

The Devon Guild

of

Weavers, Spinners and Dyers



Chairman's Chat

I simply cannot believe it is almost a year since that disembodied voice declared that she would stand for Chairman. (Which means it is also a whole year since not one of you stopped me from making such a rash gesture!).

What a lot has happened in that year. We have a lot of new Committee members, a new Secretary, new equipment, a revamped Skills Challenge Day. We have had a high profile presence at many local shows and events and, thanks to you, the members, we held a most successful Fleece Fair. Then there are all the oh-so interesting talks we have been entertained by, not to mention the workshops.

Through the year we have welcomed many new members, drunk umpteen cups of tea and coffee and probably consumed a dinosaur's body weight in cakes. (Collectively, not individually!).

Now winter is approaching and several people have said that they intend to settle in for a season of spinning and knitting; shades of hibernation maybe.

I would like to thank you **all** for being so supportive and encouraging. Thank you Amanda for supporting and nagging me and for being such an efficient Secretary. Thank you Committee members who have worked so hard, come up with so many brilliant ideas and then implemented them. Thank you to all the officers who are ex Committee and who serve us so very well, both in full view and behind the scenes.

But thank you Mem	bers - without you v	we would be r	าothing.
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Jenny

September 2015

IMPORTANT! STOP PRESS!

Membership Form and Data Protection Act

As you know, we renew our membership in November. Please see the additional two pages of the newsletter which give details of the Data Protection Act as regards members of the Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and the membership form. Printed versions of the form are available, but if you are able, please print a copy from the website (thus saving us paper and ink). The form is on the website under **Membership**.

Please fill in the form with a cheque made payable to Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and return to Sue Clowney, Membership Secretary, DGWSD, Jennings Farm, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TH.

Sue Clowney

Membership Secretary

Recent Purchases 2015

We have had a fair amount of money in the deposit account to spend in 2015. This has been partly because of the bequest by Mrs Ruth Ash who donated £3,500 to the Guild in her will in October 2011. This was so gratefully received. We can let Mrs Ash's family know that the Guild has now spent some of this donation on very useful equipment which members may borrow whenever they wish, and which has been used for educational purposes at the many shows where members of the Guild demonstrate the craft.

So we now have: a drum carder, a laptop, a Kromski harp loom, English wool combs, a spinning wheel and a blending board. Let us all enjoy using these assets responsibly - and we still have the issue of how to store the craft items. Thinking caps on!

Paul Ashton **Treasurer**

Kromski Harp Loom

Another important thanks. A Very, Very Big Thank you to everyone who has served the teas and cakes throughout the year, made those scrumptious, delicious home-made cakes and quiches, organised the milk, tea, coffee and fresh teacloths and last but not least, washed up and tidied the kitchen.



A happy Guild worker and even happier Guild customer

A new system of being in the kitchen or serving the tea and cakes has been set in place by Norma and everyone is asked to do just half an hour at a time. No more, (honest). Continue chatting and catching up on the news with a friend or take the opportunity to talk to someone new while you work. So if you haven't yet had your turn......!

There are often a few slices left over at the end of the day, so make your friends or family very happy with a take home bargain - your 50p goes to the Guild funds and is very welcome.



Scrumptious. Yum Yum.

Chris Johnson

From the Guild's Programme of Events

How to Select Fleeces - Saturday, 13th June 2015 - with Norma Sanders (The full text and photo examples of different fleece may be seen on the website under Programme).

In our June meeting we had a very interesting and informative talk and demonstration from Norma Sanders. Very apt timing in view of the Fleece Day in July!

Norma took us through a few basic things to consider before deciding what breed of sheep's fleece to choose. For example, what is the fleece to be used for? I'm particularly guilty of missing out this step — "what a marvellous fleece that is!" — with no thought of what I want to achieve with it! Do you want to make a knitted garment for yourself or weave with it? What about comfort, durability, how it's washed and visual impact? Do you want a soft (fine) fleece or a harsh (coarse) one? - which you might if you wanted to make a long lasting rug.

