The Winner of the 2012 Competition

Autumn in Silk - 100% Silk/Silk Boucle Scarf
Made by Denise Williams

(photographed by Elaine Allen)
Editor’s Note – January 2013
Janet Holman

Having survived Christmas and the End of the World (21st Dec according to the Mayan calendar) we can now settle down to the start of 2013. Thankfully Margaret Liz and Ann ignored the Mayan prophecies and pressed on with organising an exciting programme of talks and workshops for the coming year. Details for the first few months and a list for the rest of the year can be found in this newsletter.

As well as a summary of the A G M we have an intriguing description by Sally of learning Batik techniques in an exotic location, a request for Yak tops, a review of a recent addition to the Guild Library and some colourful pictures of competition entries taken by Elaine.

Thank you to all contributors and Good Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year to All.

Committee for 2013

Chris May
Elaine Allen
Margaret Tattersfield
Janet Holman
Cristine Bailey
Liz Ashley
Sue Day

The above is a list of Committee members to date as the Committee members and the elected officers i.e. Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer still have to be finalized.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE WEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS
AGM AT NORTON VILLAGE HALL - 17TH NOVEMBER 2012

Caroline Faulkner-Aston the chairperson welcomed all members.

APOLOGIES: Cynthia Hitchman, Yvonne Hoskins, Cherry McClarron, Sheila Rowe, Sue Bittleston, and Daphne Foster.

The Minutes of the previous AGM were read - Caroline asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes of the 2011 AGM. Margarettta explained the difference in the amount passed to the Six Guilds of £51.13, this was due to expenses incurred in the purchase of table felt for the exhibition and postage costs for the return of three felt segments. The Minutes were then agreed and signed.

There followed the Chairman’s Report - written by Caroline Faulkner-Aston and read by Caroline Faulkner-Aston.

There followed the Statement of Accounts - Margarettta presented the accounts. The books were audited two weeks ago by Mr. R. New. The balance at 31st October 2012 was £2745.04 but one cheque for £70 has not yet been presented. The final total should be £2675.04. The cheque for £70 is for Norton Village hall.

There were no comments on the Treasurer’s report.
Caroline then asked if there was anyone willing to take on the Treasurer’s job as the Guild cannot run without a treasurer. No-one volunteered for this task.

There followed the Secretary’s Report—written by Chris May and read by Chris May.

Nominations for the Committee
There then followed nominations for all of the following members

- Chris May – All in favour
- Elaine Allen – All in favour
- Margaret Tattersfield – All in favour
- Janet Holman – All in favour
- Cristine Bailey – All in favour
- Liz Ashley – All in favour
- Sue Day – All in favour

Caroline Faulkner-Aston then asked if there were any more nominations for the committee. There were no more nominations.

Motions for the AGM 2012 - The motion was proposed that we should wear badges next year in order for new members to get to know us more easily. Elaine Allen would be in charge of the badges and when the membership form is filled in at the beginning of the year please indicate the name that you would like to be known by. Ann Clarkson does not wish to wear a badge and refuses to do so. In view of this fact the motion was put to the vote. There was only one objection to this and therefore the motion of wearing badges from January was carried.

AOB - One member of the committee had stepped down during the year and Caroline thanked Ann Clarkson for the amount of work that she had done on the programme for 2013.

Membership; - The fees remain the same this year £20 for full membership. £10 for friends and for students. Friends were entitled to four meetings a year. Forms for the membership will be sent with the January newsletter. If you don’t wish to join please post the form back to Elaine saying so. The weekly fee continues to be £2 and members of the committee do not have to pay if there is a committee meeting before the guild meeting on a Saturday. Elaine asked for payments for membership to be paid by March 2013.

Liz Davies queried the cost of the newsletter at £500. Sally Dopson explained the high cost of colour printing and postage to various Guilds throughout the southwest. There followed some discussion about the possibility of e-mailing the newsletter instead of posting it.

Outline of Programme for 2013
January 19th - Jane Meredith - Travels in India and Brinkley Loom
February 16th – Guild Day – Pattern Exchange and Tapestry weaving with Margaret Tattersfield
March 16th – Professor Simon Olding, Farnham School of Art – The craft of Collecting Textiles
April 20th am. and pm. – Workshop am. Talk pm. on Printed Textiles
May 18th – Six Guilds Day – Six Guilds committee to arrange.
June 15th – Sue Day, committee member – Naal binding
July 20th – Garden Party – Nature in Art  
August 17th – Dianne and Jim Gaffney- The Future of Hand made Textiles  
September 21st - Amanda Hannaford- Spinning What's the Point? – Workshop on Sunday 22nd  
October 19th – Tim Parry Williams – Weaving with paper  
November 16th – AGM, Social and Competition  

**Journal of Weaving Spinning and Dyeing** - Toni Harris will continue with the journals.  

**Sales Table** - The Sales table has been run by Veronika Madsen this year and has generated an income of £93.35 this year. Veronika would like some help otherwise there will not be a sales table next year. Please volunteer.  

**The Competition** - There was another commendable display for the competition which filled two large tables. The theme was Autumn Colours and Denise Williams was the winner with Caroline Faulkner-Aston a close second.  

