETING</b>	
HWSD Guild Taster Day	13
Colours of the Celts workshop	Mariana Perry-Zoupanou 14
Summer Exhibitions	Alex McArdle 15
2017 Events where the Guild has demonstrated	17
Events 2017/2018	19
Meetings 2017	19
List of Officials	20

The HWSD Guild Newsletter is composed and compiled by Joy Stevens

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Guild Members,

I am sitting in the garden enjoying a cup of tea in the sunshine while I draft this. It makes me think of the mixed weather we had during the summer.



For Hillier's, we had three extremely wet Wednesdays, followed by a lovely hot sunny Wednesday. I think the rain put people off going to Hillier's and by the time we got a sunny Wednesday, no one wanted to be indoors. Whatever the reason, we certainly didn't get the level of interest we are used to, it was very disappointing.

Romsey Show also suffered with the rain. The setting up and the taking down were extremely challenging with the RAIN and the MUD! But attendance and interest were very good – a most enjoyable day.

After our September Taster Day, I drove home very pleased and buzzing. We really had a good number of visitors I think and they were all very interested. On the day, we signed up five new members and added several new names as potential for the Youth Guild. In addition, several people spoke to me about joining the guild next month. A very good day.

So thank you to everyone who was busy at the summer events, those I mentioned above and also any other ones that you went to, but I didn't.

Weaving wise, I am on a mission. I am trying to weave six scarves by mid-November. Is it possible – well yes, but who cares about housework! Two have been completed already and the warp for two more is just going on the loom as I write. Two more have yet to be planned.

The mission is to take them as presents when I go to India, back to see my friend Nirlipta and her family who were so nice to me when I went to Nirlipta's wedding back in 2011. This time Pete is coming with me and we are doing a bit of tourist stuff.



So, you will be pleased to know (ha, ha) I will be at the November meeting for News and Views – I still want a volunteer to take over as Chairperson in July 2018. Unfortunately, I won't be at the December meeting as we will still be in India.

Anyway – keep weaving, spinning and dyeing.

Della

### **JULY MEETING**

Della took the AGM, which started with several apologies. The minutes were passed and in 'matters arising' it was confirmed that an estimate of value for the books was acceptable.

Della continued with a summary of the events talk and activities that has taken place over the last year and thanked all the members of the committee and other guild members who helped throughout the year. She also warned us that she will be standing down at the next AGM so please think of a new chairman.

Coral gave a treasurers report even though she stood in at the last minute as Catherine was unavailable.

Jenny wetted all our appetites with a summary of what is coming in next year's programme and Maya told us what the Junior Guild has been doing. It is for Juniors between 8 and 16 and will have its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October.

Jo was thanked for the administration of the Guild web site which is getting better and better every day.

The committee was voted on unanimously by those present. In 'Any Other Business' it was agreed that the entrance fees would be increased to £2.00 in September and the Lunches would increase to £3.50.

Della suggested that we had an exhibition again as it is many years since the last one and Alex and Coral agreed to head an exhibition committee.

Sylvia Mapp has been a member for 45 years and it was decided to make her an honorary member.



## SHOW AND TELL

Alex took the Show and Tell and first up was a lovely Leno Scarf woven by Mary.

Richard bought in three scarves one spun from John Arbon's tops and two woven from the book 'Fabrics that go bump'



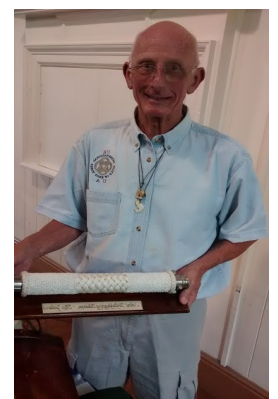
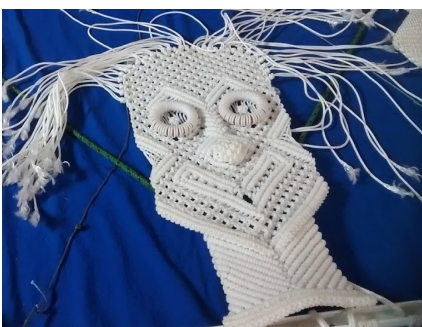
Ali showed us her yarn that she hand dyed using tea bags, a shawl and her favourite socks, hand spun and hand knitted. These will keep her warm now that she has moved to Scotland.

