

Cambridgeshire  
Guild of Weavers  
Spinners & Dyers

NEWSLETTER 73

January 2015



Weave! 2014 – the samples

*Photo by Chris Tucker*

**FROM THE CHAIR - DECEMBER 2014**

"Plough and plant seeds..." tend to them and they will grow. The seeds were planted by our president, Doreen Sanders when she founded the Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers in 1981. They have been tended, encouraged by many hands of past committees, and continue to grow, blossom and flower with our current committee and membership as we come to the end of 2014. We welcome the new shoots that come into our membership, and aim to encourage and help them. We respect the knowledge that the more experienced amongst us have, to have an open and free exchange of knowledge; a willingness to teach, to learn and to let each other bloom. And we honour those blooms that return their matter back to the rich soil with the knowledge that their growth and flowering lives on in ourselves in some way. In this way the seeds that were sown in 1981 have created a garden that can flourish and continues to grow.

I look back at the activities of the last year. Two of our own members, Suzanne Townshend and Lesley Willcock, shared their work with us. We have been introduced to the wild silk moth (and what more beautiful insect could you wish for?); travelled to Mexico; experienced the rich, vibrant colours of Maximo Laura. We delved into the world of fractals with Stacey Harvey-Brown and her deep, catching enthusiasm and willingness to be challenged. Every talk is an inspiration to us in some way or other.

At the March Day there was so much to see, do and learn, from cloth analysis to finger weaving; using a great wheel and an introduction to Sprang. (Look out for the spring workshop 2015 on Sprang... should be fun!) Our September weaving on small looms once again got people *doing*, which is what so much of our work is about.

This year the Guild ran its first weaving course, *Weave!*, and the seed has been planted for this to be part of our annual calendar. The Guild continues to run the increasingly popular *Come & Weave* days, which are a feast of enthusiasm, skill, sharing, helping and cake.

I wish to thank the committee who work away in the background, watering, sowing, feeding and supporting all that goes on. Without the committee, there would be no Guild activities, (just as without the members, there would be no Guild!). Someone has to book the venue; find engaging and inspiring speakers. Someone has to be our public contact; ensure that members receive the information they need; make sure that your money is well spent. And collectively, we all need to have ideas, to see what needs to be tended at the

correct time so that the garden can continue to flourish and grow. Maybe YOU will be the next someone who can do one of these tasks.

I am honoured to have been Chairman for the last three years and I thank the committee for its unending support. I have made friends and have come to know people so much better as a result of joining the committee. Together we have had many laughs, discussed thorny issues, eaten lots of cake, and all the while have in our minds our wish to see constructed textiles, weaving, spinning and dyeing, carried forth to future generations. May our garden continue to flourish!

*Tina*

## GUILD NEWS

### Weave! 2014



What a great way to spend a couple of November weekends, being taught how to weave by an excellent tutor, Anna, ably assisted by the talented and inspiring Suzanne and Chris. I learnt lots and know that there is so much more to learn and explore in my weaving. Our days were well balanced with informal talks and demonstrations covering everything from selecting the yarn and winding the warp to finishing. I was amazed at the difference steam pressing made to my wool weaves. Somehow they now look like fabric.

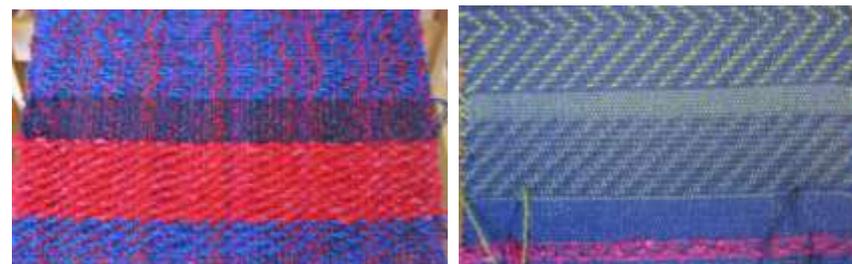
As well as being shown how to do things, we were let loose on nine different looms, each wound with a different warp, so I experienced the joys of threading and weaving a block weave, weaving colour and weave, herringbone, rose path, advancing 2/2 twill, spaced & crammed (loved the

colours). If this wasn't enough we were treated to Anna, Suzanne and Chris's work. It was inspiring to see the design process from start to finish.