**A Vote of Thanks** - Frances Taylor gave a vote of thanks for the members of the committee and all their hard work this year. This was gratefully received by all of the members  

**The AGM closed and the members enjoyed a tea and a raffle.**  

**The Raffle** - Denise Williams again organised a successful raffle and despite few donations of prizes, Denise raised a respectable sum of £43.  

Christine May, Secretary to the Guild  

(Full copies of the AGM Minutes, Chairman’s Report and Secretary’s Report are available upon request, please ask Chris May or Sally Dopson.)  

Yvette Williams-Elliot - Sept 2012  

Guild members who know Denise Williams will not be surprised that her daughter, Yvette has followed a career in textiles and we were pleased to welcome her to our September meeting to tell us how she developed as a textile artist. Our attention was immediately drawn to the delicious range of coloured items that were displayed on the table. Yvette explained how the ancient craft of making felt by hand satisfied her tendency to resist following instructions allowing a freedom that she did not find in other textile crafts such as weaving, knitting or crochet. She also enjoys the tactile processes of felting, at first the slow, careful and deliberate preparation of materials followed by vigorous manipulation that forms the felt and finally the end result that often surprises and delights.  

Yvette’s gift for colour blending was obvious in the rich but subtle hand dyed scarves, collars and bags that she handed round, mostly using merino and silk. The scarves were made by a nuno technique where the felting of chiffon results in a light elegantly ruched material. She calls the bags ‘cauldron bags’, because of the shape, and they were felted in one piece without seams and decorated with silk and wool threads added during felting. Some of the collars were also machine embroidered.  

In the final part of the talk Yvette reflected on some reasons for the distinction between artist and craftsperson, offering some suggestions. Is it perhaps affected by the status of the creator so that high status people create art where low status people produce crafts? Is there a gender bias so that items made by women = craft, by
men= art? Or does the function affect the description making items with a practical use craft? A fellow felter had observed that people were prepared to pay more for a piece of felt framed than if it was made into a cushion. Food for thought as well as a feast for the eyes.

Thank you Yvette.

Some members attended Yvette's workshop on the following day.

**Yak tops (A request)**

I was interested to read about Wingham Wools in the September Newsletter and in particular that they were selling Yak tops.

The reason I'm asking is that I am working as a supply teacher, mainly with 4 and 5 year olds in various schools in Gloucestershire. The Government (in its infinite wisdom) has instructed all schools to teach reading phonetically i.e. a - apple, b - ball, c - cat etc. The scheme most schools are using is quite interesting especially when it gets to y. Yes, you've guessed it, y - yak. How many 4 year olds in Gloucestershire do you think know what a yak is? Very few, if any, I suspect.

However, when it was my turn to teach y - yak I wore my brown mohair jumper and told them it was my 'yak jumper'. I don't think they believed me, so I found a picture of a yak on the computer and showed them that on the I W B (Interactive White Board - I'm getting really proficient at this technology stuff) so we have managed to learn y - yak. Nevertheless, I'm sure that if I could show them some real yak fibre and possibly spin it for them y - yak would be their favourite letter. If you can help by providing a small amount of y - yak tops or some which has been spun, please contact me by phone or e-mail. The children will be incredibly impressed.

Thanks, Anne Hemsley

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Workshops are held fortnightly on Wednesdays
Venue : The Committee Room, Norton Village Hall
Time 09:00a.m. to 4.30p.m.
Phone Frances Taylor - 01452 730891 for details

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Batik & I
by Sally Dopson

On a recent holiday to the Far East we stayed at a lovely peaceful and tranquil resort on the Malaysian island of Langkawi, I was perusing the list of things to do and saw that there was a demonstration of Batik, that was for me so after breakfast the following day I took myself off to see the demonstration. Much to my delight it was a "hands on" demo and we could have a go, even better. I had visited a Batik factory many years ago in Penang but this was very different.

I was given a frame with cotton stretched across and told to draw a picture in pencil on it, I'm not a very good artist and can only draw swans starting with a number 2! So I did my best and
produced three swans on water with grass and trees in the background. Then the artist drew over my pencil drawing with hot wax using a pen like tool called a Tjanting or canting (pronounced chanting). When the wax had cooled cold water dyes were applied using a paint brush, the wax acted as a resistance to keep the colours separate. The following day I went to collect my work of art and was pleasantly surprised it looked much better than I had expected even if it was a bit of a childlike drawing. The artist, a young man called Ardy, asked me if I’d like to do another picture, there was no stopping me I went back every morning for a lesson, this made me think about what to draw and I tried out sunsets and frangipani flowers which were growing everywhere. Ardy taught me how to blend colours by adding water to the cloth and to build the colours up gradually. The possibilities are endless and although I limited myself to using two or three colours the number of colours which can be applied on an intricate design is almost unlimited and the process of adding water and secondary colours to create shadowing is one of the most beautiful aspects of batik.

Over the week and with a little help I think I progressed enough to continue now that the holiday is over and seems such a long time ago, maybe I should book to go again this year as it certainly was a lovely relaxing way to spent an hour or two each day.