Alex asked Sarah to show us her beautiful cardigan knitted in Lace weight Icelandic yarn.



## SAILORS KNOTS & CRAFTS

Our July speaker, Ken Yalden - a representative of the International Guild of Knot Tyers had visited us over 20 years ago!





On that occasion I became totally inspired by the beauty of ropework and knot tying - so much so it inspired a piece of work with which I gained a Distinction in my City and Guilds course assessment in the 1990's.



This time, a little more relaxed than the previous occasion - and with a small group of fellow knot-tyers we had a wonderful display of craftsmanship - from some very traditionally decorative bell ropes and covered bottles to the practical weighted rope ends (to facilitate the throwing from boat to boat /ship to shore etc) and from delicately knotted 'jewellery' to robust macramé - originally used for deck mats now as decorative hangings - making full use of all the modern synthetic and colourful cords.



Ken gave us a potted history of both his naval background and of knotting - his own introduction to knotting coming from being a Boy Scout

There were opportunities for members to have a go under the knot-tyers guidance and watchful eye!

I do hope it struck a chord with some of you and you'll be inspired to have a go - the macramé cords make a lovely embellishment and a 'crown' knot a good button! At the very least do take the Ashley Book of Knots out of the library for a delightfully whimsical read / peruse!

Alex McArdle

## **An Invitation from Sabine**

A group of us have been meeting in each others' houses for spinning and chatting for a while now. We used to get together once a fortnight on a Monday morning, but sadly numbers have been decreasing for one reason or another.

So we're trying out different times to include people for whom Monday mornings are not possible. The next one is planned for **Friday, 27 October, from 10 am to 1 pm, at Caroline Tilley's house in Chandlers Ford**, and another one for the afternoon of **Monday, 13 November, from 1pm to 4 pm at Carol Chatten's in Lockerley**.

If you would like to give us a try, email the host;

[caroline\\_tilley@yahoo.com](mailto:caroline_tilley@yahoo.com), [carol\\_chatten@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carol_chatten@yahoo.co.uk), or contact Sabine on [0778 639 4203](tel:07786394203) or at [sabine.heiliger@gmail.com](mailto:sabine.heiliger@gmail.com) to find out more and get directions.

## **AUGUST**

We do not have a meeting in August but the guild is still active with some members taking part in the craft sessions at Hillier Gardens. The arrangement this year and the lower numbers of volunteers and participants at the sessions have led to the following discussion;

### **'Thoughts about demonstrations at Hillier Gardens and beyond'**

This discussion started as a debate about expenses and has grown!

**Hillier Gardens history and set up**—In 1953 the distinguished plantsman, Sir Harold Hillier established the Gardens and Arboretum. The Gardens were left under the sole trusteeship of Hampshire County Council in 1977 and is run as a charity,

The **Guild's involvement**- I (Caroline) have been involved since 2012. Shoshanna started several years before and asked for a contribution towards our costs.

This year Carla (Hillier Education Organiser) said they were struggling to pay us, with the result that we offered to do the 4 sessions for £150 instead of the usual £300 and we would think about what to do next year and after later on. That time is now!



## **How much/what for?**

A widely held opinion is that we are doing Hilliers a favour with our presence. They could/should pay us more. Others believe that Hilliers is a great venue for promoting our Aims. (Indoors, spacious, advertised, kitchen available, storage, footfall,) We put a great deal of effort into preparation and organisation. We need at least a dozen guild members to support the activities. Was this years' low numbers in both children and Guild members a trend, or a one off?



Is there anywhere else? This year I have counted 10 other venues that we have attended with demonstrators. Do they provide funds, advertising, support, shelter, tables, chairs, parking? Some do some don't.

If Hilliers give us money, should it be dished out as travel costs?

Does anyone claim travel costs for any of the other sites? Does anyone know that they are entitled to travel costs and claims for materials if they are conducting guild business? Raw materials? Printing?

