



Cambridgeshire
Guild of Weavers
Spinners & Dyers

NEWSLETTER 68

April 2013



Abbi demonstrating Takadai braiding at March Open Day

Photo by Chris Tucker

GUILD NEWS

Cambs Guild Exhibition 25th-26th May 2013

Grantchester Village Hall.

I hope by now you have all returned your entry forms to Sue, and are planning to display lots of your woven, braided, spun, dyed, and felted creations for exhibition and (if you wish) sale. We also need cakes to sell and lots of helpers to invigilate, demonstrate and serve refreshments.

It should be a lot of fun, and we hope that most members will feel able to offer some items and will come along for part of the exhibition.

If possible, please let us have a small swatch for people to handle alongside the finished item and a short explanation of the inspiration, materials used etc. If you want to, a sheet of technical details can be supplied and we will keep these in a file at the exhibition for anyone who is interested.

Demonstrations of weaving and spinning will be going on during the exhibition as we think visitors will find the opportunity to 'have a go' a bonus.

If you haven't already signed up but would like to help invigilate or can give an hour or two to demonstrate please contact Sue Wallis.

Please make sure you get your finished items to Anna, Paula, Jacqui or Sue by Tuesday 14th May. See your entry form for contact details.

OUTING 15th June 2013

Our Guild Trip this year will be to May Berkouwer's Textile Conservation Studio in Sudbury. I enclose a link to May's website, which is well worth a look see (lots of lovely pics of textiles) <http://mbtexcon.co.uk/>

The trip is scheduled for Saturday 15th June; cost will be about £10; travel will be by car sharing. Sue Wallis is currently collecting names of interested members, so if you'd like to come, please see Sue.

Beth

Janet Philips Workshop 27th & 28th October 2013

We expect this workshop to be very popular so Jane Sinton is taking names, and the lucky ones will be drawn from a hat at the June meeting. If the reserve list is long enough we will arrange a second workshop.

Please note that if your name is drawn then your deposit will be due at the June meeting.



Guild Aprons

We now have Guild Aprons for sale (hand made by members of the committee) at £8 each.

The price covers the cost of materials and a small proportion to go to Guild Funds.

They are heavy calico with a large tool pocket and the Guild logo on the bib – just the thing for spinning, dealing with fleece, dying etc. (or even baking) If you would like to own this must-have fashion accessory, see Sue Wallis.

Come And Weave Days

Bring your table or inkle loom (or backstrap, marudai, knitting etc) and spend the day working and chatting in good company. Bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee, and generally cake provided.

At Comberton Village Hall on Saturdays, from 10am -4 pm. Cost £4 a day.

This year's remaining dates are;

May 11th

October 12th

November 16th

All Guild members are welcome.

For further details contact Jacqui Fuller or Sue Wallis.

Cottenham Summer School 22-26 July at Cottenham Village College

This is a fantastic event which has been running for 19 years now. There are courses on Textiles, Jewelry, Drawing and Painting, and many others.

Bookings are now being taken by the Community Office at Cottenham Village College, 01954 288751. Anna is running her course which is suitable for beginners and more experienced weavers. Don't miss it.

COTTENHAM SUMMER SCHOOL 22-26 July 2013

Weaving on a 4 shaft Table Loom

Tutor: Anna Crutchley

This course is suitable for beginners and weavers with previous experience. Beginners will sample a variety of weave structures, experimenting with different colour combinations, yarn qualities and surface textures. Looms will be threaded up ready and you will also see how to set up a loom from scratch. By the end of the course you will have a comprehensive set of samples and notes, and masses of information for further progress. Weavers with previous experience are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the tutor in advance of the course so that the course can be tailored to meet their technique and/or design interests.

5 days (Mon-Fri), 10am - 4pm, £250

Bookings: Cottenham Village College 01954 288 751, www.cvcweb.net (click on Adult Learning & Leisure)

Contact Anna directly if you would like more information about the course: 01223 327685 or a.crutchley@ntlworld.com

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Calendar 2014

The time has come to sort through your photographs with a view to submitting them to be considered for the 2014 AGWSD calendar. New submissions will be welcomed, to a maximum of four from any one Guild member.

As in previous years, photographs can cover any aspects of our crafts, such as examples or details of your own work, guild activities, animals whose fibres you spin or plants used for fibre or dyes, crafts or craftsmen from other countries and so on.

NB All photographs must be in landscape format, and should be accompanied by the name and contact details of the photographer, their guild, and a short description of the subject of the image, and the techniques and materials used. If the submission is of somebody else's work, you must obtain the permission of the maker first.

Digital photographs should have a resolution of at least 200 dpi in order to print satisfactorily.

