



Newsletter of the Berkshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers

BERKSHIRE YARNS

No. 152



Spring 2018



Roz and Debs with the BBC Radio Berkshire team - clue 4 of the "Peach Quest" in January.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER.

Dear Members,

I'm going to talk about the *General Data Protection Regulations*. I have had many discussions about some of the changes that the committee has made in response to the new regulations, which come into force in May 2018. Firstly I will say that our changes are designed to keep our systems and required processes as simple as possible, for us and future committees. Believe me if you try to read the information given out by the ICO, you will lose the will to live!

Some of the questions we have to answer are:

1. Who is our data process administrator?
2. What information (data) about members we keep and why we keep it?
3. Do we have consent to hold that data? Under 16 must provide parental consent.
4. What action we will take in the case of a breach in security; what information has been taken and what we are doing about it – we are supposed to pass this report to the ICO. Also details to be forwarded to ICO of any previous breaches in security.
5. What is our privacy policy?
6. Where do we keep information and who do we share it with?
7. What is the lifetime of the data, what happens when a member leaves the Guild?

I hope that, although you have enjoyed, in the past, receiving a members list; you can appreciate how we find it impossible to adequately respond to these points above if we continue the practice. We cannot be confident that all out of date information on members, or ex-members is destroyed, is stored safely and not shared without individuals consent.

Bureaucracy gone mad you may feel, not relevant to our little Guild you may say. Perhaps the recent news story about how data of friends of friends on Facebook was harvested and used for nefarious purposes will help you to appreciate our desire for simplicity and security.

As I discussed with a member today, yes it is always nice to have the details of new members. Perhaps we can go back to old-fashioned ways of doing it and engage our new members in conversation? I'm sure they will feel much more welcome that way.

There may be other adjustments necessary and you will be kept informed, I promise.

Happy Crafting

Roz Jones

Chair.

MEETING AND WORKSHOP REPORTS

February - Tudor Hose by Steve Kennett

Steve is the Vice-chair of the Association of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. Before his main theme, Steve told us how he came to be a spinner: his godmother was a pupil of Ethel Mairet in the early 1930s and became head of craft teaching at Bromley College of Art. As well as long draw spinning, she taught him leather work and bookbinding. Trained as a research chemist, Steve experimented with dyeing wool and joined the London Guild, where he became one of a team of 6 involved in spinning and knitting a sweater for London Fashion Week, later repeated for the BBC on Pebble Mill at One.

After moving to Sussex, Steve volunteered at the Weald and Downland Museum near Chichester, which was developing clothing appropriate to the houses displayed at their site. Asked to spin yarn for Tudor hose, Steve began research into whether they would have been knitted or not and hence into the history of knitting in England. Few early references exist. Attempts to protect the English wool trade meant that by Henry VIII's reign everyone had to wear a knitted cap to church and there were more references to knitting in Elizabethan times, including in Shakespeare's plays, but it is not clear what kind of fabric they refer to, since the word "knit" already existed meaning joining or mending. Pictures of the time seem to show woven rather than knitted fabrics. English long staple wool was originally in demand for broadcloth with the yarn produced by women mainly on drop spindles as a cottage industry, but gradually sheep became bred more for meat than wool.

The project to reproduce Tudor hose proved much lengthier and more difficult than the museum realised. Steve selected Romney wool, worsted spun, Z twist, 2 ply and did sample knitting at 22 stitches per inch. He did all the spinning, measuring and keeping examples of everything. He calculated it took 269 minutes per ounce to process the hose from start to finish – using a spindle would have taken longer, showing what a labour intensive and therefore expensive process it was.

Jacquie Kavanagh

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FUTURE GUILD MEETINGS

Meeting	Type of meeting	Activities
19 May	AGM	Annual Competition entries and Results. Mini, wheel workshop - choosing a fleece with a project in mind
16 June	Fleece Day	Sample it! And fleece preparation techniques. Mystery local fleece spinning activity Fleece preparation and maybe a few bits of fleece to buy! Sorting a fleece opportunities.
21 July	Dye Day	Same colour - different fibre, experimenting with different fibres and effects. Dyeing your fibre for the Guild Dye project.
18 August	Member's Day - Summer Party	Bring along your unfinished projects, your 'waiting-for-a-chance-to-try' projects and enjoy a relaxing crafting day with friends. Bring a pot luck salad lunch.