The old Bradford Count, where the higher the number the finer the fleece has been largely superseded by micron measurement, where the lower the number the finer the fleece. Most fleeces have a micron count between 19 and 37, but merino and Bowmont may be finer than 19; and Scottish Blackface and Herdwick may be higher that 37 and not suitable for woollen garments.

Next Norma explained the different aspects to take into account when assessing an individual fleece. Open the fleece out to check its quality in its entirety. Check the handle – what does it feel like? Tug a staple to check its strength. What length is the staple and is it appropriate for how you plan to spin it?

For long draw spinning a shorter staple length is easier, and generally longer

is good for weaving. Look at the crimp and the colour. If you plan to dye it then white is a sensible choice, but check the consistency of the colour throughout the fleece. If you choose a black fleece check it from the skin end to the tips as the tips may have become bleached. Also make sure there isn't too much vegetable matter, which will be a nightmare to remove. Check for second cuts.



Suffolk

The best parts of the fleece are the neck, shoulders, back and top sides. The belly is likely to be dirty and the back end

is excellent for lining hanging baskets and as a slug deterrent around plants!

These are high quality wools with a very close crimp.

Examples are merino (staple length 7.5 – 8cm., micron count 18-24) or Bowmont (micron count 14-18)Fleeces can be divided into various categories: Fine Wools, Fine to Medium, Longwools and Primitive and Feral. Each has different characteristics such as fleece weight, staple length, micron count, crimp and whether or not they are lustrous. Each breed varies considerably within each group and it's best to look at each sheep breed individually for it's particular attributes. Of course, staple length and micron count may vary in all breeds.

Books that may be of interest:

The Field Guide to Fleece: 100 Sheep Breeds and How to use their Fibers – Deborah Robson and Carol Ekarius

In Sheep's clothing: a Handspinner's Guide to Wool – Nola Fournier and Elisabeth Fournier

Fleece and Fibre Source Book: More than 200 Fibers, from Animal to Spun Yarn – Carol Ekarius and Deborah Robson

Louise Selby



What you lookin' at. You lookin' at me?

Lace Knitwear Design - Saturday, 12th September with Anniken Alliss (The full text and photos may be seen on the website under Programme).



Anniken Allis visited our Guild on Saturday, 10th September and treated us to a delightful and entertaining talk.

Best known for her wonderful lace shawls, Anniken also designs other garments and uses a wide variety of techniques, including cables and Fair Isle. Her patterns are regularly published in all the British knitting magazines as well as in some US publications and she designs for well-known yarn companies.

Anniken grew up in Norway where "everyone used to knit" but, although fluent in English, she struggled with our patterns when she moved to the UK in 1992 and abandoned her knitting needles. Luckily for us ...

Some years later she rediscovered knitting and a new world of online yarn shops, international knitting forums and blogs. This led to her own blog, "Confessions of a YarnAddict", and the subsequent publication of her own patterns. Then came Ravelry. Anniken told us that Ravelry makes things much easier for designers but cautioned that the quality of patterns varies enormously - she freely admits she rather wishes some of her earliest designs were not still available on Ravelry!

In 2006 Anniken joined the <u>Spin a Yarn</u> knitting group in Bovey Tracey and it wasn't long before she was asked to teach a sock knitting class. Today she is one of the shop's most frequent teachers and teaching takes her all over the UK. She told us about the steeking workshop she will be running at the <u>3</u> <u>Bags Full Wool Market</u> in Liskeard - more than a few members of the audience sucked in their breath and looked distinctly nervous at the S-word. Anniken insisted that steeking is nowhere near as scary as it looks and that is a very useful technique with a variety of possible applications. There were still one or two doubtful looks but most of us were willing to be persuaded!



Perhaps Anniken's most challenging project to date has been writing a book, 'Beaded Lace Knitting', which was finished in July 2014. It took only six months and Anniken stressed wholeheartedly that she would never attempt to do that many designs in such a short time span again!

After the talk and final Q&A session, surprisingly well-behaved Guild members queued to snaffle a copy

of the book and to chat with Anniken as she signed it. Anniken was generous in offering various hints and tips on getting the most out of her book and a link to these can be found in the Guild's September blog entry.