## **Activities and staffing.**



Would more people volunteer for demonstrations; If they had more information? If we planned ahead and trained members in the crafts we demonstrate? If we listed different activities and got people to sign up to activities in advance?

Should we put illustrations of the activities on the web site? Would more Guild members volunteer for ANYTHING if we canvassed new members and found out what their interests are, what they might be prepared to take on?

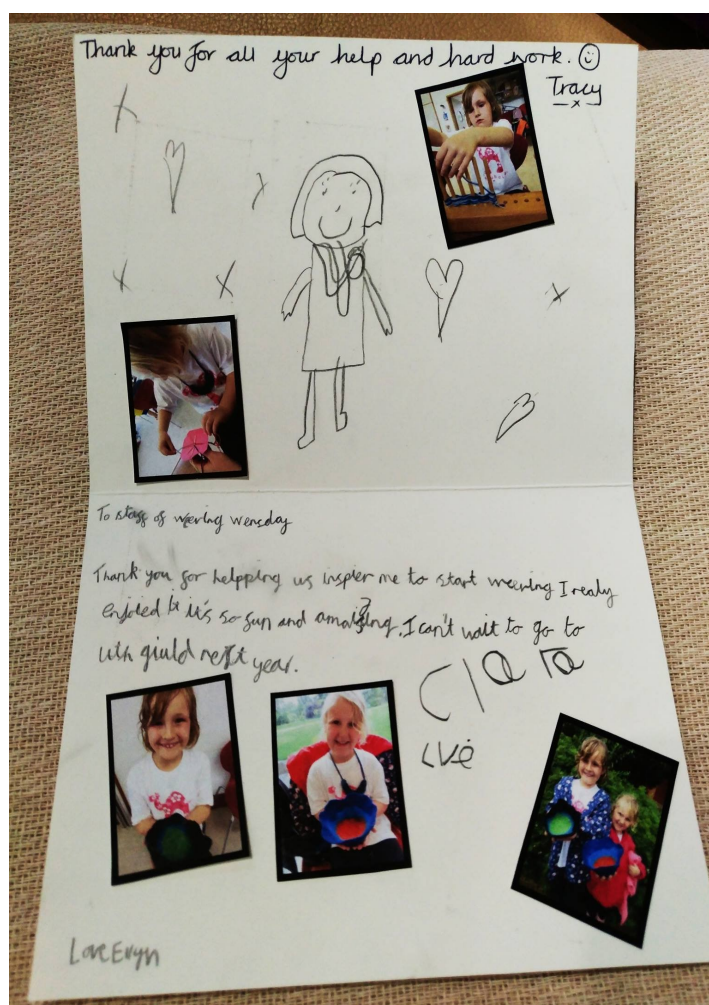
And repeated this yearly before the AGM?

Should we advertise ourselves on the Friendship braid cards? Add beads and “Choose your colours” to Friendship Braids and sell them? Sell greetings cards with crafty topics?

Some activities at Hilliers require booking in advance. Could we do that and add a charge for more sophisticated activities like felting and back strap weaving? Would people pay to weave a hula hoop? (Note, some activities, eg. tree abseiling pay Hilliers to be there!)

**My Thoughts.** We should carry on and see if low numbers this year are a trend or a blip. We should ask for donations wherever we demonstrate, but think how to raise funds to cover costs. We should ensure that all guild members know that they can claim expenses on Guild business. We should use the Guild Profiles and the Index of Everything to facilitate improved communications with members. We should harness the enthusiasm and energy of those members who have ideas like these. We should make demonstrations an agenda item at the AGM and work to make sure that members understand why it is important.....and how much fun it is!

