

FOR SALE

- **John Wallace 6 shaft table loom:** 32" weaving width in very good condition. \$250.00 ONO (belongs to Maureen Wilkie). Please contact Sue Greig on 9448 0840
- **John Wallace 4 shaft table loom:** 34" on stand with stool and accessories \$350 ono. Weaving books extra. Ph Joyce Sheffield 9302 1728

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

- **FREE 4 ft. floor loom:** reasonable condition. For details contact Anne Roberts phone 93356063, email jonanne@iinet.net.au
- **FREE 53 inch Needle point tapestry frame:** Queen Adelaide Tapestry Frame on a stand. Contact Claudia White on 9384 8358

WANTED TO BUY

- **Secondhand Ashford 'Sample It' or rigid heddle loom** of similar size (Sample It is 30cm x 40cm). Contact Wendy Garrity 0431 275 821

Guild members can advertise in the YarnSpinner (at no charge) any events or items for sale. **Non members** may advertise but must pay \$5 per line, in advance. Contact the editors at the Guild address or by email

Perth Craft and Quilt Fair and WAFTA Exhibition

Perth Convention Centre

20th to 24th May 2015 9am—4:30pm

Volunteers are needed for the Guild stall at the Craft and Quilt Fair—bring along your loom/wheel/spindle to display your craft in action. Volunteers get free admission and the Guild will reimburse parking costs. If you can help out, contact Candace Gibson (0424984883 or candacegibson@yahoo.com).

WAFTA's exhibition, based on the theme **Memory and Commemoration**, will be held in conjunction with the annual Craft and Quilt Fair at the Perth Convention Centre. For more information go to: wafta.com.au or www.craftfair.com.au

HANDWEAVERS', SPINNERS' AND DYERS' GUILD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

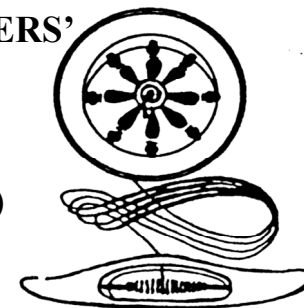
Alexander Park Craft House

Clyde Road, Menora

Phone: (08) 93705004 (with answer machine)

Mail: P.O. Box 446 INGLEWOOD WA 6932

Web: <http://spinweavewa.org/>



The YarnSpinner

Volume 45, No. 3

April 2015

Deadline for Contributions: Second Saturday of the month

Saturday 11th April 2015

General Meeting

Tea and coffee provided but bring your own lunch.
The Library and the Yarn Area will be open from **10.00am**.

11:00am Presentation by Ruth Halbert:

Visual artist and lifelong self-taught knitter and spinner, Ruth's trip to Sweden gave her a taste of the wealth of textile work there. She will share her enthusiasm and bring along some of the handmade textiles and Swedish books on weaving and other textile crafts.

12:00pm General Meeting

Saturday 25th April 2015

Spinning Day

Come and show us what you have been doing and reading! Bring your current project, news and ideas. Beginners always welcome.

We start at **10:00am** - tea and coffee are available until 1:00pm, but bring your own lunch.

Office Bearers and Convenors for 2015

* indicates committee member

| | | | |
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The Alexander Park Craft House Committee member representing the Guild for 2015 is:

Janet Allsworth



Hosting 2015 Scarf Exchange

YEAR OF THE SHEEP/GOAT (and FRIENDS)



2015 the year of the Sheep/Goat is an excellent period for all the Chinese zodiac signs. The element for this year is wood and the lucky colour is green. The sheep is the eighth sign in Chinese astrology and number "8" is considered to be a very lucky number. It symbolizes wisdom, fortune & prosperity.

Please join us in the 22nd year of the Scarf Exchange

with the Year of the sheep/goat as the theme

All those who sent in their 150 grams of fibre and entry form will receive a different package of fibre by the end of April 2015. To make the article, the fibre may be spun, felted, woven, knitted, dyed, crocheted and/or a combination of crafts.

The closing date for the return of the article to Western Australia is **28th August 2015**. Please ensure that you return the article you have crafted to us, and we will return to you your original fibre in the form of Scarf, Shawl, Beanie, Hat & or Bag with the details of the person who made it.

