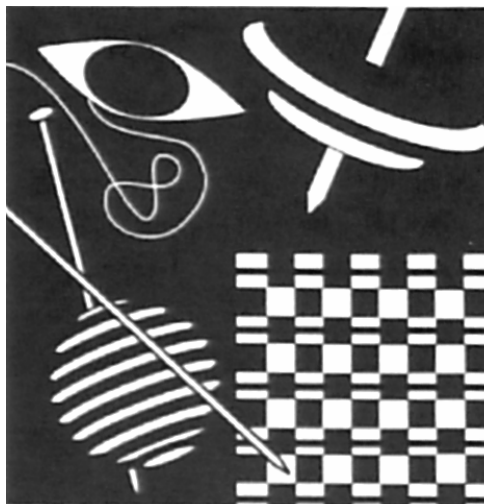


EAST SURREY GUILD CREATIVE FIBRES

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

Chairman Janice Russell
Secretary Betty Newman
Treasurer Janet Freeman



If you have any comments, tips or interesting items for future newsletters please send them to me *Janice* (chairman@creativefibres.org)

RECENT MEETINGS

BEADING A FLOWER POT NECKLACE - Saturday 16th May 2009



The May workshop was "Beading a Flower Pot Necklace" run by Jennifer Hughes. The aim was to produce a necklace which was in one way an excellent piece of wearable display jewellery, and in another way a free-form work of art. Jennifer explained the basic method, showed us her examples, and then we set to work.

The first task was to make our basic flower pots, for which we had brought our own choice of square beads. To some degree this was the basis for each of our own individual colour designs for the necklace. We then went on to create the necklace bead string, and finally join the two pieces together with a fine beaded trellis.

We each took some time at this point to test out the optimum length for the final necklace, as this was personal to each individual, and their design.

Finally, the most enjoyable part of the workshop was choosing and building up the "flowers" that were "growing" from the pots. Here each person's ideas were quite different, making for thoroughly unique pieces. Jennifer had a wonderful array of beads to choose from, to augment our own bead collections.

Having said at the beginning, that the square beads guided the colourway of the final necklace, this is by no means an over-riding rule. In fact, there are no rules for this necklace, as we each proved in our own way. The overall design point is an effervescent floral display (in beads) overflowing from the pot. So it was possible to choose a colour coordinated look for the entire piece of jewellery - or - to go for "realism" with a terracotta or garden-themed pot and "real" flowers.

Altogether an excellent day and well done to our tutor, Jennifer.

The Flower Pot Necklace design and techniques were originally created by Karen Johnson, manager of [Beads F.O.B.](#) Sarasota, Florida, and the workshop was delivered by Jennifer with Karen's permission."
Christina



A BRAID WITH A PURPOSE - Saturday 18th July 2009

Our July meeting saw the welcome return of Shirley Berlin with Braids for a Purpose. At the outset Shirley showed examples of how an attractive bag can be spoiled, or greatly enhanced by the choice of handle and/or embellishment.



The programme started with Fill the Gap, an old straw plaiting technique, familiar to most of us, especially to those who enjoyed Shirley's previous visit. However on this occasion we took the basic seven thread plait a stage further, changing the sequence and positions of the threads to create more intricate patterns. This set the order for the day and we went on to make samples of other round braids.

Laramie - another straw plaiting braid which can also be spiralled around a core of extra threads; Kumihimo - kongo gumi - a Japanese braid using sixteen threads, used to tie around the obi and to lace together Samurai armour: also a flat braid, square braid and five strand plait. After we had mastered the basic technique of each braid put before us Shirley then showed us, with examples of her own beautiful creations, how to take the design further using different thicknesses of yarns, beads etc.' as well as material. She also gave us some very helpful and practical tips on finishing off. Shirley's excellent tutoring provided us with another enjoyable day of achievement and inspiration. The variations on these braids are numerous so, hopefully, before too long we may have the pleasure of a further workshop(s) with her.

Wendy



New Member

We are pleased to welcome Carol Marsh.

My visit to Woolfest 2009

The second I entered the building (Mitchell's Lakeland Livestock Centre) and the faint but delightful smell of sheep hit my nostrils, I knew it was going to be a Good Day. Indeed, it has been such a fantastic day I can hardly begin to describe it - but I shall anyway ...

I made my way first to the information desk and happily was able to book for the Natural Dying Lecture as well as the Tatie Pot dinner in the evening. I browsed the exhibition stands and immediately made my first purchase of a small bag of Spelsau fleece (see: <http://www.lystbaekgaard.dk/english.htm>) - I fancy it for the colour (grey). Berit Kiilerich is doing a workshop on knitting directly from the fleece, but I plan to try spinning it.

