

General Activities Report 2016

2016 saw the guild take part in a variety of activities, we held in-house skill sharing sessions, bought in outside tutors, demonstrated to the general public, mixed in with our usual open meetings.

In February Dawn Cleaver helped members to fine tune their spinning skills and wheels for fine spinning. As a previous winner of the longest thread for Wales she's well placed to help members get the hang of this precise skill.

In April Katie Weston and Elaine James passed on some of the information they learned at the last Association Summer School. Members with rigid heddle looms were introduced to using 2 heddles, allowing them to weave finer cloth, or more complex patterns like twill. This day was exactly what our skill sharing sessions are all about, nobody was an outright expert, but with a bit of head scratching and consulting some of the books in the guild library we all got there in the end!

At the end of May on Bank Holiday Monday Elaine, Dawn, Katie, Debbie and Jill demonstrated at Caersws Vintage Machinery Fair. This year we took Wilhemina the Pendulum wheel with us, and she attracted many admirers. The committee pay the guild £60 for attending, so in 2017 it would be nice to see some more members coming along.

Our June meeting shifted in date slightly, and also in location. We tried out Shibori Dyeing at Katie Weston's house. This Japanese technique uses Indigo dye baths, resists are created on fabric and yarn by wrapping and folding. Many thanks to Jill Shepherd for leading this workshop.

At the start of July we demonstrated at Montgomery Street Fair, thanks to Ann Lawrence and Lynne Geldart, and Debbie Francis for representing the guild. Despite sending in our booking form, the organising committee were not expecting us, and also charged us for our pitch.

In August we had a slight change the programme and demonstrated at the newly re-opened Newtown Textile Museum. Ten members came along bringing looms and wheels. The Textile Museum Committee are incredibly grateful for the support of the guild, and look forward to having us back in 2017.

September was a Fibre Jewellery workshop, again led by Jill Shepherd. We tried various felting, stitching and embellishing techniques to make a huge variety of items.

It was back to weaving in October, we invited Bee Weir to lead a session on Freestyle Weaving. This very successful workshop featured a huge variety of techniques and yarns. Even experienced weavers really enjoyed this session.

Overall the year has been a real example of what this guild does best. Great enthusiasm to try new things, willingness to pass on skills, in a lovely friendly atmosphere.

Thank You to everyone, particularly those who have demonstrated, those who bring along the tea and coffee box, and the committee members who help with organising.

Sue Collett is stepping down from the committee this year after several years of service, we want to thank her for her time and organisational skills, she leaves an efficient shaped hole in our team.

In 2017 we have an equally varied programme planned, and are committed to offering more demonstration days at Newtown Textile Museum.