

Eden Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Newsletter: December 2016



<http://www.edenvalleyguild.btck.co.uk/>



PREVIOUS MEETING:

November 19th 2016 Newbiggin Village Hall

Show and Tell

Another amazing display! Some images are at

<http://www.edenvalleyguild.btck.co.uk/Gallery/ShowandTellNovember2016>

NEXT MEETINGS:

December 17th 2016 Newbiggin Village Hall

Christmas Party

As usual, we'll be having a Bring and Buy table, with proceeds going to charity (to be voted for at the meeting). As well as the usual crafty items and de-stashes, do bring preserves, baking – anything members might want to buy!

And please bring something nice for a shared Christmas lunch.

This year we would like you to make (or customise or personalise) a **Christmas cracker**, from any materials, using any technique. If you need a guide for making them, www.jamieoliver.com has some ideas. If the ones you make are simply too beautiful to use, or you want to keep them, we will admire them from afar and have some spares for your immediate use!

January 21st 2017 Mungrisdale Village Hall

Please note change of venue! (*see below*)

AGM (*and see below*)

Display of your Challenge work (*also see below*)

EVENTS

30th November 2016 - 18th January 2017

International Textile Art Exhibition at Farfield Mill

'This leading textile event shows the work of 38 selected artists from around the world.

This year's competition has the theme 'The Magic of Colour'. Each colour, warm or cold has its meaning a landscape, our mood, our environment anything could affect our choice and show our feelings'.

<http://www.farfieldmill.org/index.php?id=exhibitions#c2009>

ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS (AGWSD) NEWS

Stuart Groom, until recently the Chair of the Association, died in late November. An account of his funeral, held on 30th November, will be available at the December meeting for anybody who is interested to read it.

AGWSD AGM

The Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers, our ‘umbrella organisation’, will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 22 April 2017 in London. This meeting receives reports of all the work of the Association, elects new members to the General Purposes Committee and the Journal Editorial Committee, and discusses and votes on any propositions that member Guilds send in. This is a great opportunity to be part of the work of the Association. There are vacancies on both committees so please think about putting yourself forward. You don’t have to be an expert in anything – just willing to have a go. If there is anything you think the Association should be doing which isn’t happening you could draft a proposition for the Guild to consider. Nominations and propositions have to be sent to the Association Secretary by 21 January 2017 so we really need to be discussing this at the November Guild meeting. If you would like to discuss any of this before the meeting please contact Heather.

Cornwall Guild Proposal to the National AGM 2016

“The Cornwall Guild propose that a specific Beginners/Novice Section be formulated in the National Exhibition.

We propose the formation of a new section be introduced to the National Exhibition categories. This would be a first step in a ‘Beginner’s Journey’ show-casing the start of a new spinner, weaver or dyer into their craft.

Their submitted work would be under and up to two years or, even possibly, just in their first year. We argue that many Guild members are overwhelmed by the sheer prospect of showing at the National Exhibition and although they would like to be part of it they possibly feel that, as a newcomer to the craft, their work would not be good enough or suitable for what can come across as an elitist event.

We fully accept and applaud that the National Exhibition should exhibit the country’s finest and acclaimed craftsmen/women’s work. If Guilds would like to attract new and younger members having a Beginners category would feel less intimidating and show something that they could actually achieve and, with the exacting work on show, something to aspire to.”

Here are Cornwall Guild’s thoughts on the criteria for such a section:

‘There should be two categories: Spinning and Weaving (we decided against dyeing as that can be incorporated into the other categories)

Spinning - A person needs to be a beginner in their first year of learning i.e. the item has to have been made within their first year of spinning and they have to have started spinning after the date of the previous exhibition.

Weaving - A weaver needs to have done no more than 6 warps or items.

This section should not be juried. Everything entered should be accepted as in the Open section and there should be an explanation about the categories with the display.

