

# Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Summer School 2011

Queen Margaret University Capital Campus, Edinburgh EH21 6UD  
7th to 14th August, 2011



## SUPERB NEW CAMPUS FACILITIES

The new campus opened in Autumn 2007 and is a vibrant new academic village with high-tech buildings and attractive landscaped spaces, featuring an innovative learning resource centre at the heart of the development.

The new campus includes student residences, a student union building, indoor sports facilities and all weather surfaces, a variety of catering outlets, a shop and landscaped gardens with a range of environmental features. There is appropriate disabled access to residences and academic buildings. (Not all facilities will be available out of term time). Further information can be found on the University website [www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk).

All courses are located in the main building which also houses the refectory and will be the location for the suppliers.



Accommodation is onsite for 800 students. These modern rooms have en-suite facilities with shower and are grouped in flats of up to 6 rooms with shared kitchen and lounge facilities. Internet connection points are provided. Rooms are either single or **double-bedded**. No twin rooms are available. Single rooms and double rooms are in different, but nearby blocks. Lifts are available to all floors of all buildings. Coin operated laundry facilities are provided. Details of possible accommodation prior to, and after, Summer School will be provided to all successful applicants.

You will find the new campus conveniently situated for leisure and shopping facilities. Musselburgh, an attractive seaside town on the eastern edge of Edinburgh, is nearby, and offers an appealing mix of shops, cafés, bars and leisure facilities, including a theatre and the famous racecourse. The Fort Kinnaird shopping complex is also within walking distance, and includes an extensive range of retail outlets. The campus is well served for public transport and access, with Musselburgh railway station on the edge of the campus and the centre of Edinburgh is only 11 minutes away by train and a bit longer by bus! There is a bus stance in the campus (No. 30 bus) and access by road is directly off the A1.

Access to the University is via the A1 which links directly to the campus leaving the A1 Northbound at Newcraighall and returning to the Southbound carriageway to access the campus slip road. All other routes - M6, M8, M9, M90, A68 and A7 link to the A1 via the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass.

Fifteen courses are on offer, from basic spinning to advanced weaving, with dyeing, embroidery and photography in between. The following pages give a précis of the courses and illustrations of the tutor's work. The detailed brochure and application form for courses will be available from 1 September and can be downloaded from this site. Each course should have between 10 and 15 students.

## Companion Programme

There will be no companion programme although accommodation and catering will be provided for companions. The venue is on Edinburgh's doorstep and coincides with Edinburgh's Festival Fringe and other entertainment as well as the wealth of activities to be found in the local area. Further information can be found at [www.edinburgh.org](http://www.edinburgh.org) and [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

## Course Fees

Residential Students (Guild Members)	£590.00	Deposit	£250.00	Balance	£340.00
Residential Students (non Guild Members)	£635.00	Deposit	£275.00	Balance	£360.00
Day Students (Guild Members)	£285.00	Deposit	£125.00	Balance	£160.00
Day Students (non Guild Members)	£315.00	Deposit	£130.00	Balance	£185.00
Companions	£395.00	Deposit	£150.00	Balance	£245.00

As with all Summer Schools, allocation to courses does not happen until January 2011, but all deposits will be cashed as they arrive. Deposits must be paid at the time of applying for a place. All payments must be in £ Sterling. All payments from abroad must take account of any costs liable to be charged. Preferred method of payment is by BACS for deposits and balances with the reference to be the applicant's full name. BACS - Bank of Scotland, account number 06002403, sort code 80-17-42, Account name AGWSD SS11 (IBAN GB96 BOFS 8017 4206 0024 03, BIC BOFSGB 21153 is also required for all overseas applicants). Online applications and payments of deposits constitute acceptance of terms and conditions by applicants. Students and companions must each fill out a separate application form and send it by email to [summerschool@wsd.org.uk](mailto:summerschool@wsd.org.uk) or by post to Doreen Marsh, 23 Damhead, Lothianburn, Edinburgh EH10 7EA. Applications can not be made until after 1 September 2010. Acknowledgement of applications will be by email.

Non internet applicants may use postal applications but should still use BACS as payment method. If possible, with postal applications, 2 self addressed envelopes DL (1/3 A4) are required to allow for acknowledgement of payments.

