



# The Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers



Newsletter: **February 2017**

*(Front page photo: weaving a Devon flag scarf on a Louet David 2)*

## **Chairman's Chat**

February 2017

I used to laugh at my grandmother when she said time flies past when you get older but she was SO right. Five minutes ago (it seems) I heard a disembodied voice saying, "I'll stand for Chairman", then realised the voice was mine. And that was two and a half years ago!

There are two reasons for the above paragraph. The first is, come November, you will need a new Chairman, Secretary and at least two committee members. The second is a version of the theme I've mentioned before. If you want to spin, weave, knit, dye, sew, embroider etc etc – do it. The housework will still be there tomorrow. The dust will not be perceptibly deeper if you leave it for a few more days. (Trust me.)

A very dear friend of mine, in his 90s, was ill and his son called an ambulance. My friend initially refused to go, saying he didn't have time, but was eventually persuaded. Once in a ward, he fretted about getting out fast because he said, "I have so much still to do." Sadly, he died the next day. I, too, have a sense of time running out and there is still so much I want to do. Wendy and I decided we needed challenges, more to focus our minds as anything else, and mine, this year, include learning how properly to spin using a support-spindle,

do at least a drawing or painting a week (I have no ability but just like to have a go), finish what we have started (tick) and use up our beloved yarn and fibre store (otherwise known, unflatteringly, as stash, an ugly word). OK, irritants come along and create diversions (I've just had a horrid bout of tonsillitis which I thought only the under 10s got) but you can soon get back on track.



I leave you with a quotation from Gandhi: "I claim that in losing the spinning wheel we lost our left lung. We are therefore suffering from galloping consumption. The restoration of the wheel arrests the progress of the fell disease." Young India, 13-10-1921. Replace 'wheel' with loom, or whatever relates to yourself. Go spin.

**Jenny Arnold**  
Chairman

### A warm welcome to the new members of the Guild

Name	From
Carole Gordon	Axminster
Jackie Groves	Axminster
Maria de Lisle-Asher	Tiverton
Jackie Millichap	Ashburton
Sarah Otton	Exeter
Judy Throup	Exeter
<b>and welcome back to:</b>	
Mary Homden	Witheridge
Lucia Kirk	Exeter

### Sue Clowney

Membership Secretary

### Some of the Guild's Weaving, Spinning and Dyeing



*orange samples from Wingham*



*Indigo dyeing by Anne L.*



*early weaving*

## What the Devon Guild has been doing

### Saturday, 8th October: Share our Work and Evaluation Day

Guest speaker: Rev Andrew P. Johnson

We were very lucky to have our guest speaker, Rev. Andrew, to come along to adjudicate for the 2016 Share our Work and Evaluation Day. Andrew has been involved in textile crafts for over 55 years and has been weaving and lace making from a very early age. He is Vice Chair of the English Lace Guild, was Chairman of the Journal some years ago and also was a convener of the 2013 Summer School.

Andrew gave all our work to be evaluated his very best attention and also gave some valuable advice as to how some pieces could have been improved or just better presented. We will take note!

## Skills Challenge Day 2016

### Results

<b>Trophy</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>
Coldharbour (weaving)	Jackie Thomas	Isabelle Jourdan
Dyeing	Sheilagh Robson	Chris Crisford
Edna Gibson (handspun yarn)	Sue Clowney	Chris Crisford
Joan Boardman (knitting/crochet)	Ann Durrant	Cathy Noble
Lesley Neate (use of natural coloured fibre)	Jenny Arnold	Cathy Noble
Tiro (novice)	<i>No award made</i>	<i>No award made</i>
Eleanor Trophy (best finish)	Cathy Noble	<i>No award made</i>
2016 Challenge Christmas tree ornaments	Amanda Trick	Margaret Graham
Judge's choice	Ann Durrant	Sheilagh Robson
Member's Choice	Isabelle Jourdan	Mary Mallett



## Jae's trip to America

I don't know if I mentioned it at all (Chair – shhh!), but in the summer I attended the bi-annual Convergence convention organised by the Handweavers Guild of America. Much like our summer school, it moves around the country and in 2016 it was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee is variously famous for beer (hmm), Harley Davidson Motorbikes (wow but scary) and 'Happy Days' (memories of my youth). Other than that I can't really anything other than it is about as exciting as Birmingham. But I wasn't there to sight see! Much!