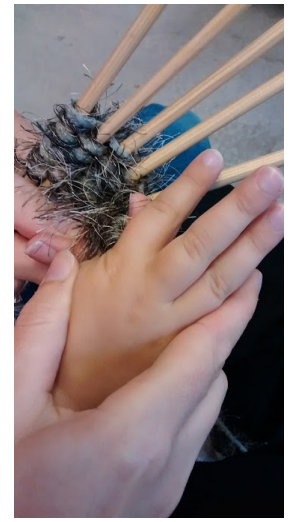
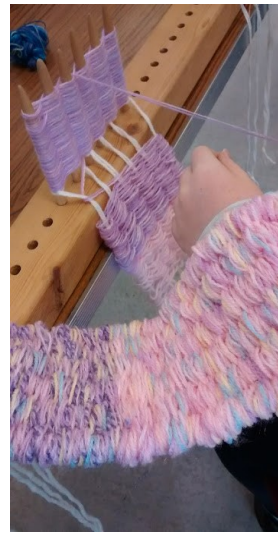
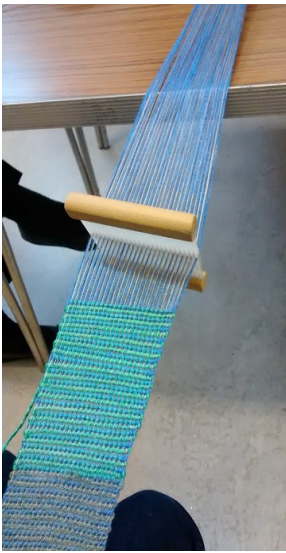
Carla said this year, “I am so pleased with the quality of the work you did with the children and the feedback we have had.”



[Click to read full article](#)

Caroline Tilley



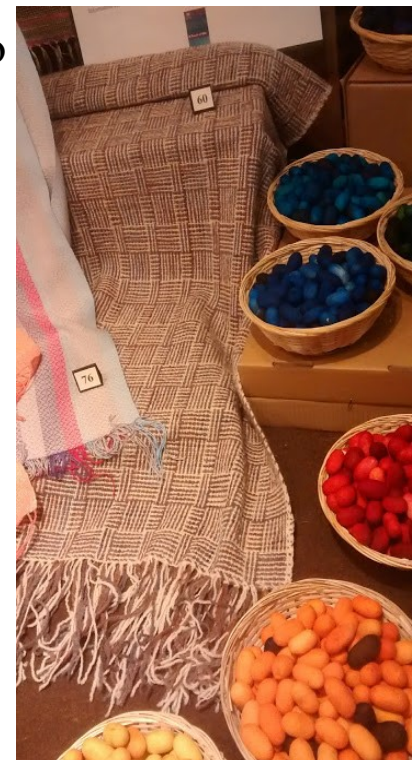


The children who attended the craft afternoons did a variety of crafts including; felting, back strap weaving, peg loom weaving, braiding, finger knitting, stick weaving and spinning.

### **A Touch of Silk Exhibition at Whitchurch Silk Mill.**

August was the last month the Mill would be open to visitors before undergoing a complete refurbishment which will take a few years to complete. The Touch of Silk exhibition by the local guilds was on display and Jo and I went to have a look.

Our Guild was very well represented by Mary Keer, Ann Lovick, Ella Doney, Della Storr, Beverley Dowdell, Ruth Holzer, Karen Parking, Helena Pessi-Wilkinson, Patricia Silver-Warner, Marina Perry-Zoupanou, Alex McArdle, Coral Newton, Eileen Holmes, and Deidre Wood.







As we went on the last week, the Mill was getting rid of many things that were no longer needed. Jo bought a nice solid table for her table loom and we both came away with old looms that they could not get rid of.

Having given it to them few years ago I now had it returned and

thanks to Richard it is now back in my house.

Jo filled her van with the bits for her loom and Richard delivered mine a few days later.



## Association Summer School at Sparsholt

What a surprise to see so many Guild and former Guild members at the Association Summer School at Sparsholt in August. Titled 'Simply Special' it was! On leaving the registration area I was off to help someone unload when I bumped into a Durham



friend stepping out of a taxi - we had been founding members of the Durham Guild over 35 years ago and here we were in next door rooms and sitting at the same workroom table on the same course.