Please forward your completed article to

PO Box 446, Inglewood, Western Australia 6932, Australia

by 28th August 2015

There will be an exhibition of the completed articles on **11th, 12th & 13th September 2015** at Peppermint Grove Library, 1 Leake St (cnr Leake St & Stirling Hwy), Peppermint Grove, WA 6011.

You are welcome to come along to view the wonderful creations. Articles will be returned to the original supplier of the fibre after the exhibition.

Be creative, be innovative, and use plenty of flair!

Textile Tour of Turkey 2015

Pat Jones and Virginia Harrison, both textile enthusiasts and ex-RMIT lecturers are planning their 2015 Textile Tour of Turkey. Book your place now. Small group tour – max. 16 persons. This is a non-profit tour.

For further information contact:

Pat Jones: pat.jones06@bigpond.com 0400 188 952

Virginia Harrison: varrison@yahoo.com.au (03) 5799 1208

Proposed dates: Friday 25th September to Sunday 18th October 2015 (depart from and return to Melbourne)

Weaving Workshops 2015

The class schedule at the moment is:

April/May : Sunday 19th April, Saturday 2nd & Sunday 17th May – FULL (waitlisted)

August: Sunday 2nd, Sunday 16th & Sunday 30th August

September/October: Sunday 6th, Sunday 20th September & Sunday 4th October

November/December: Sunday 8th, Sunday 22nd November & Sunday 6th December

These will have a full day programme and the teacher will provide plan of what is going to be taught in advance of the class and any materials required (there may be some available on the day).

Classes will be filled in the order that you expressed interest and your loom type.

Please use the website's contact form to contact us and reserve your place (<http://spinweavewa.org>—look under Contact information and Forms)

Candace Gibson

The Australian Sheep and Wool Show—Bendigo, Victoria

Friday 17th—Sunday 19th July 2015

The 2015 theme for Woolcraft entries is SEED.

"Happiness held is the seed; happiness shared is the flower"

For anyone wanting to enter items into the Woolcraft competition, entry forms must be received by **Friday 12th June** (do not send entries with entry form). Posted entries must arrive by **Friday 3rd July**. Send forms & entries to:

CEO ASBA, Unit 1/6 Merino Crt, East Bendigo, Victoria 3350

WOOLCRAFT CONTACTS:

Chrystene Antonis – (03 5795 1908) Email: warringa6@bigpond.com

Dot Vallenge – (03 9560 1621) Email: dotv5@optusnet.com.au

More information: www.sheepshow.com or the Woolcraft brochure is available on the Guild website or in the library.

Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

KUMIHIMO GROUP

Kumihimo Braiders meet on the first Thursday of each month from 10am to 1pm. Beginners are welcome. Contact Rosemary Skinner 9341 3037.

TAPESTRY GROUP

Contact Stephanie Cantoni stephniecantoni@bigpond.com or Jan Hunter wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com.

SPINNING GROUP

Spinners meet at Craft House on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00 am. Beginners are very welcome. Members share their knowledge with each other. Library and Yarn Area are open.

Bring your lunch and your spindle or spinning wheel. The Guild equipment, including carders, drum carder, various spinning wheels, electric wheels and dye equipment, is available for use by members.

IN-HOUSE WEAVERS

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month, starting at 9:30am.

This year I am going to revert to my old plan of having the complete beginner weavers in the afternoon, 1pm to 4pm. Hopefully that way I can concentrate on them and they won't feel left behind, or a bit lost and confused. It won't be long and they will soon be joining everyone else.

Anyone can stay and weave all afternoon, the more the merrier.

I am planning on having mini demonstrations and theory on different weave structures in the morning, for those who are interested in learning and understanding something new. This may not suit everyone but for those who are beyond complete beginner weaving but still need some direction, it might be helpful.

Depending on interest and how many want to weave a sample, will determine how often there will be a new structure but hopefully every two months will see something new. This will be on a trial basis and if it doesn't work out or no one interested I will rethink the plan ---- well, no harm in trying!

Any suggestions and help most welcome, so please don't hesitate to speak up.