I had a word with Nancy Bush - well known American author of books on Vintage Socks and more recently Estonian Lace. She seemed relatively thrilled to be there; I am not sure where she hails from but I think it was something to do with being there with the weather and "where it all comes from" - though the weather was atypically sunny here and everywhere was pretty hot at the time.

I visited the large vendor's stands (P&M, Wingham, and Herring/Ashford) as there were one or two specific items on my list to buy while there. From there I worked my way towards the livestock stands, and the lovely old sheep, who were very brave and well-behaved considering all those human eyes staring at them. At this end of the building, there was an area devoted to the private sale of fleeces - I took the opportunity to look at as many different types of fleece as I could, and I did (in the end) buy a small black Hebridean lamb fleece (about 2lbs).

Just before lunch I went to the rare breeds parade in the auction ring. I really enjoyed this part. I found the information about rare breeds, the [Rare Breeds Survival Trust](#), and the specific sheep, truly fascinating. Here are all the stars of the show that I went to meet later in person.

After lunch:- more browsing to the constant faint sounds of traditional tunes from the Music area. Here there was a chance to put your feet up (metaphorically) and have a tea - or ice cream (sheeps milk, of course), and listen to some traditional music. It also provided, (in my case), a chance to review your purchases. In fact it provided pleasant background music all around the venue.

The later part of the afternoon was the lecture on Natural Dyeing given by [Carol Leonard](#). I made lots of notes, and afterwards, I purchased the small booklet [Natural Dyes - Fast or Fugitive](#) by Gill Dalby, but as I suspected, when I got home I discovered that my earliest book on spinning from the 1980s is also by her and has similar information. I also bought a couple of natural dyes (Brazilwood and Alkanet), but mostly the lecture encouraged me to experiment and try out more natural substances - and as Carol said: "you can get some simply wonderful colours.... provided you like yellow...".



Then it was time for the final purchases before the Tatie Pot dinner and Spin-In. I was lucky to impose myself a lovely group of knitters from Coventry (by chance) who

made me feel very welcome - whatever they thought! I had bought a pretty spindle - just for its looks (from [Whorl Drop Spindles](#)) - it's made from an exotic seed pod of some kind. So I spent the spin-in trying to spin some alpaca I had also just purchased. In my case, there was more dropping than spinning but [Clare](#), [Julie](#), and [Jane](#) were really encouraging, and I had great fun.

Finally, it all ended at 9 and I set off back to the hotel; it is very light in the evenings now, so I could fully appreciate the wonderful scenery of the winding back roads.

Christina

"A note for your diary" -

FRIDAY 28th AUGUST 2009 10.00 - 4.00

Members are welcome to join Epsom Spinners / Knitters and Faurefold Craft Group to bring their Spinning; Knitting; Braiding; Beading OR whatever takes the fancy to a garden meeting at Janet's home. Bring your lunch - tea and coffee will be provided. Charlie, Jeff and Mojo love to meet people and see what can be made from their "hair cuts" !



If anyone cannot make this day but would like to meet the alpacas or bring grandchildren in the school holidays or whenever, they are most welcome - just give Janet a ring to ensure she is at home."

FUTURE MEETINGS

Saturday 19th September 2009 - Domino Knitting with Fiona Morris

This is a tutored workshop. There are still a few spaces left

Saturday 17th October 2009 - Open Day

This meeting will be open to the public as part of Mole Valley Arts Alive. There will be various demonstrations during the day.

Saturday 21st November 2009 - General Meeting with a Sales Table

Please bring your Christmas themed projects to share with others.

FOR YOUR DIARIES

14th March - 1st November 2009 - American Beauty. Art in craft in 19th Century America. American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath BA2 7BD
for more information phone 01225 460503 or online at www.americanmuseum.org

6th April - 30th October 2009 - The Quaker Tapestry. Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal LA9 4BH
for more information phone 01539 722975 or online at www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk

6th September 2009 - The London Bead Fair, Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunbury on Thames
10-4pm, for more information phone 01747 852500 or 01747 840213

4th October 2009 - The Bead Fair, Harrow Leisure Centre, NW London
11.30-5.30pm, admission £2 for more information online at www.beadsociety.org.uk

8th - 11th October 2009 - The Knitting & Stitching Show, Alexandra Palace, London
for more information phone 020 8692 2299 (for group tickets) or 01473 320407 (for groups of less than 10) or online at www.twistedthread.com

Friday 30th October 2009 10am - 5pm & Saturday 31st October 10am - 4pm - Textiles in Sussex - 2009 UN International Year of Natural Fibres The East Sussex Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers exhibition & sale at LEWES TOWN HALL (Side entrance in Fisher Street) High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Admission £2. Handspun yarns and Handwoven items for Sale. Equipment, books, videos, fibres and many other items to buy from specialist traders. Refreshments - coffee, lunch and tea available.