By her own admission, Anniken gets bored easily; she is deadline-driven and willingly submits to being nudged out of her comfort zone. She is obviously excited by challenges; "It is good to challenge ourselves in order to overcome the fear of failure." As a designer, she most enjoys choosing a lovely skein of



Examples of some of the designs in 'Beaded Lace Knitting'

wool, casting on and letting things happen. This creative freedom works well for her own designs but magazine requirements are more prescriptive; specific criteria, themes, yarn choices and (of course) deadlines all bring their own challenges. But don't forget ... Anniken likes challenges!

Swatches of some of the 'Beaded Lace Knitting' designs knitted by Guild members



Amanda Trick

The remaining Guild Programme for 2015 includes:

Saturday, 10th October Share our Work and Skills Challenge

Day (previously known as Evaluation Day)

Talk: Creative Spinning by our visiting

judge, Alison Daykin - how she and Jane Deane

approached their book

Sunday, 11th October Workshop: Members' Dyeing Day (Sunnylands

Room) led by Jae Burgin

Saturday, 14th November Members' Sales Day and AGM

Saturday, 12th December Christmas Activity and Shared Lunch -

Christmas activity organised by Suzanne

Saunders

The Mid Devon Show - 24th July 2015

After a week of heavy rain, Saturday 25th July 2015 was a beautiful sunny day for the Mid Devon Show. The field was muddy in a few places, but dried out through the day and we had no problems getting in or out of the show ground. We all arrived early and it didn't take long to help set up our display before the visitors arrived.

We had a busy day talking to many interested people, explaining and demonstrating our skills. Nick especially was kept busy with the weaving loom, letting the children have a go, then undoing their work to enable another to have a go before he ran out of warp!

We were unaware we were being watched and judged, but the Judges were very impressed with our display and demonstrations and the fact that folk

were able to have a go. They awarded us a red rosette as second prize for our efforts, and we immediately hung it up on the display. Well done to everyone - I feel the award is to all members of our Guild - those helping at the show on the day, all who made



items to be put on display, the Committee and those in the background with their support, making our Guild the Guild it is.

We all had a chance to have a quick wander about, to stretch our legs and test the refreshments on offer. I visited the sheep area and admired an unusual orangy brown coloured sheep, one I hadn't spun. I was extremely disappointed to discover the farmer had dyed it to make it more attractive for the show!

It was a brilliant day. I thoroughly enjoyed it and recommend that if you get the chance, sign up to volunteer for one of the shows - there is nothing scary about it - it's great fun. And this year we had the very best position at the show - in front of a delicious Devon ice-cream van!

Pam Brown

Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers - Summer School 16 - 23 August 2015

Design for the Terrified with Alison Daykin

To start with there was a lot of organisation to be done before arriving in Moreton Morrell, a further education college near Stratford-Upon-Avon. I had to collect different sorts of paper, wash various fibres ready to spin and sort out various medium and arty knickknacks to bring along. On arrival I explored the campus after finding my place of residence. I went to the Jenny Balfour-Paul's lecture too and bought her new book about following the footsteps of Thomas Machell, a fellow indigo expert and explorer from the nineteenth century. Her lecture which was on the same subject included fascinating photos of her research and adventures.

I brought along as requested a photo for inspiration to my two and half day course: seaweed on a sandy beach. Firstly we framed a segment of the picture to generate our project, following studies in texture, form and colour. Then taking knickknacks from my stash I produced a collage. Most interestingly the next stage involved theory on dividing by texture or colour in order to make a swatch with yarn. Further theory included The Golden Ratio, The Fibonacci Series and The Lucas Series which are engrained in art extensively. These tools are useful for designing your warp.

It was so refreshing to get away from home into a student environment if only for a short time. Reading time was precious to me and the company warming. On the last afternoon I went to Compton Verney, an art gallery converted from a stately home. There were exhibitions on The Arts and Crafts Movement. silversmiths and contemporary artists that fuelled intrigue and passion to succeed. I popped into Gloucester on the way home and found it to be a similar city to Exeter.



