

Eden Valley Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Newsletter: November 2016

PREVIOUS MEETING:

October 15th 2016 Newbiggin Village Hall

Helen Phillips enthralled us with her lavishly illustrated account of her search for ‘The Real Pashmina’ and her work with the Master Craftsmen and Women of Kashmir. After a brief background description of this diverse and politically troubled region, she took us on a journey from Srinagar in the lovely Valley of Kashmir via the ‘Road of 108 landslides’ to the bleak and arid uplands of Chang Thang where the herds of Lena Rama goats live. Pashmina is the soft fibre combed from the underbelly of the goat, so delicate that it can only be spun and woven by hand. We had the privilege of handling beautiful shawls patterned by skilled embroidery and weaving. Afterwards we clustered round Helen’s sales table where we had the opportunity of buying unique stoles and the satisfaction of knowing that the producers had been paid a fair price.

Helen says she really enjoyed meeting us and would love to hear from anyone who wants to know more about Door to the Himalayas (www.doortothehimalayas.co.uk).

(from Heather Seddon)

NEXT MEETINGS:

November 19th 2016 Newbiggin Village Hall

Show and Tell

A few reminders about our annual highlight:

- Bring anything along that you’ve worked on, preferably (but not necessarily) in the last year. Finished items, work in progress, spun yarn, felting – as long as it’s fibre or textile, anything goes.
- Please be prepared to tell us about the **process(es)** involved in creating your item, including (and perhaps especially!) any problems you encountered and overcame.
- You can bring as many items as you like for display, but please talk about just *one* (or we won’t have time to get round everyone).
- New members – don’t worry! We’ve all been new once. If you don’t want to talk about your work, that’s fine, but we would all love to see it.

Weaving Study Group: Warps

If you need to wind a warp or find out about the process, now is your chance.

There will be a short demonstration before Show and Tell explaining different warping equipment, such as pegs, boards and mills, that will be available for you to try and compare. Val will also demonstrate warping with multiple threads using a paddle (or hands!)

If you need help to wind an existing warp onto your loom, bring warp and loom along and there will be hands there to help you with the warping process.

Great Wheel

Susan will be bringing her Great Wheel to the November meeting. She says ‘it needs some renovation and setting up so I would like some ideas and feedback from everybody’. If you would like to try it, bring some nice rolags of short-stapled wool.

December 17th 2016 Newbiggin Village Hall

Christmas Party

This year we would like you to make, customise or personalise a **Christmas cracker**, from any materials, using any technique. Some cracker snaps will be available at the November meeting for you to use to make your own crackers for the party. 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!

EVENTS

Saturday 26th November

Wood and Wool - an 'open day' at Plumblond House, Plumblond, 10am-4pm.

The exhibition and sale will include: John's tables and boxes, turned bowls and platters, all made of locally-sourced woods; Ann's rugs and handbags, woven from locally-sourced fleeces (including those of her own Herdwicks); and Marilyn's beautiful woven scarves, knitwear and - a new line - her clever toys.

John Lackie, Ann Lingard & Marilyn Hutchcroft

Saturday 3rd December 2016

Winter Wool Fair (North Pennines Wool)

Trinity Church Hall, Beaumont Street, Hexham NE46 3LS

‘An event for farmers, spinners, felters, knitters, weavers and wearers of British wool’.

10.30 – 4. Entry by donation (£2 suggested).

www.northpenninewools.org

The Yorkshire Year of the Textile

Some interesting events here – see <http://yorkshiretextiles.info/blog/yorkshire-year-of-the-textile/>

Join their Facebook group or subscribe to email updates.

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS

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.

Summer School 2017

This will be held at Sparsholt College, near Winchester, 13-20 August 2017. The full brochure 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. Remember that you can apply for a *bursary* to help with the cost (an EVGSWD member had one last time). Details and forms are in the brochure.

FOR SALE: Fleeces

Susan Denham-Smith has access to some lovely Portland fleeces (an ancient and rare ('At risk') breed) in West Cumbria which can be purchased (£5-£10 normal price). Please reply to Susan before the November meeting if you would like her to bring them to the November or December meeting for you to look at. Contact her or Hawes Farm Portlands.

OTHER NEWS:

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 and Vice Chair and Programme Secretary are decided once the full committee meets after the AGM. Heather has helpfully written some notes on the Programme Secretary's role below. 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.

Opportunity for new Programme Organiser

Heather will be withdrawing from the EVG Committee at the AGM in 2017 in order to concentrate on Summer School 2019 and Certificate of Achievement, so there will be an opportunity for somebody to come forward and take on this interesting job.

As Programme Organiser, you will start the process of organising the 2018 programme by asking members what workshops they would like and whether they can suggest any speakers and tutors. Then it is useful to do a survey to find out how much interest there is in the suggested ideas; this helps to decide whether to engage a tutor or to run an in-house workshop. With this information, you can start looking for tutors and speakers. The Association's Speakers List is useful, together with suggestions from members. Potential tutors and speakers are usually contacted initially by email to see if they would be interested and available on the dates that can be offered. Once agreement has been reached, you send the tutor/speaker a confirmation form and, if necessary, a risk

assessment form, together with a map on how to get to the venue. (All the necessary forms can be handed over: no need to reinvent them) Nearer the time you make any necessary arrangements for the day, including an announcement in the Newsletter, sending round a sign-up form one or two meetings before the event, and keeping in touch with the tutor/speaker. The rest of the Committee will give help and support as required. Guild members are usually willing to run in-house workshops if asked. There is a lot of previous experience which will be passed on, so you will not have to reinvent the role. This job could be shared by two people.

If you are interested, please contact Heather.

Yarnmaker magazine

Many of you will know that the next issue of Yarnmaker (no. 28) will be the last. Back issues may still be available. See <http://www.yarnmaker.co.uk/> for details.

Bob Aitcheson

Sadly, Bob passed away on 31st October. Our condolences and thoughts go to Amber and their family and friends.

(Bob and Amber were Guild Committee members in 2010)

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.

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 the dates we needed for 2017 were not all available at Newbiggin, so the Committee decided to secure the meeting dates by booking them all at Mungrisdale, which has the dates we need. 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.

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 **2 December 2016**.