Spinners and Dyers Weavers Hampshire Guild

SPRING 2016

NEWSLETTER

SHOW AND TELL

GUILD CHALLENGE

DOTS DASHES AND SPOTS

TALKS & DEMONSTRATIONS

List of Contents

Title	Author	Page
List of Contents		2
Chairman's Letter	Della Storr	3
Charitable Status	Della Storr	4
Romsey Show	Emma Nichols	4
January Meeting	Alex McArdle	5
Alison Ellen Talk		5
Alison Ellen's Designs		6
February's Meeting	Show and Tell	7
Sharon Kearley Talk	Mary Keer	9
March Meeting	Spinning; Show and Tell	10
Felt Workshop	Suzanne Butler	11
A Taster Day in Southampton with Shobhna Phillips		12
Fabric of India	Alex McArdle	13
Events 2016		14
Meetings 2016		15
List of Officials		16

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Della Storr

Hello there Guild members,

Do you wonder when spring is really going to arrive? Our Easter weather was somewhat disappointing and the storm that ran through the country blew a lot of things around, but I am hoping you were not too badly affected. It was 'bin day' on the Monday for me and I ended up with most of the contents of two of my neighbours recycling rubbish all over both my front and back garden! Still, that did seem to be the only real 'damage' for me.

Did you take the time over Easter to get cracking on your fibre stash? Or were you like me busy with family and lucky just to pick up some knitting needles for a few moments.

I am still trying to decide what to enter for the National Exhibition. I hope you are also considering submitting something and what about the non-selected section. Let's hope with the growing numbers we now have in the guild we can get a few members to have items in the exhibition.

I should really be looking at the outstanding things we need to do to become a charity, so hopefully by the time you read this, I will have pretty much got everything sorted in order to meet our target time line.

Please remember everyone that the May News and Views on 21st May at 10.00 will be an Extra General Meeting to discuss the charitable status of the guild. I have just looked at the programme and at 10.30, there is scheduled to be a 3D weaving workshop on the same morning, which may make things awkward for those participating.

Happy spinning, weaving and dyeing

Della

Charitable Status

I have created a proposed constitution for us to have to obtain charitable status. This will replace our current constitution. It has been done by taking the model constitution from the charity commission and making the minimum changes to tailor it to our objectives / requirements. In order for the guild to become a charity, the committee members will become trustees for the charity. In addition to the changes already made to the model constitution, I need to look at how the Youth Guild is covered and then it will be examined again by the committee at the April meeting.

The planned timeline is:

April: Committee agree version of the constitution to be proposed to guild members;

April: New proposed constitution to be publicised to members. We will email out to members who have email contact details and send paper copies to members that do not have an email address in our membership list;

May: The proposed constitution will be discussed at the May News and Views. This meeting will be an Extraordinary Meeting (to conform to requirements of becoming a charity) and hopefully the guild membership will vote to accept the new constitution with any amendments as agreed at the meeting.

May / June: The guild will apply for charitable status. Provided there are no major amendments from the model constitution, this should be very straight forward.

July: The AGM will be the first as a charity. Instead of appointing committee members, we will be appointing the trustees.

Della

Romsey Show Saturday 10th September

"The Romsey Show is an annual event we have enjoyed demonstrating at for many years. We get a good spot at the end of a marquee to demonstrates as many crafts as we can fit in and staff! This is a wonderful opportunity to show hundreds of people that weaving and spinning are not dying crafts or merely the preserve of ladies of a certain age! Young and old have a go and it always results in people coming to our open day later that month. We are always on the look out for more people to come and join us and continue to raise the profile of the Guild while enjoying a day out at the show. You are welcome to come, whatever your skill level, as long as you are willing to muck in! Last year I had to be shown how to use the looms, not something I've done before."

Emma Nichols

January's Guild Meeting

The Guild enjoyed an excellent first meeting of 2016 – lots of people and lots of new faces! The committee meeting in the morning was lengthy but WE enjoyed the time for social interaction, perusing the library, sorting visiting spinning equipment – my charka – thank you Richard and newly acquired wheels – thank you Beverly. A last call for further Journals, a rummage through the next tranche of Jane's yarns, the sales table and a few more fleeces brought us to lunchtime.