These should be sent to calendar@wsd.org.uk

Good quality prints or slides should be sent to Hilary Turner, 37 Blundellsands Road East, Liverpool L23 8UJ.

If you or a representative of your Guild is going to attend the AGM in London on April 13th, submissions can be delivered to me in person.

If you wish to have the photograph returned to you, please include a stamped addressed envelope.

The deadline for submissions is April 20th.

Hilary Turner

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 13th April 2013 in Bonhill House, London EC2. The meeting will start at 11.00 am and will finish at approximately 4pm. More information from www.wsd.org.uk

THE HANDWEAVERS DIPLOMA

The Handweavers Diploma is a two year diploma course in handweaving, delivered through the Handweavers Studio, Finsbury Park, north London. It starts with a 10 day summer school followed by quarterly contact weekends and between times tutor contact.

The first summer school was held in September 2011 and the first intake of students will finish in July 2013. Wendy Morris is course director, and Melanie Venes the ever-patient course tutor.

The course is designed to:

- Develop students' technical weaving skills to an expert level
- Give students an intermediate to advanced knowledge and understanding of a wide variety of weave structures
- Build students' creative skills and confidence to enable them to innovate in their weaving and develop their own distinctive 'voice' if they wish.

As the second year of the course gets underway, members of the Cambridgeshire Guild might be interested to hear from a fellow CGWSD member and a course student.

Twelve intrepid individuals attended the summer school in September 2011. Melanie gave an excellent grounding in weave structure, Stacey Harvey-Brown introduced her approach to design, and Bobbie Kociejowski helped us understand colour theory.

As well as weaving, painting and textile analysis, we were inspired by a visit to Margo Selby's studio in Pied Bull Yard, London, and later in the week visited the Barbican, which was the subject for our first project.

This introduction to the course was intensive. For me, there were a lot of new ideas to take on board, but too little time to absorb and digest them. Feedback to Wendy and Melanie at the end of the first year has included this comment. Nevertheless, as a result of the teaching during that week we had the skills to develop our first project.

At each contact weekend an afternoon is spent sharing project samples and discussing progress. A new weave structure is introduced in a workshop, often taught by a specialist, with time to 'have a go'. In the first year, workshops have included double weave with Jennifer Moore and collapse

weave with Ann Richards. Finally, the brief for the next project is handed out and discussed.

Interpreting the project is entirely up to each individual, it is amazing how the same brief can be delivered in such a wide variety of ways. Some take an artistic approach, some are more technical and all are creative and innovative.

The projects have given opportunity to produce fabric of a wide variety of end uses including clothing, soft furnishing, upholstery, and the summer project which gave us an opportunity to create a piece of textile art. For each project, a suite of between 10 and 12 samples 8" x 10" is worked up and submitted.

There were three projects in the first year: an interpretation of the Barbican for items which might be sold in their giftshop; soft furnishings for a refurbished house or a new build; and fabrics for wedding garments.

Had I appreciated just how much time I would need to put into the course between each contact weekend, maybe I would have thought twice about enrolling. Had I not enrolled, I would not have spent the last year developing and improving my weaving technique and my approach to design, I would not have met my fantastic fellow students, nor had the opportunity for contact with fabulous weaving experts who are always so willing to share their lifetime's worth of knowledge and skill.

It is frustrating to do nothing but sample – no I haven't actually made anything yet! I have so many small pieces of cloth now. Each demonstrating the effect of different setts, weave structures, finishing techniques and yarns - all of which is valuable learning.

The assessment for each project is based on the submission of a number of samples (swatches) along with all the technical details, including yarn type and count, sett – picks and ends per inch – weave structure and draw down, and finishing technique. The samples had to be woven or cut to size (minimum of 8" x 10"), finished by washing (by hand or in a washing machine) and mounted on card for a professional presentation.

Feedback on progress is given on a module-by-module basis. At the end of the first year, each student submitted a portfolio of work which was formally assessed by Ismini Samanidou, Stacey Harvey-Brown and Ann Richards. The portfolio comprised between 12 and 15 swatches to give a coherent view of

the capability of the student. Each swatch included an indication of the design source and the end purpose of the cloth.

The assessment gives comments on technical proficiency, appropriateness of design, and understanding and use of weave structures. I appreciated there being three assessors, since as the course information states: assessment is an art not a science. What one assessor liked another didn't.

The final module of the second year will be a double one. The aim will be to submit a swatch collection as well as a finished item. There will be one more project to complete before we are given the brief for the final project. This will be handed in for assessment in July 2013, after which I won't know what to do with all that spare time I will suddenly find myself with.

