

Secretary's Report

January:

We had an open meeting and members brought their spinning and weaving projects to work on and catch up after the Christmas break.

February:

Amanda Hannaford visited us from Cornwall to teach a long draw spinning workshop. In the morning the whole guild worked on improving their hand carding techniques and we listened to a talk accompanied by slides on how Amanda draws inspiration for dyeing her fibres. In the afternoon a group of members retired to the committee room to learn longdraw spinning. Amanda was impressed by Montgomery guild and said we were the quickest group she'd taught to pick up longdraw!

March:

Open meeting. Members met to work on their own projects and socialise.

April:

Rob Harvey-Long visited us from Gloucestershire to talk to us about his flock of Cotswold sheep. He gave a talk on his research into the global origins of various sheep breeds including the Cotswold (which he has been breeding for fine quality fibre and micron count for the past 17 years in his own Pickwick Flock) and the Cotswold sheep's importance in English history. We enjoyed a bring and share lunch and worked on our projects in the afternoon.

May:

Woodland Turnery came to give a talk on their business and to run a spinning wheel clinic for creaky wheels!! Clive was kept busy seeing to the thirsty wood and stretchy bands and Joan gave an amusing talk and manned their stall of turned wooden wares.

May also saw a few members go to our regular demo at Caersws Vintage Machinery Rally. The weather was vile and our spinners showed their resourcefulness in keeping warm and dry and stopping everything else blowing away!!

June:

Open meeting where members met to work on their own projects and socialise. The Guild Christmas Challenge Fibre for 2013 was also launched this meeting – the chosen fibre this year was Llama.

July:

A few members went to demonstrate at Montgomery Street Fair in the first week. For once the deafening drummers didn't make an appearance and it didn't even rain – and enough spinners turned up to mean that a few people got nicely toasted because there was no room under the gazebo newly purchased in readiness for summer storms!

Katie brought HilltopCloud shop to the guild meeting the following week to run her carding workshop and tempt us with her lovely fibres. Fortunes were spent and some spinner's families probably went hungry for the rest of July...

August:

August meeting clashed with Summer School trade fair this year and a few of our members attended this and the fair so Sarn Show was fairly poorly attended. In fact I (Katharine) began to panic it was just going to be me on my own in a huge tent with a display consisting of everything I'd made in recent months!! I was overjoyed to see Margaret arrive shortly after and we spread ourselves around the available area and Margaret had also brought an Ashford Knitters Loom warped up ready for children to weave on. Word soon spread around and by the end of the day 13 children went home proudly clutching some small mug rugs they'd woven out of cut-up t shirts. Sarn Show organisers were thrilled with this interactive approach and were very grateful – well done Margaret.

September:

We had to move this meeting forward a week due to double booking by the hall. Very few people turned up, possibly because of this and we had a small meeting in the committee room spinning and weaving.

October:

The first week of October was The All Wales Event at Llanidloes. Around 5 members attended this and with some last minute desperate pleas via email and juggling Katie put together the Guild Challenge piece with what baby hats she'd been given (and a small last minute stack she'd knitted herself) – it would appear that some baby hats might still be lurking in various states of making in

spinners baskets? And Katharine put together the main display board with the assistance of the others but this had to be put together on the spot and was not our best effort due to lack of theme and not knowing what items members would be putting forward for display. This year our partaking of AWE was less cohesive than in previous years due to time constraints on those few who did attend but in future years it would be great if we could gain a little more input from the whole guild if at all possible please as the standard at AWE this year was noticeably higher and it would be a shame not to raise our game and meet that from our own guild as there is a lot of talent amongst our members.

October meeting the following week saw Andrew Johnson textile artist visit us from South Wales to give an amusing talk on his life in textiles encompassing pretty much any fibre/textile discipline you could imagine. He brought some beautiful samples, some reaching back to those he'd woven in childhood – I think some of us were very jealous of his obvious talent! Another fabulous bring and share lunch was enjoyed by us all and we carried on with our projects in the afternoon.

November:

Open meeting. Members spun, wove and knitted – and chatted of course! - and it would appear that we had a few visitors this month as well which was lovely.