Happy weaving

Sue Greig

Dates for your diary



| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday 17th May | Regal Reds, Pretty Pinks and Royal Purples Natural Dyes Workshop (p.10) |
| Monday 18th May | Prudence Mapstone Workshop—Crochet for Jewellery (p.5) |
| 20th—24th May | Craft and Quilt Fair & WAFTA Members Exhibition, Perth Convention Centre (p. 16) |
| Saturday 23rd May | Toodyay Spin-in (p.5) |
| Sunday 31st May | Fibre Festival Toodyay 2015 (p.5) |
| Saturday 13th June | Guild Spin-In —details to follow |
| Saturday 11th July | Project of the Year —‘Colours of the Kimberley’ |
| 17th—19th July | The Australian Sheep and Wool Show—Bendigo, Victoria (p.14) |
| 11th—13th September | Scarf Exchange Exhibition of completed articles, Peppermint Grove Library (p.15) |
| 19th—20th September | York Bazaar (p.13) |
| 26th September—3rd October | Perth Royal Show—details to follow |
| 16th-18th October | Guild Retreat at Avalon Homestead, Toodyay—details to follow |

Guild Membership Fees for 2015

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Full —\$40.00 | Pensioner—\$30.00 | Associate—\$30.00 |
| Student—\$30.00 | Family—\$65.00 | Group—\$45.00 |

If renewing by mail, please include your Renewal form (or if you don't have that, then your name, postal address and phone number) and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your receipt and year badge. Half fees apply after 1st July, and late arrivals who join after 1st October have the option to pay in full which then includes their sub for the following year.

New members: contact the Membership Officer for details on how to join.

Meantime, he found an interesting book in our library and took that home to search for more information. Many thanks Hugh for such an interesting insight into what was, which in turn resonated with our spinners too.

FOOTNOTE. Our President Janet, was born a Webb and lived in the West of England before coming here and marrying. Is that why she is so skilled with wool? Does she have lanolin in her veins???

Connie

York Bazaar: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE HANDMADE

WHERE: York Town Hall, 81 Avon Tce, York
WHEN: 10am - 4.30pm, 19th & 20th September
ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 (children under 12 years free)



The York Bazaar is an arts & crafts makers market offering high quality handmade goods including jewellery, ceramics, homewares, textiles, soft furnishings, women's clothing, accessories and children's wear.

From Bazaar organisers: *This year I am particularly looking at ways to make the bazaar more than just a market. We are developing a programme of events that will include artist talks, workshops and other activities of interest to all the family. I am particularly keen to attract stallholders who can demonstrate their craft and am giving you the heads up on this as I'd like to have spinners, weavers, knitters and other non-textile based artisans.*

For more info contact Jenny Cornwall E: hello@yorkbazaar.com.au
W: www.yorkbazaar.com.au or www.facebook.com/yorkbazaar
T: 0403 467 502

Hand spinners
are the only people
who actually look
forward to spinning
their wheels.



someecards
user card

SOURCE: www.someecards.com

Q: What do you call a sheep with no legs?

A: A cloud

Q: Why was the sheep arrested on the freeway?

A: Because she did a ewe-turn

SOURCE: www.jokes4us.com

Hugh Chevis: Weaving with Spanish merino wool in 16th century England—Saturday 14th March

On Saturday March 14th, we returned to the 16th century to check on production of woollen cloth then, but it also became an example of "what goes around, comes around".

Our guide on this journey was Hugh Chevis, a semi retired academic, currently based at UWA, who is researching to find out why English clothiers started preferring Spanish merino wool when for centuries English wools were deemed the best. Those who went to Matilda Bay in January met Hugh there. He came to see spinners in action - and to pick our brains. Marg PC grabbed the opportunity to invite Hugh to speak at a meeting.

Hugh told us that fine English wool started to decline in the 1500s while Spanish kept improving. This had an impact on felters - for hats- as well as clothiers. Felting began in England in the 10th century. Hugh's research led him to delve in archives in England and Spain, in English county libraries, old manuscripts and letters and some families' archives. He found several families who were leaders in this change, namely Leonard, Ashes and Webb. The main Counties involved were West Country such as Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon, Wiltshire and Dorset. Leonard was a merchant originally but also became a clothier later. Webb was a clothier making cloth and selling it in France. Ashes family began early to make cloth using English warp wool and Spanish wool for the weft. Dutch spinners were used to working with Spanish wool so Ashes encouraged them to migrate to England. It seems they had better wheels or carding techniques - or both.