I would like to thank Anna whose patience and enthusiasm got me started on weaving after several years away from it, and also all the new weavers (you know who you are!) who provided me with the inspiration to take up the challenge of the Diploma, and Chris who encouraged me to 'go for it' and has provided much needed support along the way.

Sadly, I have attended very few Guild meetings this year, the time commitment for the course and having a full time job doesn't allow for much time off. But I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in hearing more about how I'm getting on.

Suzanne Townshend

WHAT'S ON IN 2013

To 29 June - Kaffe Fassett – a life in colour at the Fashion and Textiles Museum, 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF. Over 100 pieces

installed by Sue Timney. Tues – Sat 11.00 – 18.00.

£8.00 or £5.50 concessions (under 12's free).

Further info from 020 7407 8664 or www.ftmlondon.org

29 April – 20 June - Beauty is the first test – Art & Mathematics at National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford NG34 7TW

Includes work by Lucy McMullen, Laura Thomas and Ann Sutton. Open

10.00 – 17.00 daily, info from 01529 308710 or

www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk

10-13 May – Collect London, at Saatchi Galleries. International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects. www.craftscouncil.org.uk

25-26 May - Hanging by a Thread at Grantchester Village Hall Just in case there is anyone who hasn't got this in their diary yet...

25 May – 6 July – Made in the Middle at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery NN1 1DP Triennial exhibition of crafts, free entry, open Tues to

Sat 10.00- 17.00, Sun 14.00- 17.00, info from

www.craftspace.co.uk/madeinthemiddle

28-29 June – Woolfest Cumbria at Mitchells Lakeland Livestock Centre, Cockermouth, CA13 0QQ Fri 10.00 – 18.00, Sat 10.00 – 17.00

£8 for one day or £13 for both days. www.woolfest.co.uk

18-21 July - Art in Action at Waterperry Oxfordshire, OX33 1JZ.

10.00 – 17.30 daily www.artinaction.org.uk

22-26 July - Cottenham Summer School info from 01954 288751 or email community@cvcweb.net

27-28 July Fibre East at Redbourn Community College, Ampthill, Bedfordshire. Info from www.fibre-east.co.uk

4-11 August Association Summer School at St Davids College, Carmarthen. Info from www.wsd.org.uk

24-25 August Glastonbury Wool Festival rare breeds, sheepdogs, shearing, lots of stalls and including a fashion show at the Rural Life Museum on

Saturday 24th August at 2pm. Info from

www.glastonburywoolfestival.co.uk

7 September World Textile Day at Mundford Village Hall, Norfolk IP26

5DW. 10.00 – 17.00, free entrance. Lectures from Jim Gaffney and Maggie

Relph at 11.00 and 14.00. Exhibition of stitched embroidered and woven

textiles and artefacts from around the world, specialist traders,

refreshments, disabled access.

Colour & Creation

Saturday 28 September 2013 10 - 3.30

King Edward VI School, Stratford on Avon

A Six Guilds event - each Guild will produce a display using a British fleece.

Speakers:

ISABELLA WHITWORTH (Dyer) *Hunting purple, filling buses*

JOAN BAXTER (Tapestry Weaver): *Landscapes of inspiration*

FREE PARKING ON SITE

Car park closes at 4 pm prompt

TICKET ONLY EVENT

£22 including lunch, tea, coffee and cake

Contact Angela Pawlyn at pawlyna@waitrose.com

or Tel 01235 833361

WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS • SIX GUILDS EVENT

6 Guilds: Birmingham, Cotswold, Gloucester, Oxford, Stratford, Worcester

MEETING REPORTS

January 26 - AGM

The AGM marked the end of a good year with many fine speakers (including an extra meeting with Laverne Waddington) and a lovely outing to Hemingford Grey Manor. We have seen a few changes; the web site has been updated; Verena is now hosting the Weave Structure Study Group at her studio in Cambridge and welcomes new members; the New Weavers group has morphed into the Come And Weave group and welcomes old hands as well as new (and it's great fun!). The Peruvian Textiles Study Group is still meeting at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and also welcomes new members.

Sue Melvin won the Lyle Smart Trophy for New Weavers at the National Exhibition; and our stall at Fibre East attracted a lot of attention.

Financially we are solvent, with a slight surplus although we are expecting an increase in room hire costs soon. We have not put up membership or meeting fees. Diane Ashley-Smith was thanked for her help in preparing the accounts.

Ann Ruel, Joanna Crosby and Tricia Sutton have resigned from the committee, and were thanked for their work, in particular Ann, who is one of our founder members, and has supported the Guild in many ways over the years.

