

Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Easter 2016

Letter from the Chair

Firstly, new committee members. Fiona Bureau has kindly taken over from Jacqui Fuller as Treasurer. Once again thanks to Jacqui for her sterling work over the past 4 years.

Erica Jones and Chris Tucker have swapped roles. Erica has taken on the task of Newsletter editor and Chris will oversee the Library. If anyone has suggestions for new books for the Library please give Chris the details so that she can bring ideas to the next committee meeting. Erica would love some book reviews for the Newsletter. If there is something you have read that you would recommend please write a short piece for her.

Plans for the Exhibition continue to progress well. We need the items for display and the sales table by the end of April, before that if you wish. Forms have been emailed, but hard copies are available at meetings. Each exhibit will have a typed and laminated label beside it giving at minimum the fibre and construction. If you would like to give more details about the inspiration for the piece that would be lovely. We want to convey to the visitors what makes us tick.

Many thanks, Happy Easter.

Sue

Letter from the Newsletter Editor

I would like to start by thanking Chris for all her work as Newsletter Editor. She has graciously provided much of the content for this issue as well! I will do my best to continue to provide an interesting, informative newsletter for our guild members. Chris has provided an excellent example to follow.

In order to best serve you, I welcome any suggestions for content and especially welcome member content! Suggestions, ideas, and articles may be sent to me at erica@weavolution.com. I would especially like to include book reviews. We are fortunate to meet at least once a month (mostly), but books are a valuable source of information outside of guild meetings. Please share recommendations for books, especially if you have enjoyed a book you checked out from the Guild Library.

I feel only a few members know me well, so I would like to introduce myself to members, who may not have had the opportunity to meet me in person. Although I hail from the United States, I have lived in the United Kingdom since 2004. That being said, I am not a native "English" speaker, so please forgive me if I use the letter s and commas in ways that are not correct in the Queen's English. :)

Fortunately many in the guild are weavers, so we speak our own common language. I enjoy weaving, spinning and dying. My mother taught me to weave when I was 8 years old. Although I have not been an avid weaver this entire time, I have now been weaving consistently for the last 8 years. I am currently undertaking the Certificate of Achievement syllabus and loving every minute of it! I recently fell in love with spinning and when I can find the time I love natural dying. In a perfect world, I would have time to spin and dye all my own yarn!

The Cambs Guild has been an important part of my life the last few years. I look forward to sharing Guild news and happenings with you all.

Erica

This year's event was under new management in a new venue – Cambourne Village College. This is a very nice modern building with everything under one roof – no more getting lost looking for your workshop. The rooms were light and airy and the catering was very good. The only hitch was that building works (which should have been finished some time ago) were still going on, which meant that half of the car park was out of action. This meant a five-minute walk for me, but was obviously more of a problem for those less mobile. As the organisers were not warned in advance they didn't have a back-up plan for disabled parking. A nuisance for some, but a one-off that shouldn't put people off going next year.

The three exhibitions were very inspiring:

- Shapeshifting by the Westhope Group was a new take on lace making which really pushed the boundaries.
- Inspirations by the Connected Textiles Group was a textile and mixed media show which featured some gorgeous embroideries inspired by Coventry Cathedral.
- Running With Scissors showed a collection of embroidered and felted pieces based on the natural world, including some lovely bird embroideries, and also some felted manikins of people and fairies.

The traders hall was very stitch-orientated this year. Lesley (FibreTastic) and Alison (Yarnscapes) from Rampton Spinners made up most of the yarns section, along with Spinspired, who sold equipment and a small amount of yarn and knitted items. They make their own very nice tapestry looms which were selling like hot cakes – check out their web site www.spinspired.co.uk

There were no weaving suppliers this time, but a very good book stall and folk selling dye stuff so I didn't come away empty handed. Hopefully the organisers will build on their successful first Cambourne show and run an even better one next year.

27 Feb Twined Knitting – Diane Ashley-Smith

Chris Tucker



Twined knitting is a Scandinavian technique for making double thickness items for maximum warmth. The first records of the technique were dated to 1680 or earlier and it is still practiced today. Two strands of yarn are used, and they are twined around each other the same way after each knitted stitch. This gives a very solid warm fabric perfect for hats and gloves. Historically it was also used for sleeves which were attached to woven bodices. Twined knitting can be worked in one colour (with or without textural patterns) or different colours can be used to make very striking patterns.

Diane talked about the history of the technique and her own extensive research into it. What made the talk special was that it was illustrated with many exquisitely made (and well used) examples of hats and mittens, as well as many sample pieces. Diane finished off by handling round samples on double-pointed needles for us to all have a go, making the theory fall into place. Many thanks to Diane for a fascinating talk and for starting off at least 20 samples.

The March Guild Day was a well attended, well organized event, as usual Members were treated to two wonderful vendors, [My Fine Weaving Yarn](#) and [Rob Dunster Ceramics](#), and three fascinating demonstrations.

The morning started with an exciting demonstration from the Guild's own Paula Armstrong. Paula brought handouts, cardboard looms, and supplies for guild members to make small sari silk bags. These bags were a real hit. Guild members enjoyed being able to start and finish a weaving project in just a few hours! The technique was easily learned and allowed everyone to combine a number of colors into a functional purse.

The morning continued with a beginners inkle weaving demonstration by Jenny Dunster. Jenny is an inkle and tapestry weaving enthusiast. Her knowledge of inkle weaving is extensive and she shared many tips and tricks with her students on the day.

In the afternoon, our Guild Webmaster, Suzanne Townsend, sat down with individuals and small groups to show the many new features of the Guild website. The [website](#) includes the guild programme and other information, but also an area just for Guild members. This area is password protected and includes forums, where members can discuss topics between meetings, the Guild Library lists, a scanned copy of the Weave! book, and scans of the Weave Structure Study Group samples. Throughout the day attendees took a break from other activities to peruse the wares of My Fine Weaving Yarn and Rob Dunster Ceramics. Helen, of My Fine Weaving Yarn, brought a superb selection of weaving yarn, from organic cotton to luxurious bamboo and silk yarns! Rob Dunster makes small portable inkle looms, even his "floor" loom model packs down for easy portability. He also had on offer a range of artistic shuttles and weaving related earrings!

Guild Programme

April 23 Natural Dyes Aviva Leigh

April 24 Natural Dyes Workshop at Steiner School,
Fulbourn *Booking essential*

May 28/29 Exhibition at Granchester Village Hall

June 25 My Journey with Alpaca Lyn Scott

July 30 Visit to London Cloth Co.

September 24 Passementerie Ann Crutchley

October 29 Silk and Sand Martin Weatherhead

October 30 Warp Ikat Workshop at Steiner School,
Fulbourn *Booking essential*

November 26 Tudor Textile Techniques Katie Owens

Other Events/Exhibitions

15 Apr - 25 Jun 2016 World IKAT Textiles... ties that bind
A voyage of the World's most celebrated Textile, IKAT
Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London

28 – 29 May: Cambridgeshire Guild Triennial Exhibition, Grantchester Village Hall

10 – 12 June: AGWSD Conference and AGM, and Certificate of Achievement Exhibit, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln

8 – 18 September AGWSD National Exhibition, Killerton, Devon

10 September: World Textile Day, Mundford, Norfolk

Come and Weave

June 11

September 10

October 8

November 12