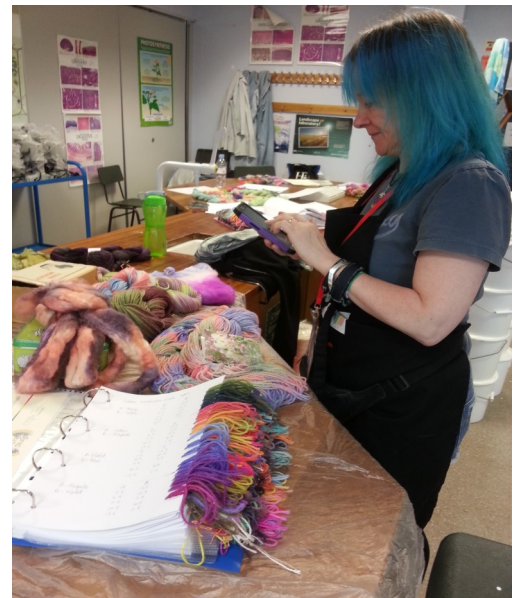
I'd opted to do the 'embellishment' course with Jenny Parry. Stupidly I'd double booked myself and missed 2 days when I had to leave to go on holiday with the family in Cornwall - however I still had an interesting board of examples of techniques - taken or adapted from some magnificent textiles brought along by Jenny for us to handle and ogle over! Examples were worked on several devices - from a simple 'donkey loom' (2 pegs mounted on a small 12" long board), sewing machine, inkle loom



and rigid heddle loom - and fingers - yours and others! There were just SO MANY ideas it was difficult to keep up with /or record them in a manner that you'd remember. Because I was leaving early Jenny kindly squeezed in an extra session on Wednesday afternoon when many people had gone off to the Whitchurch Silk Mill Exhibition which I'd managed to visit the previous week. Fortunately another of our guild members was on the same course and was able to make some sense for me of some of my garbled notes!



On the Wednesday evening there was a 'fashion show' where those that wanted to could model some of the things they'd made previously and I was able to show off my hand-spun cotton scarf - hot off the loom and not completely 'finished'. Quite the most 'stunning' exhibit was some underwear by (the Rev!) Andrew Johnson who unbuckled his kilt to reveal the capacious creation - very Joyce Meader I felt!



After some delightful storytelling following the fashion show we were told that due to a burst water main there was no water! Fortunately someone in our student community kitchen had had the foresight to fill the kettle so bedtime hot drinks were not forfeit and by the time we came to clean our teeth the water supply had been restored.

During breaks I managed to sneak in- to several other workshops to see what was going on there and at the end of the day go and visit Judy Hardman in her dyeing studio to see what colours had been achieved that day.







I was sorry to have missed seeing some of the workshops, the tutors work and display and especially the Certificate of Achievement entries - and of course the 'Market' - but it was an inspiring few days nonetheless!

Now to start saving for the next one in 2 years time in Leeds.

Alex McArdle

## SEPTEMBER

The September meeting was our taster day for members of the public who want to see more of our crafts. Many had been introduced to us at the various events held over the summer months. It was nice to see familiar faces.



Mary was teaching the rigid heddle to Diane who has since woven a mat for her cat. Hilary Dunwoody was very busy with the 4 shaft loom and Della had a lot of interest with her Kumihimo weaving. There were a lot of children showing genuine interest in all of the crafts and Karen was kept very busy with the inkle loom and tablet weaving.

Ann had a full table with Locker weaving and Coral had a permanent succession of young and old making Dorset buttons, Eileen Holmes kindly took over spinning from me after my wheel was misbehaving.



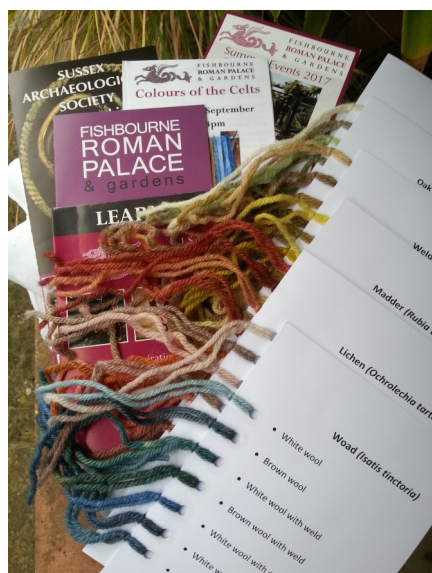


Maya was busy signing children up for the Junior Guild and many people were queuing up to pay their subs. Some new members will be joining in October. A very busy and successful day thanks to all the work at outdoor events throughout the summer.