Paul Ashton

Wax Resist Dyeing on Silk

As a first-timer at Summer School, I didn't know what to expect. It was three and a half days of sheer delight. Isabella Whitworth's Wax Resist Dyeing on Silk course was great fun, and so was everything else.

There was so much to see and do that it was impossible to get to everything. Ten minutes after arriving it was off to Compton Verney in the company of two ladies from Birmingham to see the Arts and Crafts Exhibition contrasting original and contemporary work, plus the British Folk Art and Chinese exhibitions. Then there was the silent auction, the fashion show of amazing items made (and modelled on the catwalk) by Guild members from all over the UK, an illustrated talk by Louise Martin the tapestry weaver, the amazing trade fair, seeing what the Certificate of Achievement candidates had produced and visiting all the other classes. On the final evening we had a showing of Some Like It Hot complete with free choc ice at the interval, which was long enough for us cinema goers to visit the Fifties-themed dance going on in the hall to watch Amanda Hannaford and her class perform a complicated series of spinning-related actions to the strains of Mambo Italiano!

Add to the mix all the lovely people, those from Devon (thank you all for your company, and thanks Terri for the early morning Tai Chi sessions) and new friends from all over the country, the friendly college staff, the tireless and helpful volunteers, the lovely setting and good weather, student prices in the bar, what's not to like? OK the accommodation was rather basic and the food nothing special, but it didn't matter because the rest of it was so great. Roll on 2017 when it will be at Sparsholt near

Winchester.

Chris Crisford.



examples of work at the Summer School



Summer School 2015

National Sheep Association - South West Sheep Show - Tuesday, 16th June 2015

Higher Nichols Nymet near North Tawton was the venue for the sheep show. Our guild was delighted to be invited to have a stand. We were situated in one of two sheep marquees positioned between the Wool Board and the sheep pens.

The grass on our pitch was rather long and no sheep to munch it shorter, but a young man and mower came to our assistance and soon we were ready to set up.

There were so many breeds of sheep to study, some old favourites and unfamiliar ones too. Visitors stopped to peruse our stand, watch the spinners busy at their wheels, spindle spinning and drum carding. A group of school children visiting found the drum carder an attraction and they all wanted a go at turning the handle, adding the colours and each one was able to add a sample of colourful batt to their show goodie bag.

Another attraction was a farm tour, visitors were transported by tractor and trailer, unfortunately I didn't join the tour, another time perhaps.

All the guild members demonstrating had a great day surrounded by sheep and fleece, what more could a handspinner desire.

Jane Yarrow



At the South West Sheep Show

The Stitching, Sewing and Hobbycraft Show at Westpoint Centre - 24th - 27th September 2015

What a lovely show this year – plenty of things to excite us all, good coffee, happy smiling faces, what more could we ask?! There were certainly plenty of people – I had to queue from the A38 exit to get to the showground at 10.20 on Thursday.

Lots of interest was shown in our stall with people queueing at one point to see and try the blending board. People could choose from a delightful basket of fibres and mix and match to their heart's content, which produced a cheerful pile of rolags to be spun.

Isn't it lovely when members of the public come and ask questions and are genuinely interested in what we are doing, some even wanting to know more and think about visiting or joining the Guild. When you are explaining something and the look changes from 'I'm not sure what you are on about' to 'Aha, I see exactly what you mean – it all makes sense now' – that is what makes demonstrating at shows worthwhile.



Our stand at the show

A big thank you to all those who were involved in the organising and demonstrating and especially to members who took the time to make things to display on the stand.

Yvonne Hawkins

Members of the Guild who Weave

Weaving on a Peg Loom

There is nothing complicated about a peg loom. It is a very simple structure that takes minutes to warp up, and not much longer to master.

A beam, or log, say 4ft long, has holes drilled evenly along one side. Into these sit pegs, or sticks. Near the bottom of each peg there is a hole drilled, where the warp is threaded through.

With each peg warped up and sitting in its peg-hole the weaving can begin. The basic weaving stitch (tabby) is just winding back and forth through the pegs from one end to the other, turning and repeating the process in the other direction.