GUILD GROUP MEETINGS:

All the day-time groups meet at Charvil Village Hall.

See below for more information.

Spinning Group dates: *Co-ordinator Lesley Dunn* **10am-1pm**

Apr 25th, May 9, 23rd, June 6th, 20th, July 4th, 18th, August 1st,15th,29th, Sept 12th (Wednesdays)

Weaving Group dates: *Co-ordinator Mary Paul* **10.15am – 1.15pm**

May 3rd, 17th, 31st, June 14th, 28th, July 12th, 26th Aug 9th, 23rd, Sept 6th (Thursdays)

Dyeing Group Dates: *Co-ordinator Debbie Cogger* **10.30am – 4.30pm**

October 2018, January 2019, April 2019, dates to be confirmed

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UP-COMING FIBRE EVENTS

Woolfest www.woolfest.co.uk Entrance £10 per day (£15) for 2 days	When: Where: Time:	22 nd – 23 rd June Cockermouth, Cumbria Sat:10.00 – 18.00 Sun:10.00 – 17.00
Fibre East www.fibre-east.co.uk Entrance £8	When: Where: Time:	28 th -29 th July 2018 Redbourne School & Community College, Ampthill, Beds Sat:10.00 – 17.00 Sun:10.00 - 16.30

OTHER EVENTS

AGWSD Conference and AGM	When: Where:	11-13 th May 2018 Kents Hill Conference Centre, Milton Keynes, MK7 6BZ
AGWSD National Exhibition – Textile Creations	When: Where:	16-29 th July 2018 University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. G1 1XQ

UP-COMING DEMONSTRATIONS

Demonstration Season - 2018

Requests for the Guild to take part in various country fayres and shows are steadily being received and are always great fun to be involved in.

It is a great opportunity to spend the day not only talking to interested members of the public about your craft but a good excuse to do some spinning or weaving yourself as well as showcasing some of our work.

You do not need to have any experience in demonstrating, just an interest in talking to members of the public about what we do.

Neither is any particular skill level needed; in fact, sometimes being a beginner like myself can be an advantage as people can see what can be achieved by someone relatively new to their craft. I even had my "eureka" moment at one of the shows and realised I had been spinning for quite some time relatively evenly and without any breakages !

It's also a great way to get to know other members of the Guild that you may not know very well.

The shows that we have been invited to so far are detailed below and if you are interested in helping to demonstrate at any of them please do let me know or add your name to the list in the blue folder which will be at the Guild meetings.

Monday 7th May - Wokingham Art May Fayre

Sunday 27th May - Berkshire Country Fayre

Saturday 9th June - Sheffield on Loddon Show : 12.30 to 5pm only

Saturday 14th July / Sunday 15th July - Woodcote Rally : please specify which day you would like to do.

Saturday 15th September - Cookham Dean

As more invitations are received these will be added so it's always worth checking the folder if you are interested but not able to do any of these dates.

If you would like more information though please do have a chat with me at one of the Guild meetings or contact me by email. I would be very happy to hear from you and to answer any questions you may have.

Happy crafting and demo'ing

Sarah Rose

sarah_rose50@hotmail.com

Each event really needs to have three members attending, to help with informing the public as to what we are doing as we spin, and to safeguard equipment when members leave the stand to stretch their legs.

Merl “Late” - Wool

The Museum of English Rural Life held one of their “Late “ events in February based on the theme of “Wool” and invited the Guild to be part of the evening.

This event was part of a programme of late events and the Museum curated and showcased objects and items around the theme that may not, usually, be on display. Three members took part in the event which was extremely well attended and the wonderful, colourful display of work and the spinning and weaving related items attracted a lot of interest. All three of us spent a very enjoyable evening chatting to “woolly” minded visitors about our craft and the items on display and we were even able to get some spinning done as well !

We did have the opportunity though to look around the museum and some of the extremely interesting items on display as well as the other exhibitor’s stands. The shetland shawls, with their intricate and delicate workmanship were beautiful and it was fascinating to learn about wooden knitting sheaths with their carved designs ; something that I knew nothing about.

There was also a very interesting exhibitor showcasing a chair made out of wool !