## Timeline

1 September 2010 onwards	booking forms available - applications accepted with deposit fee
1 February 2011	course places allocated and undersubscribed courses readvertised
15 February 2011	places confirmed and balance requested
1 - 31 March 2011	balance due
5 April 2011	reallocation of places where balance has not been received

## Cancellations

In the event of applicants not being offered a place their deposit will be refunded or applicants may elect to remain on a reserve list with the deposit being refunded if no place subsequently becomes available.

If a successful applicant wishes to cancel, deposits will be refunded up to 1 April 2011. After 1 April deposits cannot be refunded.

If a successful applicant wishes to cancel after paying the balance, this will be refunded up to 15 June. Thereafter refunds cannot be made.

In the event of a course being cancelled for any reason, all payments will be refunded unless acceptable other course places can be found.

## Additional Information

Students will be provided with access cards which will be required to gain access to all buildings and for use in the refectory.

Although a Students' Union bar is located on the campus, at this time we cannot confirm its availability during Summer School. Prepare accordingly! Vending machines are located at various places for snacks and non-alcoholic drinks.

Activities outwith courses include a silent auction (possibly a real auction) and raffle - donations required for both please. There will be an evening lecture and relaxation class(es).

A trip to Lochcarron Weaving Mill and Visitor Centre in Selkirk has been organised for Wednesday afternoon. Lochcarron design tartans, dye their own yarn as well as weaving the cloth - really worth doing - you can even design your own tartan at a cost! Their clients include some of the top designers! As this will involve a bus trip it would be helpful to have advance notice of intention to participate to avoid disappointment through insufficient places. Costs to be advised.

## Additional Course Information

Should additional information regarding courses be required please contact Doreen Marsh at [summerschool@wsd.org.uk](mailto:summerschool@wsd.org.uk).

## Course 1

### Dyeing Dip, Paint, Print, Resist – Creative ways to dye yarn Debbie Tomkies



Students will create personalised colour palettes with which to design and dye an exciting range of samples using a range of interesting techniques. The course will start with an introduction to colour theory, the selection of colour combinations and a look at dye systems including synthetic, natural and extracts. Beginning with familiar methods such as immersion dyeing, students will be encouraged to try out novel techniques, drawing inspiration from other textile media such as fabric work, batik and so on. Students will be working with both yarns and pre-knitted fabrics. At the end of the course, students can expect to take home a workbook of samples, knitted swatches and comprehensive handouts for further experimentation at home. Students will also dye sufficient yarn to make at least two complete small projects such as a hat, gloves, scarf, socks. Free patterns will also be included.

#### Tutor

Debbie Tomkies began her career in textiles, designing and knitting garments to commission. She has written 'Hand-dyed Yarn Craft Projects', a comprehensive

manual on hand-dyeing techniques using procion dyes. She is also the technical feature writer for Simply Knitting magazine and has covered an extensive range of knitting techniques including colour work and hand dyeing. Many of her designs have been published, including an exciting range of knit-felt projects for Artesano Limited.

As a tutor Debbie runs regular courses on hand-dyeing using various dye systems, including food-based, synthetic and natural dyes. She also teaches knitting and related subjects and is a guest tutor for the Knitting & Crochet Guild study days.

Debbie runs DT Craft & Design, a specialist business offering an extensive range of dyes, yarns, accessories and equipment for textile artists, students and knitting enthusiasts.

#### Course requirements

No specialist equipment - niddy niddy, yarnwinder etc may be useful.

£35 additional material charge.

## Course 2

### Indigo Dyeing To teach you how to dye fabric using indigo Fiona Moir



This course will teach you how to use the king of natural dyes, indigo. It would suit those wanting to try indigo for the first time, but also anyone who would like to learn more about methods for patterning cloth. You will learn several different techniques for making an indigo vat and compare the colours produced from synthetic and natural indigo. The indigo vats will be used to dye fabrics. There will be time to learn a range of different techniques, from simple tie-dye methods to more complex Japanese techniques known as shibori. The latter includes tying, pole-wrapping and stitching. Some methods give random patterning and others will allow you to control the result very closely.

You will produce lots of stunning fabrics in a short space of time. These could be made up into garments, cushions, used for patchwork and embroidery.