### **Article by Mariana Perry-Zoupanou**

Thanks to Ms. Katrina Burton and her assistant of Sussex Archaeological Past for her day workshop entitled 'Colours of the Celts' held in the Murray Room adjoining Fishbourne Roman Palace's main exhibition area. Our day included comparing sample skeins of brown and white wool, some skeins pre-mordanted with copper as the Celts would have done, and using over-dyeing methods to achieve different shades to that of ordinary colours in the dye pots. We used stainless steel bowls but the Celts must have used old metal cauldrons and hot stones to keep temperatures warm. We used copper and iron powder, distilled white vinegar for convenience, to explore the effects of these on the final colours, (oak bark, weld, madder, lichen (wind-fallen), woad for blues).



Reference was frequently made to pre-Roman history throughout the day including stories of how urine was collected outside pubs to use in the process of dyeing! We were taken for a tour of the dye plant garden. Fishbourne Roman Palace keep a good example collection of plants that the Romans would have used to dye their cloth. Looking at our final sample cards, the subtle colours are exquisite and each colour successfully shows the different dye processes that each skein was put to during our workshop.

Incidentally, there is an interesting weight-warped loom still in their main exhibition area and tablet and rigid heddle looms also were spotted which are used on some heritage occasions by the museum.

The Sussex Archaeological Society [www.sussexpast.co.uk](http://www.sussexpast.co.uk)  
Dye sources: George Weil / Fibrecrafts [www.georgeweil.com](http://www.georgeweil.com)  
The Woad Centre [www.thewoadcentre.co.uk](http://www.thewoadcentre.co.uk)

## Summer Exhibitions

By the time you receive this guild newsletter you will have missed two noteworthy exhibitions - one of contemporary tapestry in Bath finishing on October 1st and another in Farnham at the Crafts Study Centre ending on October 21st. However there are still several more textile events in the area to be aware of - Kaffe Fassett at Mottisfont Abbey - it's even had a mention in The Times - with picture!



An exhibition of embroidered panels in Salisbury Cathedral on a religious theme and then in the new year an exhibition by Alison Ellen, Ann Richards and Deirdre Wood at the City Space - Winchester Discovery Centre from 13th January to 11th February 2018 called Soft Engineering - Textiles Taking Shape - mark these in your diary!

Also in November there's the Material World textile selling exhibition at the Hillier Gardens.

Whilst we are on exhibitions don't forget the National Association Exhibition in Glasgow next year. Let's try and put Hampshire on the map by submitting something. If you don't feel up to the main event at least consider the small item of 'jewellery' inspired by the work of architect/designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh for the open class. Don't forget our November Challenge - small is beautiful! As we haven't had an exhibition of our own for some years, how about it?

Fortunately I was able to squeeze in a visit to the tapestry exhibition in Bath -at the Holbourne Museum. Here is my account.



The catalogue tells us that it was a chance encounter with some Japanese tapestry weavers - where tapestry weaving, surprisingly, is flourishing with great gusto, that was the impetus for this exhibition. It began at the National Centre for Craft and Design in Sleaford, before going to Birmingham and then Bath.

Called 'Here and Now' it aims to show that tapestry is alive and well with tapestries from Japan, Australia, Latvia, America, Norway, Finland USA and Canada as well as the UK.

We have a wealth of wonderful tapestry weavers in this country so I was surprised and delighted to see this exhibition showing a number of tapestries from other countries - such diversity and some quite experimental work.

In two rooms it was a nice size and not overwhelming, though most of the tapestries were quite large pieces - or made up of a number of smaller panels. There were 8 from the UK, 5 colourful and exuberant from Japan, 5, mostly dark and brooding from Latvia, Norway and Finland and one each from Canada, USA and



Australia - though that weaver originally came from Scotland !

It was great to see so many pieces from abroad - it's not often that we do. I bought the catalogue and will bring it to a meeting for anyone interested to see - but it by no means does justice to the pieces.