During all this Anna also helped us individually, helping me plan and warp up my loom with chenille to be a sample (very important to sample!) for an Art Nouveau shawl for my daughter-in-law and helping others with ideas including rug weaving, which looks far too much like hard work to me!

After four fabulous days weaving the question was what next? Responses from my fellow weavers included: buy a loom and start a scarf; that easy Summer school!; weaving using the warp I have put on my loom at home; do the certificate of achievement; make a waistcoat for my husband (inspired by work I saw at the exhibition in Norwich where I picked up information about the course). As for me, the list is growing longer. After the shawl, a Janet Phillips sample weave blanket, a stitched double weave shawl... oh yes, and make sure I keep the two weekends next November free to learn more!

*Trisha Duffet-Smith*



Thanks to Anna Crutchley and all the other weavers in the group this was a great experience, supporting and encouraging new and experienced students. We tried out various looms, yarns and colours and wonderful unexpected patterns emerged.

Suzanne Townshend and Chris Tucker brought their work from the Diploma /Bradford courses, telling us how their ideas had developed, with stunning results.

Highlights for me were warping, trying double weave and exploring notation. Some comments from satisfied customers:

“Brilliant: I managed to warp up a loom at home for the first time”

“The course has given me the confidence to go home and start weaving on my new loom”

“The course lit the blue touch paper and I had the opportunity to try lots of things, I have been pushed out of my comfort zone”  
So, shared fun and delight for all.

Liz Todd



### And Weave! 2015

Weave! 2014 was such a success that we plan to put it in our calendar for next year.

Weave! 2015 will run on the first (7-8) and second (14-15) weekends of November.

The course is aimed primarily at beginners, but is also suitable for those with previous experience

The committee is asking for anyone who would be interested in:

- being a leading tutor
- being an assisting tutor

If interested please contact me at [tinatribe@ntlworld.com](mailto:tinatribe@ntlworld.com)

Tina Tribe

### Come and Weave Group – dates for 2015

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 17 January | 12 September |
| 14 March   | 10 October   |
| 9 May      | 14 November  |

Venue: Comberton Village Hall. Times: 10am-4pm.

Drinks provided, bring a packed lunch.

Bring your loom or a project to work on or just drop in to see what everyone is doing. All Welcome.

This is a relaxed day working in pleasant company, with the opportunity to get (or provide) help and feedback.

Further information from Jacqui Fuller or Sue Wallis.

### Textiles in Focus 2015

We have a stall at Textiles in Focus at Cottenham 20 - 22 February. This is a great opportunity to promote ourselves and attract new members, so please consider giving some time to help staff it. We will be showing our work and demonstrating our skills.

If you can offer an hour or two please let a committee member know at the January meeting (or by email to [secretary@cambsguildwsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cambsguildwsd.org.uk)).

### Guild Buddies

There are four members of the guild who are not on email. Please could guild members volunteer to be their buddies.

If you are willing to be a buddy please could you let the person concerned, and myself know [.paulatextile@gmail.com](mailto:paulatextile@gmail.com)

Verena Martinez

26 Hills Avenue Cambridge CB1 7XA, Tel: 01223 212610

Doreen Sanders

19 Waterside Ely Cambs CB7 4AU, Tel: 01353 669497

Urszula Chojnacka

2, Seymour Street, Cambridge, CB1 3DH. Tel: 01223 240578 / 07942 385194

Elizabeth Todd

22, Walker Court, Arbury, Cambridge. CB4 2RU, Tel: 01223 779720

Many thanks Paula Armstrong

### New Textile Group in Cambridge

Meets at the Parish Centre Hall, Our Lady of English Martyrs on the corner of Lensfield and Hills Road; 10am-2pm, first Friday of the month.

All welcome - spinners/ knitters/ weavers / crochet/ felting etc.