Knitwear designer Alison Ellen, our afternoon speaker, brought us up to date with her latest developments – and new book. With her innovative designs exploiting increases/ decreases, short row and juxtaposition of simple garter, stocking and rib stitches on the shapes of garment forms, we were absolutely fascinated! Naturally there was an enthusiastic demand for her new book - which was duly bought for the Guild library!

Some of our visitors looked into our library cupboards and were most impressed by what we had. I do hope if/when they become members they will make use of them and encourage others too. We DO have some brilliant books, most of them now out of print. There is no point in buying them if they are not going to be used – that goes for the magazines too – Yarncraft, Spinoff and Handwoven.

Did you know that you can also buy books through the Search Press Catalogue (on the librarians table) new titles and reprints – many of them from Interweave Press. Not only do you get a great saving but the Guild can benefit too. Try it!

Judging by the numbers of copies of our newsletter that are never claimed – and the fact that after printing it is then put onto the Guild webpage, should we save our funds by not printing copies for those people who'd prefer to read it from the webpage anyway and only print for those who request it (via their subscription form?) but have a few in hand for newcomers and visitors with one full colour print on the librarians table as we have done recently.

Alex McArdle

What happens if the Stitch is changed?

Entrelac shaped by ribbing

Working with the natural inclination of the stitches to create the design

February Meeting.

The February meeting started with Shirley in the chair as Della was unable to attend.

Katherine Hopkins was confirmed as treasurer as Jen is unable to continue, having spent a great deal of time putting the accounts in order for Katherine to take over.

Charitable status was discussed (see page 4)

Myer reported that the Youth Guild had a successful meeting colour blending and went home with coloured yarns.

Having accepted defeat with modern technology Jo Finlow has agreed to help me (Joy Stevens) to produce the newsletters in future. A big thank you Jo.

The Guild Challenge for 2016 was announced and this year it is Dots Dashes and Spots. It can be in any of the disciplines of the Weavers Spinners and Dyers Guild. Alex won last year so maybe it will be your turn this year.

Show and Tell

Among the many items on show Elseline Ward-able explained that her cardigan was knitted with singles.

Catherine Hopkins knitted her first hand spun, hand dyed, Blue Faced Leicester jumper.

2016 Challenge ‘Dots, dashes and spots’

Sharon Kearley

Weaving—tying in Lycra to the warp.

Sharon Kearley has talked to our Guild on a number of occasions and has always delighted us with her charm and enthusiasm, This occasion was no exception. Her passion is infectious and her creativity is inspiring. Her handout had been assembled by the printers in the wrong order which added to the entertainment but Sharon soon sorted it out for us.

Her talk centred round deep texture being created by the reaction and interaction of different yarn and fibres. The many examples of her work which she handed round demonstrated the extent to which these interactions could be exploited.

Sharon explained to us that fundamental to the creation of puckered, pleated, scrunched-up fabrics is that there must be enough room for the threads to move—warp or weft wise or both—in order to allow shrinkage to take place.

Shrinkage can be caused either by using lycra or the natural characteristics of the fibre used to make the yarn, e.g. Wool. Linen and silk do not have such strong tendencies to shrink. Whereas putting an unspun roving of fine staple wool in the weft and given a hot water wash will shrink a lot.

The finishing process is also very important as this will need to be relevant to the fibre (s) used and the desired effect, hot wash or steam heat. A crepe yarn will require different treatment as this is a highly twisted yarn which has a natural tendency to crimp.

Space for shrinkage to take place, as she explained, is very important and therefore the structure of the cloth needs to be considered. A stretchy yarn can be put into a warp at intervals but the threading chosen must allow for movement of the war threads eg. Mock leno. The stretchy yarn can be used in a clock weave in either the warp of the weft eg. A block of threads in every dent alternating with clocks of empty dents (see handout).

Record, record; it is essential to keep notes of what you have done. It is so easy in the excitement of the moment to forget to record the all important details which makes developing, improving or repeating the design so much more difficult.