I started my trip in Chicago, Yes that is a picture of Trump Towers in the city where Obama was Senator! After a couple of days sightseeing in Chicago, I took the train to Milwaukee in time to warp up the loom I was renting for the first of the courses I had booked. Three days of Rep Weaving.

### Monday

A tour of Cedarburg, just north of the city where there is a lovely little museum of early American Hand-woven Coverlets. The bed covers are amazingly detailed and beautifully made. Unfortunately, as they were domestic items woven in the home for the home, very few have dates or makers names on them. (Note to self – if you spend a lot of time, effort and love in the making of something, embroider a label for an inconspicuous corner. I'm not saying my work will ever end up in a museum, but...). We also had a fascinating talk on early American weavers and a chance to wander about on our own. With signs everywhere stating that the coverlets were not to be touched, I have never seen so many adults wandering around with their hands rammed so deep in their pockets!

### 3 Days of Rep Weaving with Lucienne Coifman



*Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fibre*

There were 14 of us on the course, and we had each been sent a different warping draft. Each draft generated between 3 & 8 different designs. We had to pick one for each warp and then we had the chance to weave a sample on each warp. Also a lovely chance to try out all the different looms that people had brought with them. That was a mixed bag as well some were lovely, but one or two were an absolute nightmare. (Rep weave warps are so tightly packed they present a problem for the best of table and some of the looms were NOT the best).



*Chicago*

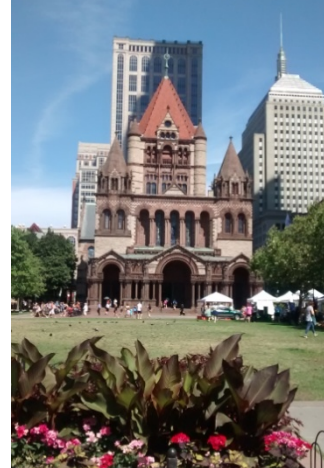
The course was nicely balanced between learning and weaving, we would spend a couple of hours weaving, then an hour learning the principles of Rep weave, drafting our own designs and working out the tie ups required. After 3 days

we had a lovely array of samples to separate and take home.

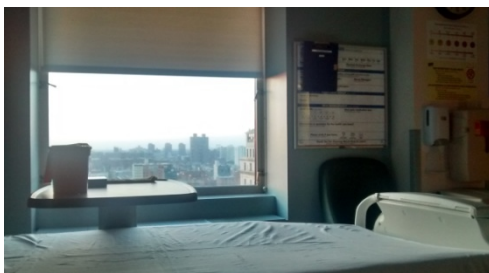
I spent the rest of the week attending a talk on double weave, time spent journaling using mixed media, and a workshop on Coptic Knitting. Then there was the fashion show and a talk on Nano-Technology in Textiles. Wow, self cleaning fabrics, clothes that change colour at the flip of a switch and a shirt that will charge your mobile phone. Apparently not just a pipe dream, many of these are already possible – they just cost about \$1000 per square inch to make!!!

All that was just the scheduled bits! The first person I met was from Seattle, her name is Jennifer Yelverton, and how could we not spark up a friendship with that to chat about. After lunch on the first day she invited me to join her and her roommate “she’s a Brit too” for dinner. Upon introduction her roommate turned out to be Jacqui Carey, the Kumihimo braid maker and author who lives in Ottery St Mary. (Note to committee – Jacqui would be fascinating for a talk.) I’m afraid we may have added to the American belief that the UK is tiny and everyone knows everyone else. And that set the tone for the whole week. New friends, hitting all the restaurants and trying the local beers (lager really but let’s not be rude), including one that uses orange peel in the brew and is served with a slice of orange. Odd, but very nice.

*Boston*



At the end of the week, which seemed to fly by and last forever all at the same time, I continued my travels through Boston (must go back and see more) to New York (must go back and see it) but that is the whole other story of a lost passport, insurance, Cellulitis, the American health system, and flying home Business class 8 days later than planned. Don’t ask!



12 Days in New York and this was the best view I got!!!

Finally can I just say a huge thanks to all of you for your best wishes while I was poorly, my cards and e-mails – some of which I received while I was still in hospital – your help and offers of help while I recovered. They made a massive difference.