Further information from Urszula Chojnacka on 07942 385194

### New Additions to the Guild Library

- The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes – Sasha Duerr
- The Complete Guide to Spinning Yarn – Brenda Gibson
- Woven Textile Design – Jan Shenton
- Sprang Unsprung – Carol James
- Finger Weaving Untangled – Carol James
- Kumihimo – Catherine Martin

## Minutes of Meetings file

Over the last eighteen months there have been quite a few new members to our guild. It is time, therefore, as minutes secretary, to remind everyone of a matter of committee protocol.

I bring the Minutes of Meetings file to every meeting. Any member of the guild is welcome to read the minutes of any meeting. As a committee member, I try to come to every meeting for that reason.

However, there are times when I can't make it. If someone wants to read the minutes of a meeting they have only to ask me and I can send them by email: [paulatextile@gmail.com](mailto:paulatextile@gmail.com)

*Paula Armstrong. Minutes and Meetings Secretary*

## Visiting speakers from outside the EU

The committee has been looking into the legal status of non-EU weavers, spinners and dyers being invited and paid to present to the Guild and run workshops for the Guild. The rules were changed on 15 March 2012 to allow permitted paid engagements for artists and academics visiting the UK for less than 1 month, as long as they are invited.

For the full Government Documentation:

Navigate to the Immigration Rules Part 2 on the UKGOV website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-rules-part-2>

Within part 2 of the rules the relevant section is 56X, 56Y and 56Z (at the end)

These rules were changed to their current form on March 15 2012.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc1888-15-march-2012>

## Cambridgeshire Guild Triennial Exhibition 2016

The committee have booked Granchester Village Hall on the late May bank holiday weeked: Friday 27, Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th May 2016, for our next triennial exhibition. Let's try to make it even better than the last one. You can't say you haven't got plenty of time!

## **Success to the Weaver** *(sung to Sue Melvin by the Squire of the Saddleworth Morris Men at their 40th Anniversary Rushcart)*

Come Ladies and Gents I've a song ready made  
And to sing it you know you must not be afraid  
If I tell you at once I'm a weaver by trade

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

There are goods every day we're exporting by bales  
And in merchandise ours, as a knack never fails  
For each ship that leaves port owes the weaver for sails

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

The Queen in her gown may so gracefully stand  
And her nobles about her may look great and grand  
Still, they all get their clothes by the work of our hands

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

But for us how our soldiers would oftimes repent  
When houseless to sleep on their knapsacks they're sent  
But the weaver, you see, gives each soldier his tent

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

If exhausted you feel and by Morpheus you're beat  
In the heat or the cold a small rest would be sweet  
Then think of the weavers fine blanket and sheet

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

The ladies are pretty as all will confess  
And he's blind or he's stupid I'm sure who says less  
But then to the weaver they're indebted for dress

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

Then since we for mankind are sent here to weave  
For our looms and our shuttles we'll not idly grieve  
My song is just ended so I'll take my leave \*

Sing success to the weaver, the weaver forever HUZZAH!

\*Alternative – My trade is but ended so I'll take my leave

## **A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE ASSOCIATION**

Hello to everyone in all the Guilds,

On behalf of all the members of the General Purposes Committee and myself as chairman I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a particularly good New Year

It has been great meeting with so many of you this year at the conference in Manchester, at the National Exhibition in Norwich, at your guild meetings when we have been to present the "What the Association does for you" talk, at Wonderwool and Woolfest and at the Knitting and Stitching shows in London and Harrogate.

It is great to see and to hear all the amazing things that you are all doing right round the country and of further afield via our On line Guild members.

A huge thank you to all members that have helped at any of the events above and any that I have omitted and also to those already working on the events next year -The AGM in London in April and the Summer School next August - We look forward to seeing many of you at both of these events plus many others.

Next year we celebrate the 60th year as an Association and it will be nice to hear how you may be planning to help us celebrate this across the guilds.

Remember we are very pleased to be able to offer you a free visit / talk about the Association from one of the GPC members including myself on how the Association and GPC operate and organise events, etc and also one on the Certificate of Achievement (COA) by Heather Seddon - You can book either visit / talk by contacting us via the Association Website or via our Honorary Secretary - Sarah Williams (email: [secretary@wsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wsd.org.uk)).

So as this year comes to an end - We wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and as the New Year approaches we wish you all the very best for a great 2015 in whatever way you wish it to be good.