#### Tutor

Fiona Moir has always been interested in colour and pattern. She learned to spin at a night class over 20 years ago and this is when she became interested in natural dyeing. Fiona started off dyeing her hand spun yarns with materials from the hedgerows and from suppliers. She kept extensive notes and shade samples of all of her dyeing experiments in those early years. She did her first indigo dyeing in 1988 and still finds it one of the most joyous dyes to use. Since then Fiona has run many workshops for guilds on

natural dyeing. Sometimes the workshops are specifically for indigo dyeing.

Her craft interests go beyond spinning and dyeing. She is passionate about weaving, has great fun making felt, knitting and crocheting with her hand spun yarn, making baskets and now venturing into patchwork to use some of her own dyed fabrics.

She has taught many crafts during the last twenty years and all age ranges from 5 years up. "I have a love and passion for the crafts that I teach and have been asked back to various guilds several times.

I studied marine biology at university and I am now a full time science teacher. I regularly help in other departments e.g art, and design and technology with specialised crafts such as feltmaking, papermaking and dyeing."

Fiona Moir is one of the most frequent names to appear in the list of prize winners in the Handcraft section at the Royal Highland Show.

#### Course requirements

A selection of natural undyed fabrics such as cotton, silk, wool and blends of these in a range of weights.

£10 additional material charge.

## Course 3

### Embroidery Indian Inspired Towers Helen Cowans



Students will take inspiration from Indian colours, patterns and textures to create 3D free standing towers. After creating a rich, textured background, appliqué will be used to create the basis of the designs. Students will learn to use xbandprint, markal oil sticks and gilding waxes. They will use hand stitch and beads to add the final touches to create a richly embellished and sparkling surface.

Once the fabric is created the Towers can be constructed and further embellished with free flowing twisted wire, flowers and beads to create individual, one of a kind, quirky textile art.

#### Tutor

Helen Cowans' academic achievements range from a BSc in Applied Biology through teaching qualifications, Certificate and Diploma in Design and

Craft in Creative Embroidery to an OCN in Batik. She is a self employed tutor, lecturer and author and has taught in a variety of embroidery related contracts throughout the UK and in Western Australia.

She is an award winning, qualified tutor and has published and exhibited both nationally and internationally.

#### Course requirements

Students should have a sewing machine (current PAT test) in good working order with a selection of "feet". Also a selection of plain fabrics eg velvets.

Approx. £7 additional material charge.

## Course 4

### Felting Needle Felting: Creation of 3D sculptures including figures and bags or vessels Liz Brown



Course members will be introduced to different techniques, tools, equipment and their uses. Whilst concentrating on dry felting, wet felting facilities may be available throughout the course. The course will involve a number of the most up to date methods and technology and will include hand needling, the use of embellishers, hollow versus solid construction and willow frame construction. Students will design and create a number of small pieces to include the creation of faces or a small creature to produce a wearable brooch.

This will be followed by a larger item in the form of a framed bag or vessel.

All workshop discussions will be backed up by printed notes, supplier's lists and suggested reading material.

#### Tutor

Liz Brown undertook a foundation arts course at Waterford Technical College and went on to gain

her National Diploma of Floristry. This was followed by completing her Millinery City and Guilds in Glasgow before a Fashion and Design course at Ayr College.

She has spent many years teaching and being involved in school and national educational projects in felt work including wall hangings with students of all ages. She is also involved as a Yurt Keeper and storyteller and has travelled with the Yurt since 1999.

#### Course requirements

Students should bring an embellishing machine(if available), currently PAT tested and in good working order. £35 additional material charge.

## Course 5

### Felting – Nuno Technique To create finished articles using wet and nuno felting techniques Matching hat and scarf Lynn Ramsbottom



The nuno technique is an exciting and challenging form of felting which creates amazing texture and finish to fine fabrics and superfine merino wool and silk. No previous felting experience is necessary to complete these accessories. This project looks at two ways in which nuno felt can create accessories in 2D flat pieces (the scarf) and 3D multi-shapes (the hat). The finished style and shape of each persons accessories will reflect their personal preferences of shape and colour – be as extravagant or subtle as you prefer.

By the end of this project week participants will have a good grasp of how nuno felt is made and what its possibilities are.

All felting equipment is provided.

#### Tutor

Lynn Ramsbottom, B.A., M.Inst.Pkg. is a registered teacher who has taught at a number of schools in speech and drama/ art and design and went on to attain an Open University degree in English Literature.