The hope is that this will encourage the people who think they can never reach the standard of ‘best of the best’; that everyone has to start somewhere and, that, as long as we enjoy what we do and keep the craft and the skills alive that, is what matters.’

Cornwall Guild would appreciate feedback from Guilds on these ideas. What do you think?

Summer School 2017

This will be held at Sparsholt College, near Winchester, 13-20 August 2017.

The full brochure (including booking form) is now available on the AGWSD Web Information Point at <http://aswd.pbworks.com/w/page/111165766/Summer%20School%202017>

The Guild has been sent one paper copy which will be on display at meetings, or I can email you a PDF copy.

Apply by 31st December!

FOR SALE

From Marilyn:

- Cool box which plugs into car cigarette lighter. Keeps contents either hot or cold whilst travelling.
- White bathroom double cabinet with mirror doors, unused, still in box (£70 cost new).
- Black Victorian style pedestal post box, unused, still in box (£104 cost when bought).
- Black tall spotlight, used.

Donations to the Christmas charity table. If you're interested in any of the items please email or phone Marilyn, and she will bring them to the Christmas meeting.

OTHER NEWS:

Guild Library

Recent additions:

Coptic weaves: Margaret Seagrove.

Handspinning: Eliza Leadbeater

Hand woolcombing and spinning: Peter Teal

Non-European looms: R. A. Innes

Tatting: D.M.C. Library

Weldon's practical guide to fancy work

(The above donated by the family of John Clay)

Three hundred years of embroidery 1600-1900: Pauline Johnstone

The Twisted Sisters sock book: Lynne Vogel

Shelagh

Election of Guild Officers

3 members of the Committee are standing down in January 17: Gwyn, because of family commitments; Heather, who is concentrating on Association business which is becoming increasingly time consuming; and Val similarly owing to her commitments.

We will therefore need 3 or 4 new Committee members in January. The roles of Chair, Vice Chair and Programme Secretary are decided once the full committee meets after the AGM. The roles of Chair and Vice Chair are mainly to ensure the smooth running of the meetings and the business of the Guild and to help represent the Guild at outside events. All the Committee work hard to support each other, and it is a very rewarding experience to serve, so please do consider joining the team.

Gwyn

Guild Challenge

Our Challenge this year is to produce a finished item (any method, any size) on the theme of “Sunset”. Members may take merino tops (free) from a selection of ‘sunset’ colours we’ve chosen – 25gms of two colours each (50gms total). You may deal with this in any way you like, and add any other fibres, yarns or bits and pieces to it. The fibre will be available at meetings. Please have your finished articles ready for display at the January 2017 meeting.

Our apologies to those who don’t spin or felt; it proved too expensive to provide yarn. You have 3 choices: (i) learn to spin or felt, (ii) create an item without using the fibre provided, but on the same theme, or (iii) ask a spinner member to spin the fibre for you.

School visit

I visited Ullswater Community College the other week and gave a short talk on spinning to some of the students with special needs. This was prior to lending them one of my wheels for their production of ‘Sleeping Beauty’. I started with spinning raw fleece on to a stick and worked up to the wheel. They asked lots of intelligent questions and seemed to enjoy it.

Judith E.

Change of Guild venue

The venue for next year’s meetings, including the AGM in January, will be **Mungrisdale Village Hall**, not Newbiggin.

This is because only *one* of the dates we needed for 2017 was available at Newbiggin.

The Committee therefore decided to secure the meeting dates by booking them all at Mungrisdale (except for the usual July and August). However please note that not all the 3rd Saturdays were available so you’ll need to check the programme and Newsletters carefully to see which Saturday we are meeting on each month.

We are aware that the reasons for the move last year were carefully considered and voted upon, but once we knew Newbiggin was not available we had to move quickly for 2017.

The Committee

SPINNING DAY:

An informal get-together at Hazel’s in Newbiggin, usually on the 1st Friday; 10am until you finish. The next one is on **6 January 2017**.