**THANK YOU!**

**Jae Burgin**

**Sunday, 9th October**  
**Anniken Allis - Steeking & Fairisle Selbu knitting**



*steeking - image from  
annisknittingblog.blogspot.co.uk*



*Taken from Anniken's blog site*

**Saturday, 12th November**  
**Members' Sales Day and AGM**

Another really successful Member's Sales Day organised by Sue Heathcote and enjoyed as usual by members of the Guild and visitors. We all bought too much - also as usual.



The AGM meeting held at 11 am delivered the year's reports from Jo Diffey (President), Jenny Arnold (Chairman), Amanda Trick (Secretary) and Paul Ashton (Treasurer). The Guild was highly delighted when it was found that Paul, although his three years as Treasurer were up, agreed to continue as a co-opted member of the Committee. Phew! We are now fortunate and really grateful to have two new members to the committee: Jae Burgin and Jackie Hitchen. And we are also happy to have Sheilagh back once more.

**Chris Johnson**



## Tutley Mutley Update

(Our dear long-lost but not forgotten friend) Terri Bate continues her fascinating and eventful cycling tour to Australia. In her most recent post to the world on Facebook on 17th January 2017, she says that she has travelled from Goa to Northern Thailand and is en route to Myanmar (or Burma as we used to call it). Since our last newsletter she had flown from Ankara in Turkey to Mumbai. This let her dodge the unstable countries in between (*we are all really thankful! Ed.*).

After having a family reunion in Mumbai, she set off in the heat cycling down the western Indian coastline to Goa. Her main challenge each day is finding somewhere safe to stay the night. This usually introduces her to most traders in the village, who ask around their families and she usually has a spot safe from insects and animals. She has come to terms with having to look after her possessions day and night as she is seen as one of many more affluent Westerners doing the tour along the same route as she is taking.

These younger Europeans are good company for her and always pass on travel and accommodation tips. This is really important where maps are vague and news about which roads are open or closed gets differing answers depending on who you ask. Lower living standards compared to Europe means there are few places to connect to the Internet to post stories and photos, so information from her has often been reduced to a trickle. In fact, the last full day's instalment is her arriving in Goa on the 9th December 2016. She has posted many pictures of her Indian adventure including some of her own wonderful drawings. Here are just a few of them.



**Nick Johnson**



## Some of the Guild's brilliant knitters

The Guild has some brilliant knitters as we found out when Anniken Alliss came to give us a talk in 2015. Several of our members knitted some beautiful swatches which were displayed before Anniken gave her talk. Just a few examples:



The National Exhibition of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers included work by some of our other excellent knitters: Ann Durrant, Amanda Trick, Margaret Graham, Alison Haggas and some thirty of us who contributed towards the Devon Guild Collaborative Project and the finely made, sometimes weird and wacky bookmarks (see previous newsletter).

What we would also like is for more people to bring in their finished projects each month so that we fibre fanatics can all admire, touch and feel. Brenda L. did start a swank and swear table for each month and hopefully, when fully recovered from her op, she will organise this again. We can take photos of your work and then put them on the Gallery on the website, which of course shows the item in all its colourful glory. Here is an example of some fabulous knitting by Barbara Jones.



*Close-up of beaded lace knitting*



*Knitted by Barbara J.*

## Devon County Show Remembers

The Craft and Garden Marquee at the Devon County Show 2017 is creating a carpet of handmade poppies as a tribute to the 11,000 Devon men and women who lost their lives in the First World War. We would like your help to achieve this project. There are three different knitted poppy patterns to choose from and two to crochet. Please pick up a copy of the patterns from Brenda P. on the Reception desk if you would like to have a go.

Here is a simple pattern from the five (or you can use your own or create your own).

Colour A Red and Colour B Scrap of black or a black button

Using Col A cast on 120 stitches and knit 4 rows.

Row 5 Knit 3 stitches together across the row (40 stitches)

Rows 6-9 Knit

Row 10 Knit 2 stitches together across the row (20 stitches). Knit 4 rows (20 stitches)

Row 15 Knit 2 stitches together across the row (10 stitches)

Cut yarn leaving a tail of about 20 cm

Thread tail through yarn needle and slip all remaining live stitches onto the yarn tail and pull tight. Pull around into a circle and then mattress stitch (or whatever), sew in ends.

Centre of poppy: Using Col B, cast on 16 sts. Cast off. Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to centre. Or use a button or embroider the centre with black yarn.