In 1980 she started a design/manufacturing company

(employing 22 staff) providing packaging made from textiles (bags, pouches and pillows) to many of the major high street multiple retailers including Marks and Spencer, Harrods, C & A, Boots and the Buckingham Palace Gift Shop.

From 2001 Lynn participated in courses in felting taking in nuno, piecing, needle felting, inlay, mosaic, millinery, cobweb, 'felt paper' with major practitioners within the world felting skill base. In 2004 she participated in the week long 20th Anniversary Celebration of the inauguration of the International Feltmakers Association in Hungary, travelled with the Scottish Feltmaking group to Mongolia in 2005, living and working with herders out in the Steppes and has gone on to complete level 2 in the City and Guilds Feltmaking course. She has participated in a number of exhibitions in the UK, USA and Australia and teaches workshops in felting. She is currently working towards City and Guilds Level 3 in Feltmaking through the Real Craft Centre in Yorkshire.

#### Course requirements

No specialist requirements.

£15 additional material charge.

## Course 6

### Knitting Design, Creation and Knitting with Handspun Yarns Di Gilpin



The course will concentrate on the following themes: Analysis of specialist handspun yarns. Creating samplers in different styles of knitting to find the best use of the yarn. Developing your own individual tension in relation to the style of knit you are working with. The course will explore knitweave, lace, intarsia, fairisle, needle felting and embroidery in our samplers. Cast on and finishing: different creative approaches at the very start of our projects.

Development of project from the ground work of Day 1. Deciding on best use of fibres in context to design. Cut outs, drawing, painting to add depth to the project. Working a final sample and concentrating on detail. Starting final project.

Continuing with project. The technical side!. Writing the pattern. Pause for reflection and final additions to scheme.

The aim of this project is to take each person through the whole process of designing with and for their own handspun, unique yarn. The course will be incorporating other natural fibres, such as linen, hemp and silk and experimenting with texture, weave

and knit to create a Fabric from which a design can be worked. The process will continue with the development of a pattern for either a garment or hanging or installation. The three dimensional aspect of knitting will be explored, i.e. the creation of Form within Fabric. A unique approach to handspun fibre.

#### Tutor

Di Gilpin has been involved in all aspects of handknitting for many years and has worked for many major yarn manufacturers producing handknit collections in a variety of fibres including cashmere, wensleydale and Black Welsh. She has developed pattern support marketing strategies for Shilasdair yarns, participated in exhibitions throughout UK and Europe as well as teaching knitting. She has also developed patterns for all major knitting magazines including Vogue and Interweave Press.

#### Course requirements

Handspun yarn, spinning wheel or drop spindle and selection of knitting needles and crochet hooks.

No additional charge will be made providing students provide their own yarn.

## Course 7

### Digital Photography Ian Millar



Suitable for beginners to fairly experienced, the course will take in basic photographic skills including camera settings and control. The aim of the course is to enable participants to create the photographs they want to end up with. Weather dependant it will include a practical outdoors photographic lesson (subject to be determined). If the weather is inclement still life photographic study will be in the class room. This will be followed by downloading images and a basic session in Photoshop (and alternatives) manipulation. Further practical photography based on lessons from previous work. Sessions will operate on a progressive basis with a photographic session followed by downloading, discussion and assessment prior to the next phase.

For the completion of the course there will be an introduction to printing and photograph mounting to enable students to produce a final portfolio which they can present and discuss.

### Tutor

Ian Millar has had an interest in photography for more than 30 years, working semi-professionally for last 20 years. He became full time professional photographer in June 2007 and is currently studying for a BA in professional photography.

Ian teaches on an ad hoc basis at Edinburgh's Telford College where he is about to start a teacher's training certificate.

He also gives lectures to the members of Beeslack, Penicuik camera club where they have members of very varying skill levels.

### Course requirements

A digital camera (DSLR preferred but not essential), separate flash gun, if available, and a laptop. Some basic knowledge of photo-imaging would be an advantage. Small charge for printing and mounting of photographs.

## Course 8

### Spinning Comprehensive Spindle Spinning Carol and Pete Leonard



The following elements will all be covered within the course. As participants will have a wide range of abilities and interests, the tutors will tailor the course on a day to day basis according to these. Complete novices will be welcome on this course.

The emphasis will be on practical work, but there will be plenty of discussion and demonstration, and the tutors are always happy for students to ask questions and share their own experience.