There were various theories as to why English declined such as due to feeding, or breeding which led to coarser wool. There was war between England and Spain between 1585 and 1604 but trade went on regardless, allowing the Spanish wool to be imported. There was also smuggling, customs fraud and profiteering. Even King George 3rd had merinos smuggled out of Spain.

Some discussion points of the day mentioned by Hugh revolved around using black or white wool, washed or unwashed or paying for dirt. And here we come to "what goes around"... because spinners and felters among members were well versed on such topics. Their practical experience made for an interesting question and answer time at the end of Hugh's talk. I'm sure some would love to sit Hugh at a spinning wheel and let him try in practice what he knows so well in theory.

Continued on next page....

Prudence Mapstone Workshop—Crochet for Jewellery

WAFTA and Feltwest are jointly offering a one day creative crochet workshop with Prudence Mapstone, for those who are familiar with basic crochet techniques. Learn how to create your own unique freeform crochet motifs, to make brooches, pendants and more.

WHEN: Monday 18 May 2015, 9.15 am for a 9.30 am start, to 3.30 pm

WHERE: Wembley Downs Scout Hall

COST: Early bird price \$100. From 1 April, pay \$125.

For information or to book go to www.feltwest.org.au or contact Sue Eslick on 0401 037 973 or email feltwest.workshops@gmail.com

Toodyay Spin-in

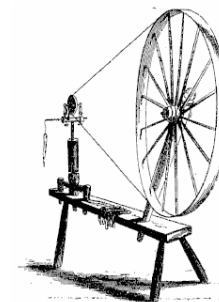
Toodyay Spin-in is on again!

WHEN: 23rd of May 2015 from 9.30am to 2.30pm

WHERE: Memorial Hall, Stirling Terrace, Toodyay

COST: \$8.00 (includes door prize, morning tea & lunch)

Please RSVP by 9th of May to Toodyay Spinners,
P.O. Box 630, Toodyay 6566 or phone Ange 9574 2507
or Gretta 9574 2868.



Fibre Festival Toodyay

Bring out your creativity and join us!

WHEN: Sunday May 31st 2015 9.30am - 4pm

WHERE: Memorial Hall, main Street of Toodyay

A **Mad Hatter's Competition** will be held—Prizes to be won! Any form of hat fantastic the choice is yours.

COMPETITION CLASSES: Knitting/Crochet/Felt/Recycled, Hand spun, commercial yarn & other fibres. Drop off details etc. be advised soon—Watch This Space.

Enquiries: Jenny Cornwall 9574 5978 or jenny.cornwall@westnet.com.au

Pages from the President's Notebook

We have started our very busy year with a high attendance at our first few meetings, this despite the hot sticky weather—well done everyone.

Thank you to all our office bearers for this coming year, especially Jenni who has taken on an extra year as our secretary.

Matilda Bay was well attended and I enjoyed catching up with Vickie and Patsie who travelled from Bunbury to be with us for the day.

Margaret PC has started the year well for us securing Hugh Chevis as our first guest speaker. I really enjoyed his presentation. The sharing tables are also up and running, already we have seen some stunning work.

It unfortunate that the APCH open day has had to be put off until next year. However it will give us breathing space as we have our spin in and the scarf exchange to present. We will need many willing hands for our spin in on 13th June, and the project of the year is the 11th July - earlier than usual as the scarf exchange is the 11th-13th September.

Please start planning your articles for the Royal Show. I do hope we can see even more entries this year.

Plans for the retreat and several workshops are going ahead. We have much to do but much to enjoy in the coming year. The weaving workshops are again very popular with many already fully booked.

We welcome all new members to the Guild. I am sure you will be made very welcome at our meetings and find friendship and encouragement to enjoy your crafting.

Thanks for your support, Janet

2016 Tour of Bhutan—Textiles and Women's Empowerment

Wendy Garrity has been collaborating with the Australian Himalayan Foundation to create a specialised tour of Bhutan with a twin focus on textiles and women's empowerment.