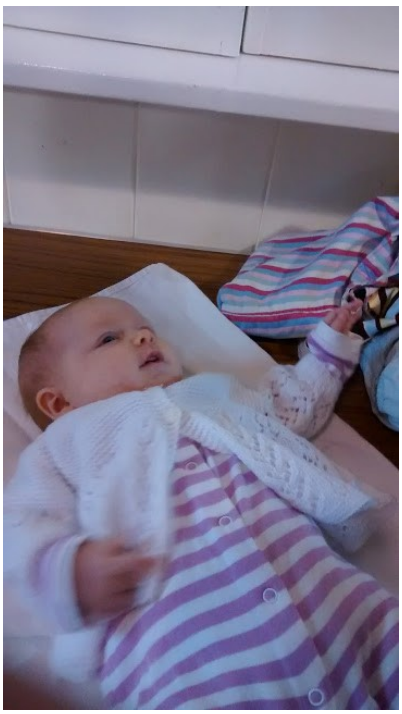
The scope of creativity is enormous and Sharon's enthusiasm for experimentation was obvious. Her talk showed us just how vast the scope of woven fabric designs and construction is and how exciting the reaction and interaction of fibres can be.

Sharon with some of her samples

Mary Keer

March Meeting

It was a spinning day in March with the youngest member having a great spinning lesson



In the afternoon Suzanne showed everybody how to make felt flowers for Easter.

Photo from Daily Echo

STOP PRESS

Congratulations Beverley on being nominated for a St George's Day Award. The festival is on Saturday April 23rd, when the winners of the awards will be announced.

Good Luck Beverley, from all of us at the Guild

A TASTER DAY IN SOUTHAMPTON

On Saturday 5th March, Hampshire Guild members shared their skills and passion – a huge thank you is sent to them from members of the Sheep to Shoulder team.

This workshop was a taster event funded and hosted by the West Itchen Community Trust (WICT) to gauge interest and potential support for a longer term, more detailed, intergenerational and cross cultural project to share, develop and pass on skills in the textile arts from around the globe.

The main funding bid is being finalized but with 30% of participants expressing interest, watch this space.

Clare Taylor

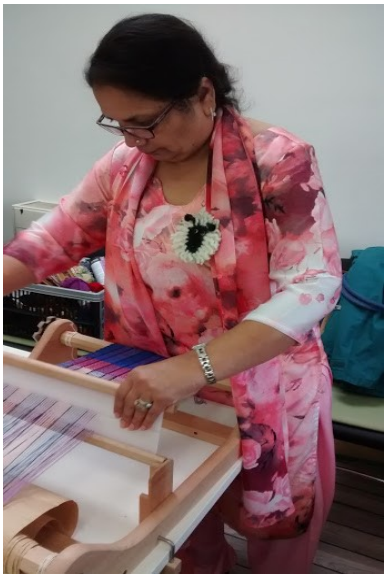
Shobhna enjoying Suzanne's felting workshop with her friends

Beverley Dowdell demonstrated spinning on both the spindle wheel and the charkha, while Veronica Biddlecombe and Wendy Barry had conventional wheels and let visitors try their hand at spinning.

Alex McArdle bought the Guild's rigid heddle looms which were in action all day.

Karen Parkin had a steady stream of visitors with her Kumihimo braiding.

Other crafts were crochet demonstrated by Jo Finlow and knitting.



A Visit to the Fabric Of India Exhibition at the V and A.

January 2016

On the Saturday before the January guild meeting I was able to visit the stunning Fabric of India exhibition at the V and A . I had wanted to go since seeing a review of it on television but when my usual 'London' companion was not remotely interested I'd resigned myself to my books on Indian textiles. So when a friend offered to take me as a guest on her V & A membership ticket I leapt at the chance. Unfortunately though it was the last full day of this exhibition and it was PACKED! It took us over 3 hours to make our way round the extensive layout!

It appeared to be laid out from textile technique point of view which in turn reflected the areas from which the textiles came. Where a display was concentrating on a particular aspect e.g. dyeing, cotton, silk or blockprinting etc there would be a short video film to illustrate the process – very interesting- but progress would be halted! There was all that we expect of Indian textiles – exquisite embroideries, mirrors, beads and sequins a-plenty and elaborate fine jacquard/draw loom fabrics from decorative hangings to costumes.