One great advantage of a team-taught class is that at least two things can, if necessary, be going on at once!

Course elements

Why spindle spin?

What to look for in a suspended spindle.

Getting started with top whorl spindle spinning.

Plying

Other types of spindle

Putting it in to practice – completing a small project  
Basic spindles for the initial teaching sessions, plus a number of akha and supported spindles for the later elements are provided. In addition, an extensive collection of spindles for students to try out during the class will be available. All fibres needed are likewise provided, together with a folder with a class handout, room for notes and for samples.

Students are encouraged to bring their own spindles along to be assessed and used if appropriate, and

if they have a particular fibre that they think may not be included, that too.

### Tutors

Carol and Pete Leonard have been teaching together and separately for over ten years. They are highly experienced in teaching spindle spinning, and also a number of other fibre related subjects. Carol has extensive experience teaching spindle spinning with children at Oakwell Hall, Kirklees, and many local schools, and has been the regular spinning and fibre crafts tutor at Alston Hall in Lancashire since April 2000. She has taught classes in natural dyeing for the WEA, the RHS at Harlow Carr, the Colour Museum, Bradford, Alston Hall and teaches both spinning and natural dyeing privately at her home. Together they have taught at many northern Guilds, including Bowland, Craven, Derbyshire, Eden Valley, Lancs & Lakes, Merseyside, Mid Lancs and their own Guild, Bradford. Pete has taught classes in knitting with energised singles at some of these Guilds, too. Carol also took on the challenge of teaching a spindling class for the Online Guild.

### Course requirements

Drop spindles and fibres.

There will be a £15 charge for materials.

## Course 9

### Spinning Beginners and Improvers Wheel Spinning. Janet Renouf-Miller



This course is suitable for near beginners and those who can spin but may be self taught, or who are not confident in their technique. It is also suitable for 'improvers' – ie those who have some grasp of the basics but want to extend their repertoire. It is important that participants can spin a yarn of some sort however basic, as this is not a course for complete beginners. By the end of the week participants will have a thorough understanding of the spinning process, be able to control the thickness and handle of their yarn, to produce a variety of yarns, to use a number of different fibres and to understand their uses. They will have a reference portfolio that will be built up during the week and can be used to replicate yarns produced during the course and to remind themselves what they have learned.

The course will include all aspects of the spinning wheel from treadle control to maintenance, the use of different fibres and thicknesses. Time will be spent on carding and colour blending and the course will finish with the opportunity to spin a wide range of different and exotic fibres.

### Tutor

Janet Renouf-Miller has been spinning since 1994. She ran 'The Byre' spinning and weaving supply and tuition business. She obtained her Certificate of Achievement in Handspinning in 1998. She has provided tuition in spinning on a wheel and spindle, dyeing, rigid heddle weaving, knitting and crochet since 1995 providing courses for Guilds, groups and knitting shops.

Janet publishes and sells her own booklets on spinning fancy yarns and natural dyeing. Over the years she has been involved in many projects. This has included using textiles in a care setting, in work for the Care Commission and in therapeutic work.

Janet also produces a range of hand dyed yarns for sale and commission and sells her work in galleries and craft outlets.

### Course requirements

A spinning wheel in good working order, carders, lazy kate, niddy noddy if available.

## Course 10

### Spinning Spinning "Exotic Fibres" Sue Macniven



This course is suitable for people who can already spin but do not have to be expert. There will be a variety of preparation equipment available for student use.

Introduction to exotic fibres, handling and discussion of qualities and uses of fibres, to include:-silk, cashmere, Alpaca, Mohair, Camel down, Angora, Yak, fine wools.

Methods of preparation of fibres including carding and combing and use of pre-prepared fibres. Discussion of washing and dyeing exotic fibres. Blending fibres and methods of spinning, wheel setup and drafting methods.

Long and short draw spinning.

Plying yarns for balance, plying different fibres, Navajo plying and multi-plying for fancy yarns.

Washing skeins, problem solving.

Producing knitted/crochet samples.

#### Tutor

Sue Macniven learned to spin at evening class in 1986 and went on to complete Open College of art "A Creative Approach to Textiles" course. She has

twice broken the world record for the Longest Thread in 1999 and 2001. She taught hand spinning and dyeing at Berkshire College of agriculture for 5 years. Sue has taught workshops in the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

"Specialising in Exotic Fibres and fine spinning I knit hats, lace shawls and other small items for sale.