The tour is 16 days/15 nights, **10-25 March 2016** and will be personally escorted by Wendy, who lived and worked in Bhutan and learned local Bhutanese weaving for a year. For further details and to request a copy of the itinerary, please visit <http://textiletrails.com.au/2015/03/17/exclusive-textile-tour-of-bhutan/>

Washing a fleece using the Fermented Suint Method

Towards the end of last year I stumbled upon a method of cleaning a fleece using no chemicals, and a minimum amount of water. To start the 'brew' I read that it is advisable to use very dirty fleece, and preferably with a high grease content. A few weeks later at the Guild, I volunteered to help sort a fleece on the grass outside the Guild Shop and was rewarded with a bag of very daggy, dirty fleece. The beginning of my experiment. You also need a big tub of water with a lid (a garbage bin with a fitted lid is perfect) and fresh rainwater (in my case, water collected from the Lenah Valley rivulet).

After five to seven days in warm weather, longer in winter, the tub of wool will begin to ferment. (Initially I left the wool for three weeks.) It smelt bad, and the water had a white film on the top. Wearing rubber gloves I hooked the fleece out with a stick and let it drain on a wire rack resting on a plastic tray. The next day I rinsed the fleece in warm water and left it to dry - and surprisingly it was odour free once it was dry. If the fleece has a high lanolin content it may be necessary to do an additional wash with a detergent.

The water in your bin has now built up the right chemical content for effectively washing fleeces. Use it over and over - the more you use it, the better it gets. Don't worry that it looks dirty - all the information says you can continue to use it year after year.

Now that I have got my 'witches brew' started I am looking forward to washing more fleece, simply by placing handfuls of fleece into hosiery laundry bags and leaving it in the bin for around two days and then rinsing. This washing method of using suint as a cleanser is efficient, effective and as environmentally sound as possible. However, it is best done outside and far from your neighbours as possible. It does smell foul, but the smell washes out of the wool. And once the wool is dry there should be no odour present.

Further reading: "On washing fleece" by Judith Mackenzie McCuin, *Spin Off Magazine* Fall 2008; www.ravelry.com

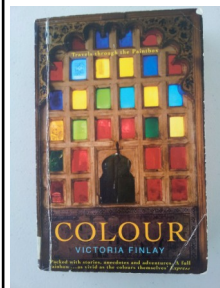
Anne Frost taken from "Island Yarns" & submitted by Jenni Talbot

FROM THE LIBRARY

Indigo, Madder and Marigold—Trudi van Stralen

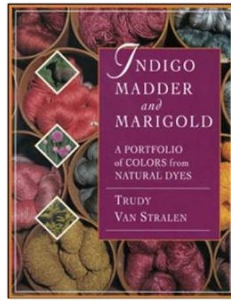
The author's analytical but common sense approach is equally appropriate for the beginner as well as the knowledgeable dyer. Using traditional dyestuffs, minimal mordants and a creative approach to dye mixing, overdyeing and pH modification, the reader can learn how to produce a range of colours from just a few dyepots.

Colour—Victoria Finlay



This book tells of the author's quest for historical pigments and dyes around the world. On her travels she visited remote Central American villages where women still wear skirts dyed with the purple tears of sea snails and learned how George Washington obsessed about his green dining room while President.

Anne McAdam



Around the Dye Pot—Natural Dyes

Regal Reds, Pretty Pinks and Royal Purples for Wool

Trudi Pollard will provide instruction in preparing and using natural dye materials that produce reds and pinks (and if Trudi can get down south to harvest the correct native plant, purples too). Max. 10 participants.

WHEN: Sunday 17th May, 9:30am—4pm

WHERE: Pollard Designs Studio, 2 Otway Place, Bedfordale

COST: \$85 (tea, coffee and work booklet provided)

BRING: Protein-based fibre/tops/yarn for dyeing (wool, alpaca, mohair etc.), protective clothing, latex/rubber gloves, safety glasses, name-tagged bags to place fibre/tops/yarn in, plastic bags, your own lunch.

For more information or to register contact Alaine at 9383 7603 or scasey@iinet.net.au or visit the Guild website <http://spinweavewa.org/>



Sharing Table 28th February

Kjersten wove two stunning (as always) shawls using linen, cotton and silk.



Sue Greig wove two scarves on the same space-dyed warp, one with a blue weft and the other with a rich tan weft, so that they looked almost totally unrelated.



There was a vibrant red knitted shawl, "Thousand Tulips", by Rachel Meissner using Wollmeise Merino/Cashmere Blend and 4mm needles. The longer you looked, the more tulips you could imagine you saw!