Best wishes to you all.

Stuart

*Stuart Groom - Chairman - Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.*

## **SHIBORI AND RUFFLES ON THE INKLE LOOM**

In October I went to The Braid Society weekend to celebrate twenty years of their existence. The weekend included some workshops (and the AGM). I chose to do the workshop entitled 'Shibori & Ruffles' with Anne Dixon as tutor.

I was nervous as I was not sure what was involved, but I need not have worried as Anne is such a good tutor she kept us all going.

We had all brought our Inkle looms and coloured heddles, as instructed.

The first day we warped up our looms with white warp, mine was a two ply knitting cotton. This is where the coloured heddles came in; as we warped up the first four heddles warps were in one colour, the next four in another colour. This followed across the warp until the weaving width was about 2 inches.

A Shibori thread (this is a very strong smooth thread) was then attached to the warp at the start, but would be removed after dyeing. The Shibori thread was wound on a small bobbin, as we wove, the Shibori thread was passed down through the warp after eight picks, and as the heddles were coloured you could choose where it went. Then after the next eight picks the bobbin with the Shibori thread was passed again.

Because of the coloured heddles it was easy to pass the Shibori thread up and down, back and forth across the warp in whatever pattern you fancied. To start with, we all wove with the Shibori thread going in a beautifully smooth wave back and forth across the width by going up or down though the warp each four heddles, but of course weaving the eight picks between.

When we got to the end of the warp it was removed from the loom and pulled up very tight using the Shibori thread.

Then the fun began dyeing it. Anne had brought the dye pot down with her and 'smuggled' it in. The Hotel is used mainly for the 'Men in Suits' types having their sales talks or whatever. It was not exactly pristine but I don't think they would have appreciated blue carpet tiles. The floor was covered with a large piece of plastic, many precautions were taken, and we each managed to dye our 'little bundles', with no disasters.

The following day we opened the little bundles and found fascinating patterns and 'pictures'.

On the second day we started warping up to make a necklace, still using the coloured heddles, but this time with coloured yarn. I used 2/16 mercerised

cotton. The width of each colour could be varied because we had the heddles to indicate where the Shibori thread would pass through the warp. It took me virtually all day to warp up this time, I put the longest warp I could on my Ashford Inkle loom.

This time when I started the Shibori thread was woven in the first two or three picks as it was to stay in the fabric at the end. I wove the whole warp with the Shibori thread 'snaking' from one side to the other.

I did not finish the warp until after I was home. Then the moment of truth: off the loom and pull on the free Shibori thread at the far end. Anne had shown us what to do at this point, because as you pull it up of course the fabric spins round and round. So just lay it down somewhere, table or knee will do, start at the far end and just pinch where each fold should be. You can easily spot that. As you go, take out the twists making it lay flat on the table. You may have to do a bit more pulling up as you go but then you have produced this amazing structure.

*Pippa Le Roux*

P. S. I have yet to weave the round cords and make mine into a necklace.



Pippa's necklace.

## WHAT'S ON IN 2015

**20-22 February, Textiles in Focus**, at Cottenham Village College. More information from [www.textilesinfocus.com](http://www.textilesinfocus.com)

**1-1 July Fibre East** at Redbourne School, Ampthill. Info from [www.fibre-east.co.uk](http://www.fibre-east.co.uk)

**2-2 August Cottenham Summer School**. info from 01954 288751 or email [community@cvcweb.net](mailto:community@cvcweb.net)

**16-23 August Association Summer School** at Moreton Morrell. Information from [www.wsd.org.uk](http://www.wsd.org.uk)

**12 September World Textile Day at Mundford Village Hall, Norfolk IP26 5DW**. Information from [www.worldtextileday.co.uk](http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk)

## MEETING REPORTS

### 2-3 August - Peruvian Workshop and Talk with Abby Franquemont

Yet again the Peruvian Textiles Study Group have brought in a speaker to deliver a workshop, with an extra talk for all Guild Members. Abby spent her childhood in Peru; her parents were Social Anthropologists. She learnt traditional spinning and backstrap weaving techniques at an early age, and also had the good fortune to work with Nilda Callanaupa Alvarez.