My design inspiration comes mainly from colour and softness of fibre, with the characteristics of a fibre dictating how it should be spun and what the finished product could be.

In the early years I spun from natural fleeces which gave me a great insight into the handle of wool and how crimp can dictate the degree of twist and thickness of yarn. I have developed my own way of spinning and teaching which allows students to spin quality yarns from the start avoiding such problems as lumps and uneven twist and thickness.

I see it as my mission as a spinner to abolish the conception of handspun wool being brown stripey "hippy" stuff! "

#### Course requirements

A spinning wheel in good working order, carders, lazy kate, niddy noddy, mini combs or dog combs or flick carder if available. Also knitting needles and crochet hooks.

## Course 11

### Tapestry Weaving Colour in Tapestry Dot Seddon



Tapestry Weaving for beginners and those who have basic skills but are a little nervous about the use of colour in their work.

The aim of this course is to encourage experimentation in the use of colour and to make participants more aware of the colours that surround them in every day life.

During the week a number of tapestry samples will be created to form a base for future reference and will cover some of the techniques required for a portfolio of samples in the Tapestry Weaving syllabus of the Association's Certificate of Achievement, albeit on a smaller scale.

Initially samples will be woven to show the different transitional methods of moving / shading from one colour to another e.g. hatching, pick and pick and the colour mixing of yarns. Using these methods a small tapestry will be woven or designs for a larger piece to be woven at home will be produced.

The course will look carefully at colours from a number of different sources and experimenting with the colour mixing of yarns to produce colour matching from a specific design source. The importance of

taking into consideration the distance at which their work is to be viewed will be dealt with along with basic colour theory, perception and psychology.

#### Tutor

Dot Seddon is a graduate of the Open University and a trained teacher. She works as a self-employed weaver, dyer and feltmaker based at the Cleveland Crafts Centre in Middlesbrough. She has tutored a variety of textile workshops over the past 25 years working with students from a wide age and ability range and including two previous Summer Schools. Her own work on a wide range of subjects has been exhibited around the country. She has been awarded a Theo Moorman bursary and in 2000 received the Handweavers Guild of America award for her "Large G&T"

#### Course requirements

No specialist requirements.

£10 additional material charge.

## Course 12

### Weaving Contemporary Knotted Cut Pile: Not Just for Carpets! Sara Lamb



One of the most luxurious fabrics, knotted cut pile is surprisingly simple to weave. Using modest equipment, and readily available tools and materials, learn to weave this ancient and beautiful technique long used to make Oriental cut pile carpets. We will learn the process while weaving a small sample bag, and discuss ways to incorporate this technique into more than just rugs.

No previous weaving experience necessary - all levels welcome from beginning to experienced weavers.

Students will require to have a loom: rigid heddle with a 12 dent heddle or (2) 8 dent heddles (in looms which accommodate two heddles), table loom with 12 or 15 dent reed, frame loom with tensioner and heddle bar (plans sent on request) - email: [lambspin@gmail.com](mailto:lambspin@gmail.com).

#### Tutor

Sara is a longtime spinner and weaver, focusing most recently on knotted pile technique. She is the author of *Woven Treasures*, published by Interweave Press in 2009. Her work has been published in *SpinOff*,

*Handwoven*, *Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot*, and *Weaver's* magazines, and included in *Homespun Handknit*, *The All New Homespun Handknit*, *Handspun Treasures from Rare Wools*, and *Color Works*. Her work has received numerous awards, and has been included in juried exhibitions. She lectures and gives workshops in the US, Canada, Australia and UK. She maintains a working studio in a yurt in her Northern California backyard, with looms, spinning wheels, dyepots and beads.

#### Course requirements

Rigid heddle loom with 12 dent or better heddle or table loom or frame loom with tensioner and header bar (plans sent on request).

£5 additional material charge.

## Course 13

### Basket Weaving

#### Rushwork

Liz Balfour



Creation of baskets using rushes. Rushes are easier to manipulate than willow. Books, materials and examples will be provided.