A fragment of a 2000 year old weft faced 'blanket' to modern day recreations – yes the skills haven't all died out yet! In fact the later exhibition rooms showed how today's designers are adapting and celebrating their textile inheritance. The display of simple 'kardi' cloth – and Gandhi's influence had me bring out my charka from the depths of my cupboard when I got home, to try to spin the short cotton fibres! There were several giant cloths which had been for sitting on outside – painted/ printed with flowers to emulate a garden – and a wonderful tent/gazebo/sunshade decorated similarly. I was surprised at the number of textiles that had been in the 1851 Great Exhibition – some still in their original packaging !

It had been a wonderful – but long, day. Photographs in books are good but there is no beating seeing the intricacy of work, the shimmer and sparkle in the flesh!

Alex McArdle

Events 2016

WEAVING WEEKEND with Mary Keer, 7/8th May

Booking Essential Tel; 01962 771268

WONDERWOOL 2016, Saturday April 23rd—Sunday April 24th

Royal Welsh Showground Builth Wells—Wales

For more details visit **www.wonderwool.co.uk**

WORLD TEXTILE DAY, Saturday, May 7th

Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL from 10 am-4.30pm

"Rite of Passage" - Births, Marriages and Deaths in Textiles.

For more details visit **www.worldtextileday.co.uk**

WOOLFEST COCKERMOUTH

Friday, June 24th, 10-6pm & Saturday, June 25th, 10-5pm.

For more details visit **www.woolfest.co.uk**

FIBRE-EAST, 30th-31st July

Redbourne Comm. Coll, Ampthill, Bedfordshire

For more details visit **www.fibre-east.co.uk**

HILLIERS ARBORETUM, 27th July, August 3rd, 10th and 17th

Ampfield. Children's Craft Activities each Wednesday

ROMSEY SHOW, Saturday 10th September. (See page 4)

Broadlands

2016 Meeting Dates

16th April	
10am	At home day' Members skill sharing & workshops.
10.30am	Committee Meeting—Compton Room.
21st May	
10am	News & Views
10.30am	Averil Otiv 3D Workshop.
2pm	Speaker Averil Otiv ' Off Loom Weaving'.
18th June	
10am	Bring and Buy for Guild Funds
2pm	Speaker Emma Nichols 'Sustainability'
16th July	
10am	AGM
2pm	Felting Workshop Suzanne Butler.
August	No Meeting
17th September	
10am	'Taster Day' for non-members
2pm	Committee meeting—Compton Room.
15th October	
10am	Fibre Day—details to be confirmed
19th November	
10am	Spin & Chat
11.30am	The Guild Challenge Reveal.
2pm	Speaker Andrew Snow
	'Behind the Scenes of a Commercial Sheep Farmers'
3rd December	
10am	Meet for Coffee
10.30am	Speaker Ruth Smith 'The story of Folded Secrets'
	Followed by Festive American Lunch.

Official	Name	Contact Details
Chairperson	Della Storr	Chairofhantswsd@yahoo.com
Secretary	Ruth Holzer	secretaryhantswsd@yahoo.co.uk
Treasury	Catherine Hopkins	chopkins2011@gmail.com
Membership	Shirley Channon	shirleychannon021@gmail.com
Programme Organisers	Jenny Crawford Veronica Biddlecombe	crawfordjenny@gmail.com ronnieholly@btinternet.com
Events Co-ordinator	Sue Brewer	info@secretgardenuk.co.uk
Youth Guild and Library	Maya Whitmarsh	maya.whitmarsh@yahoo.co.uk
Website	Joy Richardson	strangways5@gmail.com
Notice Board	Mariana Perry-Zoupanou	zoupanospetros@talktalk.net
Committee	Sue Butler Ann Lovick Karen Parkin (Vice treasurer)	zandandme@aol.com antwizzle@yahoo.co.uk hallweardesigns@btinternet.com
Newsletter	Joy Stevens Jo Finlow	pendine@gmail.com

Website address: **www.hantsguildwsd.hampshire.org.uk**