As well as sharing the techniques, Abby gave us a fascinating insight into the history and culture behind the traditions.



*Some of Abby's backstrap samples*

### 27 September – Craft Workshop at Arbury: Weaving on Small Looms

A chance to have a go at something new. Ann Ruel, Paula Armstrong and Kathy McVittie brought their tapestry looms; Diane Ashley-Smith and Jo Wexler brought tablet weaving; Pat Bamber brought her box weaving; and Chris Tucker brought inkle looms.

The afternoon was well supported and a lot of fun, and at least one person has taken up something new as a result.



### 4 October Finger Weaving Workshop with Carol James

Carol James took us through the history of sash weaving in Canada, the various traditional patterns, the rules for colours and the traditional techniques, and we learnt the story of her life along the way. She is a great teacher as well as an eminent historian with a great sense of humour. We all “got it” and came away with some impressive samples.



These are, of course, Carol’s work!

### 25 October – From Concept to Clothing: a Weaver’s Journey Lesley Willcock

Lesley has a background in fashion retail, and a City and Guilds in Fashion Design and Dressmaking. She became interested in weaving when she was running a fabric shop and worked with a weaver to design a range of fabrics for the shop. She then trained as a weaver at the Handweavers Studio and there was no stopping her after that. You might remember from the last Newsletter that she won two awards at the Complex Weavers’ Complexity Exhibition earlier this year, as well as exhibiting some beautiful pieces at the Association’s National Exhibition in Norwich. These are the most recent of many exhibitions.

Lesley took us through her design methods and gave us a wealth of information on how to design cloth for garments, illustrated with some very inspiring pieces.



### 26 October – Sewing Handwovens Without Tears Workshop with Lesley Willcock

The talk was followed on Sunday by a workshop where Lesley imparted even more information on dealing with handwoven fabrics, e.g. how to treat seams to stop fraying, decorative finishing techniques, how to get the most out of a small amount of fabric, how to adapt commercial patterns. My head was spinning, but fortunately Lesley had produced some very professional handouts.

We even got to cut out our fabric and start the process...and the garments will be on show at the January meeting.

## 29 November – Ever Increasing Circles – Stacey Harvey-Brown

Stacey describes herself as an artist weaver working in two and a half dimensions. Her inspiration is geology and she is currently working with aerial and satellite images of the earth, using a Jacquard loom.



*Some of the fun you can have with a Jacquard loom*

Stacey talked about her weave training, and showed us some stunning photos of fractals (self-iterating forms such as tree branching, ice crystals), images from the Hubble Telescope, stalactites and wonderful rock formations, jellyfish, nautilus shells etc. Even more wonderful was the amazing cloth they inspired.



She also offered us some words of wisdom about getting out of our comfort zones, ploughing and seeding (Tina took this on board!) and taking small steps to achieve big dreams. I can't wait for her workshop next year.

*Chris Tucker*

## CGWSD Programme 2015

- January 31     **AGM and Bring & Buy Sale**  
February 28    **Surface Layers Space – A Weaving Story**  
                    Ismini Samanidou  
March 28       **Guild Day at Arbury Community Centre**  
April 25        **Sprang** Carol James  
April 26        **Sprang Workshop**, Carol James *Booking essential*  
May 30         **Certificate of Achievement** Heather Seddon  
June 27         **Weavers Bazaar + Pop-Up Shop**  
September 19 **South American Textiles** Laverne Waddington  
Oct pver24/25 **Texture in Weaving Workshop**  
                    Stacey Harvey-Brown *Booking essential*  
October 31     **Let There Be Trims** Lily Emma Tennant  
November 28   **Cotton: Handspinning & Weaving** Sarah Wroot

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 £7 (F/T students £2.50) [www.cambsguildwsd.org.uk](http://www.cambsguildwsd.org.uk)  
Contact: [secretary@cambsguildwsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@cambsguildwsd.org.uk) 01223 247790

*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](mailto: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](mailto:chris.tucker@zen.co.uk) or 24 School Close, Gamlingay, Sandy SG19 3JY.

**Next Newsletter is out in April– please let me have your contributions by the March Meeting. Thank you.**