Alex McArdle



## 2017 Events where the Guild put on displays and demonstrations



**Bursledon Brickworks Craft Fair**



**Mottisfont, Romsey**



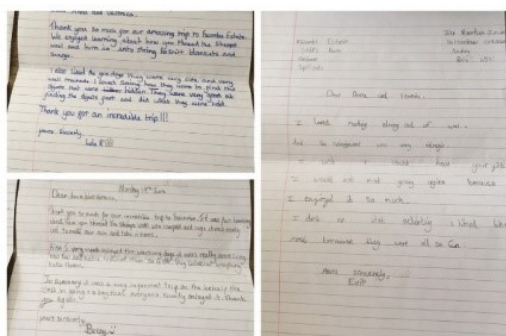
**Bishops Waltham Show**



**Southdowns Show**

## Countryside Day, Selfs Farm, Facombe

Ann Lovick and I spent the day with school children. About one hundred youngsters from the Newbury area were able to see sheep shearing, and various pieces of huge farm machinery. They explored the woodland, heard how dogs are trained to be sheep dogs as well as which varieties of crops are grown at Selfs Farm.



They spent about 20/30 mins with us. We demonstrated what happens to wool after shearing and how 'twist' is put into fleece to make it stronger, giving them the opportunity to try this. We also showed to them how this can be done manually with a spinning wheel and talked about large scale production of wool in factories and how it can then be woven into fabric that would have many uses as well as for clothing.

**Romsey Festival** -Lots of lovely, happy people enjoying the entertainment and craft on show. Ann and I spun a yarn with several young and not so young folks. Some of the yarn then went in to the community weaving project. Others wore their creations, as wrist bands.

No time for photos. Ann did a great job preparing lots of wool to show how we spin, using long draw with a twist, by two people. Our drop spindles were admired, Ann's spinning wheel was in action and her beautiful rug and scarf she had made, from fibre she had spun was on show. It was a busy and very enjoyable day, again I learnt a lot from a great spinner. Sue Logan

Other events included: **Little Woodham Craft Day** and the **Rare Breeds Show at the Weald and Downland Living Museum.**

**Romsey Show** –The afternoon before the show saw the Guild display set up and equipment arranged. The rain came before we had finished but all was in place and covered where possible. Throughout the day guild members who agreed to help arrived. Everyone was very busy; talking to visitors, demonstrating and helping people to have a go at the craft activities. Even when the rain came again and the field and tent got muddier and muddier, good humour prevailed.

At the end of the day we had a challenge as to how to get the display and equipment to the vehicles. We could not get a vehicle onto the field. So we packed the little cart we had and made several trips back and forth to the Van. Thankfully we had help from a Romsey show organiser and her four wheel drive buggy to get the looms and spinning wheel to the van. Even that struggled across the mud, but we got there!

**Thank you to every Guild Member  
who took part this year**





## **EVENTS 2017 and 2018**

**Material World – Selling Textile Exhibition**, Hillier Gardens, Romsey  
[More Info](#) ,October 28 to November 26 2017

**Tools for Self Reliance Haberdashery Sale**, Netley Marsh [More Info](#)  
4th November 2017

**Threads through Revelation Exhibition**, Salisbury Cathedral [More Info](#)  
On until 5th November

**Winter Open Studios, the Sorting Office**, Eastleigh [More info](#)  
18th and 19th November 2017

**Soft Engineering - Textiles Taking Shape Exhibition** [More Info](#)  
Alison Ellen, Ann Richards and Deirdre Wood, City Space - Winchester  
Discovery Centre , 13th January to 11th February 2018

## **MEETING DATES 2017**

**21st October** 10am **WINGHAM WOOL - FIBRE DAY**  
10am Compton Room Committee Meeting

**18th November** 10.30 Main Hall ‘ News and Views’ including  
The Guild Challenge Reveal.  
2pm Main Hall - Speaker **FELICITY FORD**  
‘Knitsonik’ - Stranded Colourwork.

**9th December** 10am Meet in Main Hall for Tea/Coffee  
10.30 Main Hall – Speaker **PETER HEWLETT**  
‘A Journey Down the Silk Road’

Followed by our own festive



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