**Batik Techniques**

Batik cloth may be divided into two groups according to its production method. The first and possible the oldest method of production is called ‘Batik Tulis’ and involves the application of wax via a small copper tool called a Tjanting. Used like a pen the tjan ting has a small reservoir to hold hot wax which is then drawn directly onto the cloth.

The second method is called ‘Batik Cap’ (pronounced chop) or stamp which is made from tiny strips of copper, welded together to form a design with a handle attached to the back. The completed cap is dipped in hot wax and repeatedly stamped onto cloth to form a pattern.

After waxing the cloth is dipped in liquid dye baths or handpainted on frames. In Malaysia exclusive batik is coloured by hand with the wax forming a barrier between colours.

_Sally Dopson_

**GUILD LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW**

_The Fleece and Fibre Source Book_
_by Deborah Robinson & Carol Ekerius_

Do find this book and read some of the glowing reviews, for all those fascinated by fibres.

This source book is created for those of us who are caught up in the web of making fabrics from natural sources

Debra and Carol through their common interest and abundant enthusiasm have collaborated to create a wonderfully informative reference book for those enthusiast who want to learn more about the world of fibre producing animals. Illustrated creatively with pictures of animals worldwide showing the type of yarn, the detailed facts about characteristics of fleece they produce, wonderful pictures of the diverse breeds.

For your wish list. Do take a look though it may be hard to put down.
Guild Membership

Dear Members,

Happy New Year to all Members, I hope everyone will be rejoining in 2013.

I shall be collecting membership payments at the January and February meetings. Would you please fill in your membership form and return with your fee either at the meeting or if you would prefer you can send it to my home address (32, Bournside Road, Cheltenham, GL51 3AH – 012142 519648) together with a stamped self addressed envelope for the return of your membership card and details of meetings. As you will see the membership form is different this year and includes two new questions. I know we have all filled in a form in previous years, but this will ensure that I have all up to date information when I issue the new address list for 2013.

At the AGM in November it was decided that the membership fee for 2013 was to remain at £20.00 for full membership and £10.00 for friends. The charge for meetings is £2.00 for members and £4.00 for visitors.

Many thanks
Elaine Allen

Programme 2013

January 19th 2013 Jane Meredith Travels in India
Jane will give a talk with slides about her travels in India, and describe the mud resist block printing techniques which she learned. She will also demonstrate the simple and easy to use Brinkley Loom ideal for weaving shawls and throws.

February 16th 2013 Guild Day
To include demonstrations on tapestry weaving, and warping techniques for table looms, by experts from the Guild who will also be happy to answer all your queries! Feel free to bring your looms along and sell unwanted weaving equipment. Margaret will bring a selection of small ceramic weaving frames for you to purchase (£5) and use on the day. Don't forget to bring your own yarn.

Do you know your cuts of lamb?

Hat
Sweater
Scarf
Blanket
Books
Hat
Leg Warmers
Purse
Blindfold
Toys
Misc
Wool
Hair

March 2013: “Roving the Woollen World” (Talk)
If you are not wanting to weave please bring wheels, knitting or whatever you are working on. There will also be an opportunity to bring and exchange knitting patterns.

March 16th Professor Simon Olding
Simon will talk on The Craft of Collecting Textiles, illustrated with slides. He is head of textiles at Farnham College of Art.

Isabella Whitworth April Workshop Shibori Silk Scarves
Date: Saturday April 20th 2013
Time: 10am - 1.00pm
Number of Places: maximum of 10
Level: beginner to intermediate
Cost: £20.00 (includes two silk scarves)
Equipment required: old clothes, disposable gloves, plastic bag

Shibori is a Japanese technique used with acid dyes. This workshop demonstrates how to dye two (if you are quick!) silk scarves using either twisted, folded, tied or clamped methods. The scarves will be steamed to fix the dyes during the afternoon talk.

Please send a cheque for £20.00 to Chris May made out to Gloucestershire GWSD.

The workshop will be followed by a talk at 2.00pm which is open to all members and visitors for the usual meeting fee.

Isabella writes, “several projects world-wide use natural dyes as a means to educate and connect young and old to their environment, history and culture. The talk will "visit " some projects involving safflower, indigo and cochineal and offer further glimpses of contemporary research into natural dyes in the world of conservation, fashion, cosmetics and food.”

REMINDER

This is just a reminder about the Six Guilds Day in May, we will be making a textile Afternoon Tea Table. We are hoping for more information from the Six Guilds sub-committee very soon, so please watch this space.

What's on

February 28th – March 2nd The Creative Crafts Show at The Three Counties Showground 10 am – 5 pm. (SatNav: WR136NW)

April 27-28 Wonderwool Wales, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD 2 3SY

April 27 - May 26 Spring Select, Still Moments Hillu Liebelt and Seiko Kinoshita at Museum in the Park Stroud.

May 11 - 12 and May 18 - 19 Select Trail, Textile workers' open studios around Stroud. For details see www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk
The Guild Gallery
Competition Entries 2012 - AutumnColours

(photography by Elaine Allen)