Pippa Le Roux and Lesley Willcock were welcomed onto the committee along with the re-elected members:

Chair - Tina Tribe

Secretaries - Paula Armstrong (meetings) and Sue Wallis (Membership)

Treasurer - Jacqui Fuller

Programme Secretary - Beth Parks

Newsletter - Chris Tucker

Ann will continue to distribute the Journal and Jane Sinton will organise workshops, but not come to committee meetings.

The day was rounded off by an inspiring show and tell session, including Sue's prize winning scarf, fabrics and garments woven by Ann, Beth, Lesley and Verena, and tapestries by Paula and June. Isabella (Tina's new baby, born while we were having our November meeting) modelled an indigo tie-dyed baby grow by Clarissa.

February 23 - Silk from the Ancient Kingdoms - Diane & Jim Gafney

Diane and Jim make their living buying and selling handmade textiles from Asia, leading study trips, and giving talks about their adventures. They have been travelling to Isan province in Thailand for 20 years, where ancient traditions of sericulture are still practiced.

Silk weaving was a village craft, and silks were everyday wear. Silks were given as tribute to the Roman Empire but the methods of production were always kept secret.

After the second World War Jim Thompson, an American living in Bangkok after his army service, introduced Thai silk to the west, and the Queen of Thailand toured the US in the 1960s wearing haute couture silks, thus revitalizing the Ikat industry.



Although some fabric is machine made, traditional hand picking of complex patterns using supplementary weft is still taught to young girls. The dyeing is men's work, and Ikat warps are stretched out between weights, and hand tied and dyed with natural dyes.





Diane showed slides of traditional techniques from Thailand, Bali and Indonesia. They also brought a marvelous selection of fabrics and garments (some modeled by Jim).

March 23 – Guild Open Day at Comberton

Despite initial problems (snow and the hall not being booked) it all came together and a great time was had by all.

Elaine Bridges brought her mother Pat's equipment and books for sale and will be donating half of the proceeds to Guild funds. Many of you will remember Pat Bridges, who was one of our Founder members. She was a very gifted craftswoman, and always interested in other weavers work. She would be delighted to see her equipment handed on to other Guild members.

Sarah Wroot gave a fascinating talk on the history of spinning, demonstrating the various stages in the development of the craft, with hand spindles, a Great Wheel, as Saxony wheel and a modern spinning wheel.

Sarah also brought with her some beautiful fabrics and fibres, and spindles for folk to have a go.



Beth Parks demonstrated her takadai and recruited a convert, in the form of Abbi Fuller (Jacqui's granddaughter). By the end of the day Abbi was teaching takadai, and also made herself useful on the door. We must definitely recruit her!



Diane Ashley-Smith and Sue Prior demonstrated backstrap weaving and brought with them some lovely braids made in traditional Peruvian style.

They also brought plenty of ready-made warps for people to have a go.



Verena Martinez brought the Weave Study Group samples and some examples of tapestry weaving and was on hand to answer questions and advise, along with several other members of the Tapestry Group.



Last but not least, Helen Brotherton (My Fine Weaving Yarns) brought a wonderful selection of yarns for sale.

CGWSD Programme 2013

- April 27 A Colourful Yarn – Fiona Rutherford
 April 28 Playing with Colour Workshop with Fiona Rutherford
booking essential
- May 25-26 Cambridgeshire Guild's Triennial Exhibition
 Grantchester Village Hall
- June 15 OUTING – May Berkouwer's Textile Conservation
 Studio, Sudbury
- June 29 Ikats of the Orient – Jennifer Hughes
- September 28 Fibre Craft Afternoon at Arbury
- October 26 Thirty Years of Weaving – Janet Philips
- October 27-28 Weaving Workshop with Janet Philips *Booking essential*
- November 30 A Brush with Fine Art – Diane Ashley-Smith
 Christmas Tea & Raffle

If you are travelling a distance to see a specific speaker please check with our Programme Secretary, Beth Parks, for programme changes.

Please send any suggestions for speakers or workshops to Beth Parks, at beth@chezparks.demon.co.uk or 01353 649855

And finally... please send news, articles and adverts for the newsletter to chris.tucker@zen.co.uk or 24 School Close, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JY.

And don't forget to send a copy to Tina for our website, tina.tribe@ntlworld.com

Next Newsletter is out in August– please let me have your contributions by the June Meeting. Thank you.

Meetings are held at the Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD unless otherwise stated.

Open from 1:30 pm. Talks start at 2pm.

Visitors welcome – entrance £5

(F/T students/JSA/Income support £2.50)

www.cambsguildwsd.org.uk

Contact: secretary@cambsguildwsd.org.uk 01223 247790