Course members will be introduced to different techniques and methods of construction. The first project will be to create a circular basket or hat. This will be followed by the creation of a square or oblong basket with handles. If time allows there will be a look at other projects – quick makes, St Bride's Cross, projects for children, Christmas decorations, plaiting and rope making, coiled and sewn baskets. Students will be free to practice what they have learned, embark on new items or come up with creative ideas. Other materials will be available to show the variety of things that can be used with these techniques – leafy plants, paper, card.

#### Tutor

Since 1989 Liz Balfour has taught regularly at day, weekend and evening classes and qualified as a

teacher of adults with a City and Guilds Diploma and SVQ modules in 2002.

For the last 17 years Liz has been self employed and has continued to work as a teacher with individuals and groups with special needs. She took one group of students successfully through a City and Guilds level course.

She has demonstrated basketry and chair seating at fairs, shows and events throughout Scotland and in Northumberland. She has made baskets for crafts fairs and to order and has made replicas of traditional baskets for museums and for film work. Liz has had her creative work shown in a number of exhibitions. She is a former Chair of the Royal Highland Show Handcrafts Competition committee and was Show Manager for 5 years.

Year round Liz belongs to several self help groups, making baskets, growing and harvesting willow and researching into baskets of the past.

#### Course requirements

No specialist requirements.

£5 - £15 additional material charge.

## Course 14

### Weaving

#### Basic/Beginners weaving on a four shaft loom

Janis Embleton



Suitable for beginners and those with some basic knowledge.

The aim is to produce a sample 'blanket' which features numerous sections of twill based patterns. Fabric will be based on the 2/2 twill weave structure.

Workshop structure:

Making a warp: Participants will learn how to make a warp, including how to calculate the amounts of yarn required for the project.

Dressing the loom: Step-by-step instructions to dress the loom, including detailed instruction on threading.

Weaving the fabric: Instruction on how to produce numerous patterns and tips on good weaving practice, eg straight selvages, repairing broken threads, correcting threading mistakes.

Participants will be shown how to understand simple pattern drafts and basic design principles. Hand-outs will be available for participants to take away.

The finished piece of fabric may be used as a design basis for development into individual projects or sewn into items such as a bag or cushion cover.

#### Tutor

Janis Embleton has a 2:1(Hons) in Woven Textile Design, Surrey Institute of Art and Design, Farnham and is a member of the Society of Designer Craftsmen. She is a self employed weaver and has exhibited throughout the UK.

Her teaching experience includes School of Textiles, Heriot Watt University, Galashiels (formerly Scottish Textile College), tutoring teachers and providing workshops and training at a variety of locations. Janis also provides one-to-one tuition on four and eight shaft table looms, four shaft counterbalance and ten shaft counter-march looms.

#### Course requirements

4 shaft loom.

£5 additional material charge.

## Course 15

### Weaving

#### Moving from 4 shaft to 8 shaft and more.

Janet Phillips



Many competent 4-shaft weavers are keen to move on to using more shafts. This course will give them the information and confidence to start designing original fabrics for 8-shafts or more.

Many eight shaft weaves are simply combinations and developments of four shaft weaves. The course will explore the concept of weaving Interchanging Double Plain, 3/1 and 1/3 Twills, Weft reversible, Sateen and Sateen and developing new original weave structures.

Other closely related structures developing Plain Weave that require a double beam such as Supplementary warps, Pique fabrics, Pleated fabrics and stitched double cloth will be sampled.

Designing will include end and pick interlacings, and combining them with colour, yarns/fibres, sett and finish providing limitless design opportunities.

It is hoped that by the end of the course students will realise that high shaft weaving needs be no more complicated than using four.

#### Tutor

Janet Phillips graduated with a First Class Honours degree in industrial textile design from the Scottish College of Textiles in 1972 before working for Wallis Shops as fabric designer in their coat and suit department.

In 1978 she started a commission weaving business, weaving rugs, furnishing and clothing fabrics for private clients, using a 16-shaft George Wood Dobby loom.

Janet began teaching in 1986. She has found this area of her work to be particularly rewarding and enjoyable. "It has given me the opportunity to explore weave design and sample in depth. Now, after 40 years at the loom, I feel it is very important to pass on my passion and knowledge."

Janet has written two books:

The Weavers Book of Fabric Design in 1982

Designing Woven Fabrics in 2008

Her third book is underway: Designing with Shadow Weave and Repp.

#### Course requirements

8 shaft or greater loom - warps will be supplied in advance to allow warping up prior to the course.

£30 additional material charge.