When the pegs are full, the pegs are lifted, one at a time, out of their hole, pulled clear of the weaving, then placed back in the hole before going on to the next peg. The weaving is 'magically' pushed onto the warp threads.

And so, you weave through the pegs again, and again, and again......Totally addictive.

As with most 'off the loom' weaving any strong thread can be used for the warp, from cotton to thick string. The same goes for the weft (the thread you weave with). Generally I like to use fabric strips or unspun fleece for making my rugs, but it is fun to play with anything available that can be cut or spun into an appropriate length for weaving.

I have used the peg loom with community groups within Mid-Devon. There was an elderly lady who was almost blind. For several weeks she came to the group and worked, with very little help, on her peg-loom. Her face was a picture of delight when she completed, and sat on, her newly woven seat-pad.



Sarah at the peg loom

Sarah Johnson

Weaving? Me? No Way!

I was not looking for a teacher. I wasn't even interested in learning anything new. I was too busy with other things in my life then, when one day my husband and I met a person at the local hot spring who invited us to visit her shop in the agora of Molivos.

It was a small shop filled with colourful hanks of wool, skeins of silk and bags of cotton selvedge. The walls were draped in beautiful tapestries and the floor covered with thick, gorgeous rugs – and looms! Looms everywhere and of every size. It was a visual delight.

We drank strong Turkish coffee and exchanged pleasantries when the shop owner announced that she was planning a workshop (one day a week) for three months, teaching tapestry weaving, and if I were interested. I just sat there, mesmerised by colour, design, mechanical devices and hot, strong coffee – and said yes.

I am passionate about creative expression and after decades of searching (for what???) I have found my passion for tapestry weaving.

It was in 2010, while experiencing self-sufficient living on the Greek island of Lesvos, when I met my teacher Joanna Knoop – an amazing multi-cultural weaver.

Within the first hour of my first lesson I was hooked and amazingly surprised how easy it came to me, as if I had just remembered my long-lost creative art.



A close up of the weaving

Isabelle and tapestry weaving

Weaving is one of my many creative expressions and I use it as a meditation as well as a metaphor for my personal journey. That's why I have decided to teach tapestry weaving, so others can discover their own creative expressions.

Isabelle Jourdan

(Isabelle's website is: http://wildwomanweaving.wix.com/

A New Loom

My Louet David 2 90cm loom arrived in October, strapped to a pallet shipped from the Dutch factory. Weighing over 80 pounds, it sat on the pavement, too large to be dragged up the steps and into our house. There were 24 large pieces of beautifully finished ash wood and many component bags stuffed with nuts, bolts, screws, brackets and all the tools I would need. Luckily the castle was pre-assembled. It all looked quite daunting but the assembly manual was superbly written and illustrated. In fact it proved so straightforward to build that the loom was ready that evening.

I had chosen the David 2 because of its spring-assisted operation of the ten shafts. As your foot presses down on the treadle a powerful spring at the top of the castle takes over and helps complete the snapping action of pressing the treadle to the floor. No more tired legs!

Another feature of this model was altering the beater from a pendulum design that used to swing from above. Now the beater sits on two steel rods and slides back and forth on oiled shafts. This opens up the front of the loom and more importantly beats the woven cloth at the same position on the beater no matter how much cloth is wound on. With the cloth



Nick at the Louet David 2

beam lifted clear, you can sit close into the loom to warp and not have to bend your back or crane your neck to see where your hands are working. No more aching back!

Descriptions of the loom are best demonstrated rather than written about, so have a look at Youtube and search for "2013 Louet David Loom". The loom currently costs about £1450 and delivery time is about 5 weeks.

Nick Johnson



Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be held at America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter, EX4 8PX at 11.00am on Saturday, 10th November 2015.