This was a new event for us and quite different to ones the Guild had participated in before and was a good opportunity to promote our craft to a different and varied audience.

Sarah Rose

AGSWD Summer School 2017

Summer School was a great experience and I would recommend it to anybody. I met so many interesting people whilst I was there; some people who were part of the Online Guild had travelled from the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland to be there. Some people go every time just to meet up with old friends. What I did learn, by talking to people, was how lucky we are to be part of the BGSWD. With around 70 members we are a large guild with a regular meeting place, talks and workshops organised, as well as our Spinning and Weaving Groups. Other Guilds aren’t so fortunate.

The Association Summer School is held every other year and last year it was held at Sparsholt College near Winchester and 2 members of the Guild, Carol Crowdy and I attended. The Summer School is residential, although there are other options available, and lasts for a week. There were 17 workshop/courses run covering our core skills of spinning, weaving and dyeing but also some ancillary topics like knitting and papermaking. The event includes meals, evening entertainment including a silent auction and a fashion show, an optional Wednesday afternoon outing and a gala dinner at the end of the week. The AGSWD Certificate of Achievement (CoA) was judged during the week, the results were announced and the work was put on display. There was a trade fair at the end of the week when the site was open to visitors who could wander through the workshop rooms and view the work created.

I attended a course called 'A Fleece a Day' run by Amanda Hannaford that was very popular. Each day she showed us a different type of fleece, ran through the different preparation techniques and how to spin them. She used a Romney fleece to demonstrate worsted techniques, a South Down for woollen, North Ronaldsay for double coated preparation, Cotswold for fancy yarn making and Exmoorino for fine spinning. There were 14 people on the course with practically a different type of wheel for everyone present. I was probably the least experienced spinner there. I worked hard to pass the basic entry requirement of 'being in control of my wheel', while next to me was someone who by the end of the week had passed their CoA in spinning.

Sarah Cook

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MEMBERS PROFILE



Roz Jones

Roz was born in Iver Heath where she grew up as the only girl among three brothers. Her father was a local councillor and her mother worked as a teacher.

As a child she was surrounded by all sorts of crafts, her father and grandfather being keen amateur boat builders while her mum and grandmother used to sew and knit for themselves and their family. Roz has fond memories of her mother making dresses for her dolls out of gorgeous remnants left over from when she made her own her party frocks.

The family spent much time boating, hiking and camping which led to a love of nature and all things nautical.

After leaving school Roz worked for a while as a window dresser before returning to education. She enrolled in a government scheme at a college in Slough and took a course in Personnel management. This led to a job within the NHS. Later she became a trainer and took part in various schemes before ending up as a business coach for the government run "Business link"

Roz married and settled in High Wycombe where her two sons were born.

Having been inspired by the strong and capable women in her family, their example stood her in good stead when she later found herself a single parent and had to raise her sons by herself.

These days she shares a home with her dog Dolly in Windsor and runs her own gardening business.

She joined the guild in 2003 after seeing demos and speaking to members at various events over the years. Having become an active member and settled in she agreed to take on the job of chairman. This position she fills with great gusto and enthusiasm, and has become a popular and hard working advocate for our group.

As well as spinning, knitting, crotchet, dressmaking and needlework, her interest are beekeeping, walking, sailing, boats of all kinds, photography and arts. She is hoping to find time to take up travelling the UK in a camper van in the future.

By joining the guild Roz says she has found inspiration to improve skills and to pick up new ones. She enjoys the company of her fellow spinners, weavers and dyers and is particularly impressed by the other members' willingness to pass on their knowledge and help others. Her goal for the future is to spread the word of our existence and to make loads of positive publicity for the guild.

Favourite project: Whatever I just finished!

Claim to fame: Once starred in a film with Michael Crawford.....

From Helene Hamblin

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair	Roz Jones
Secretary	Rachel Blunden
Treasurer	Linde Merrick
Membership and Library	Sharon Spence
Members day co-ordinator	Sarah Cook
Equipment co-ordinator	Carolyn Mansi
Speakers co-ordinator	Roz Jones

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES: *Copy - to be sent to sarah@ksr.me.uk*

Copy deadline: 3 September 2018

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Have you something to say about our fibre world? Then tell the Guild about it.

Please send your contributions to Sarah (sarah@ksr.me.uk)