Marg PC

Grow your own: Cotton



Bolls forming on the plant



Maturing bolls

A brief update from Jo Rhode's cotton plantation in Two Rocks:

These cotton plants are now over a year old. They were grown from seed indoors, then the seedlings were transferred to pots outdoors. And in February this year, it was harvest time!

Thanks for sharing your cotton growing journey with the Guild Jo.

If you have a story of growing/raising your own plants or animals for fibre, please share it with the Guild!



Harvested cotton

Contact: ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com

Sharing Table 14th March



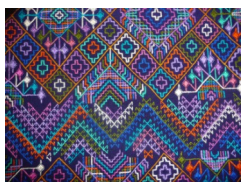
We got off to a yummy start this Saturday when Jayne Lane arrived with a flock of wicked cookies dressed in sheeps' clothing! I gather that they'd have been quicker to make if she'd crocheted them but they were well worth the effort Jayne – tasted every bit as good as they looked!

Janet Allsworth knitted a fabulous shawl using an Ellie Eaton Corriedale fleece. The Victorian lace pattern had several mistakes which Janet was able to rectify but it meant using another border pattern (which was very pretty).



Anne Williams knitted up the ikat-dyed skein from last month into a snappy pair of socks, and also very successfully eucalyptus-dyed 2 skeins which had been mordanted with alum in 2007 (!) and threw a third one into a rusty pan resulting in a wonderful purple/brown.

Sue Greig was very inspired after helping Evelyn set up her loom with clasp-weave scarf (see last month's Yarnspinner), so she did one herself in pretty green and blue feature yarns on a green ground. She had also woven a plain weave scarf using one ball of Noro for the warp and merino/Tencel (doubled) for the weft.



Wendy Garrity showed us a delightful plain weave scarf woven on a knitter's loom and then a large warp-faced silk Kira (Bhutanese festival dress) by an unknown weaver incorporating supplementary weft twining. It was woven on a backstrap loom taking about 6 months (working all day) 6 days a week.



Continued on next page...

Sharing Table 14th March



Giuliana Bond produced a bright and cheerful carrier bag for her Schacht Cricket loom (and woven on the same 10 inch loom). It was made using several panels of fabric with decorative panels centre front & back. The handles go right around the bag for added strength and were also woven on the Cricket loom. A tool bag with a zip closure was made from a remnant of the woven fabric. Cotton weft and warp was from her stash.

Marg PC

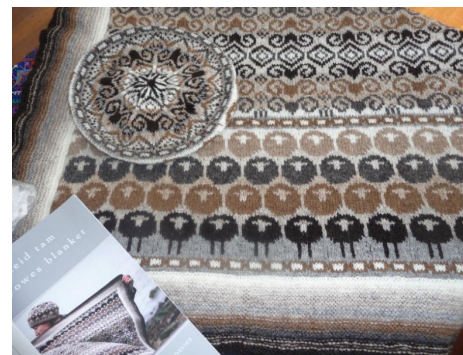
Ann Bancroft brought in a fabulous knitted blanket and tam – a real triumph knitted in Shetland wool. See her account of making it (below):

.....Summer afternoons on my balcony, trains passing and the odd sea breeze whilst I have enjoyed knitting a "Rams and Ewes" blanket.....

It was a "must-have" when I saw Rachel knitting one at the Guild. The package, containing a kit for it, and a tam, arrived from Jamieson and Smith very quickly. Memories of a holiday on Shetland and whilst Father investigated the oil, my cousin took me to visit a spinner. She demonstrated the long draw and we had scones by the peat fire. I bought wools from the J & S shop in Lerwick and from then, on return, a jumper worn by Peter for many years.

I made the sheepheid (tam) giving practice in stranding the wools – 9 natural sheep colours with intriguing names such as Katmollet, Shaela, Yuglet and moorit (I knew the last one as the cinnamon/brown wool for spinning).

*Then onto the blanket, knitted in the round with a steek. I had only done one previously on a dolly's jumper and found it quite a challenge; soon after "the cut" I found an excellent article on making and finishing steeks in "**Knits, Winter 2015**" (Guild library #78).*



The edging, with over 900 stitches round the square, with increases and decreases to create a facing, was eventually done and then finished (fitting I thought) with an idiot cord. Finally, after soaking and blocking, it is finished in good time for winter and despite a few hitches, mainly to do with the steek, should keep me warm.

Ann Bancroft