## CALLING ALL OUR GREAT KNITTERS!

Your work is definitely needed for the prestigious Guild exhibition in August 2017. It does not matter if you think your spinning is not too brilliant, in fact some simpler stuff will give confidence to anyone who is thinking of taking up the craft. Don't be shy! Advice is to get going asap as the time to the August exhibition will flash by.

## GUILD EXHIBITION 2017 -



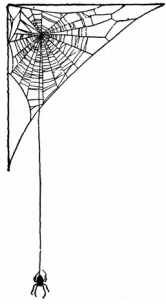
[Buckfast Abbey](#), Buckfastleigh, Devon, TQ11 0EE

We are pleased to announce that  
the next  
Devon Guild of Weavers,  
Spinners & Dyers Exhibition will  
be held on  
**25th, 26th and 27th August, 2017**

We are looking forward to a new  
venue,  
the beautiful Medieval Guest Hall at

***Make sure you put it in your diary!***

And finally, Amanda has allowed one of her free patterns to be included in the newsletter. The full version can be seen at [www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com).



## SPINNERET DESIGNS

# SPEED THE PLOUGH

This delicate, floaty scarf is fully reversible



The simple two-row pattern is easy to memorise

The scarf can be made from 100g of light-fingering weight yarn

The length and width are easily adjustable



<b>Yarn</b>	<p>The photographs show the scarf knitted in handspun, kid mohair/silk, <b>light-fingering weight yarn</b>*. Just under 465m/100g was used.</p> <p>Any weight of yarn can be used, with the proviso that the amount required will of course be different to that given above.</p> <p><i>*Similar in metres/gram to: 'Excelite' by John Arbon; 'Shetland Heritage' by Jamieson &amp; Smith; 'Brushed Alpaca Silk' by DROPS.</i></p>
<b>Tools</b>	<p>Needles 3.75mm (US3)</p> <p>Darning needle For weaving in yarn ends</p>
<b>Tension</b>	Not important. Any yarn can be used to make this shawl - different weights/size of needles used will produce different tensions.
<b>Size</b>	<p>Width: 30 cm</p> <p>Length: 170 cm</p> <p><i>N.B. Using a different yarn may alter these measurements</i></p>

This lovely pattern was designed by our Secretary, Amanda, and is available from [www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com) (Amanda2127)

See also the Gallery page on our website <http://www.devonguildwsd.org.uk> to see a example of this pattern knitted by Alison H.



Cast-on 71 sts using a stretchy cast-on method (*see Techniques*) and work 8 rows of moss/seed stitch (k1,p1)

**Row 1:** K1, p1, k1, \*p1, yo, sskpo, yo, p1, k1, p1, yo, sskpo, yo, (p1,k1) x 4. Rpt twice from \* to last 14 sts. \*P1, yo, sskpo, yo, p1, k1. Rpt once from \* to last 2 sts. P1, k1.

**Row 2:** K1, p1, k2, p3, k1, p1, k1, p3, k1, \* (k1, p1) x 3, k2, p3, k1, p1, k1, p3, k1. Rpt twice from \* to last 3 sts. K1, p1, k1.

Repeat these two rows until the scarf has reached the length you desire.

Work 8 rows of moss/seed stitch then cast off using a stretchy cast-off method (*see Techniques*)

Weave in ends and block.

## MODIFICATIONS

If you wish to alter the width of the scarf to suit your needs and/or the yarn you are using:

The pattern repeat is 18 stitches + 11 + 6 border stitches (3 each side), therefore:

- 2 pattern repeats: cast on 53 sts
- 4 pattern repeats: cast on 89 sts
- 5 pattern repeats: cast on 107 sts
- 6 pattern repeats: cast on 125 sts



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## Committee now serving:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Jenny Arnold
<b>Secretary/Vice-Chairman:</b>	Amanda Trick
<b>Programme Secretary and Fleece Fair Co-ordinator</b>	Sue Heathcote
<b>Events Co-ordinator:</b>	Jane Yarrow
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Chris Johnson
<b>Membership Secretary/Journal:</b>	Sue Clowney
<b>Coach Trip Co-ordinaator:</b>	Jae Burgin
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Amanda Trick
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Sheilagh Robson Norma Sanders Jacqueline Hitchen
<b>Co-opted to Committee:</b>	Paul Ashton (Treasurer)