AGENDA

Chairman:

- 1. Apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes of the previous AGM
- 3. Secretary's report
- 4. Treasurer's report
- 5. Chairman's report
- 6. Election of committee members
- 7. Appointment of auditor
- 8. President's remarks
- 9. Consideration of any motions proposed by members
- 10. Any other business taken entirely at the Chairman's discretion

Jenny Arnold

Amanda Trick

COMMITTEE NOW SERVING

Vice Chairman/Secretary:

Treasurer:		Paul Ashton	Committee	Vicky Bundy
Membership		Sue Clowney	member:	Jean Field
Secretary/Journa	l:	•		Norma Sanders
Events Co-ordina	itor:	Jane Yarrow		
Programme Secre	etary:	Suzanne Sande	ers	
Full members are or Secretary have				Please let the Chairman
•	•		•	
				×
DGWSD ANNUAL	CENEDAL N	AEETING 40th	lovember 2015	
DGWSD ANNUAL	. GENERAL I	MEETING - 10 P	November 2015	
I wish to have the	following disc	ussed at the AGI	M:	
I wish to nominate	the following	as a member of	the Guild Committee:	
Name:				
Proposed by:			Seconded by:	
Naminaa'a				
Nominee's				
consent:				***************************************

Newsletter Editor:

Webmaster:

Chris Johnson

Amanda Trick

Please read this and retain for reference

DATA PROTECTION ACT - POLICY STATEMENT

KEY TERMS

Data Controller: Anybody (person or organisation) who decides what personal

data to collect and how to process it.

Data Subject: Any living person about whom you collect, hold or use

personal information.

Data Protection Officer: The person in our organisation who makes sure you comply

with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Data Processing: From the moment someone's details are taken to the moment

their file is finally shredded or deleted, data about them is

being 'processed'.

Personal Data: Any information about a living person – from name and phone

number to family history or financial details.

- The Chair will take responsibility as the Data Protection Officer unless this is confirmed as a separate permanent post within the committee; the Membership Secretary will act as Data Controller.
- Each member will supply, upon renewing membership, up-to-date details as follows: Name, Postal address, Telephone number, E-mail address. This information will be available to The Chair, Membership Secretary AND the Treasurer only, and will be used for purposes of emergency contact only.
- The information supplied by each member may be re-checked at the AGM (or by post immediately after) by means of an "address details re-check slip" to be signed and returned to the Data Controller.
- All data will be kept as a single data file: one software copy held by the Membership Secretary, two paper copies held by the Chair and Treasurer, each stored securely. A circulated list of members will contain details of **only** those members who have expressed the wish to be included in such a list (but **will** list all members' names).
- The members of the Guild will comply with the following requirements: only paid-up members are allowed to use the circulated list data and only for Guild purposes.

Note: Ex-members must destroy all Guild data lists.

Current members must destroy out-dated lists.

No data may be quoted to anyone not a member of the Guild.

Data lists may not be shown to, lent to, nor accessed by a non-member.

Any change of details during the year (e.g. address) must be supplied to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible.

- All data of members known to be inaccurate or in need of amending will be edited on the stored data lists and verbally given out at the next business meeting, if permission is given by the member to do so.
- This policy statement will form part of the notes given to new members and will appear on the "address details re check" slip given out at each AGM.
- This policy will be re-addressed at each AGM for any necessary revisions, legislation changes and changes of responsibility within the Guild.

Please detach this sheet -

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I enclose my Membership Subscription for 2016

Full Member Full Joint Associate Member Junior Student	£20.00	
Journal Subscription Collected Posted	£16.00 □ £22.00 □	
Willing to provide cake for refreshments? Please note that all members, if able, a basis.	Yes / No are expected to help serve refreshments on a rota	
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/ Other:		
First Name:	Surname:	
Address: (only if changed):		
Deat Carles	Tal No.	
Post Code:	Tel No:	
e-Mail:		•••
In future the DGWSD newsletter will be secomputer/printer and want to receive a pa	ent out via email. If you do not have a suitable aper copy, please tick this box.	
Please tick to indicate that you unders membership	stand and accept these details are required for	
Please tick to indicate permission to in	nclude in a details list circulated within Guild.	
Please tick to indicate that others shar have been notified of the above two po	ring these details (partners, spouses, etc.) pints.	
Signed:	Date:	
Please make cheques payable to:		

Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Membership Secretary: Sue Clowney, Jennings Farm, Clayhidon, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3TH.