

## FOR SALE

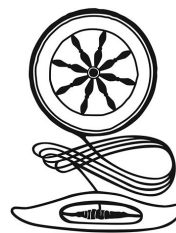
- **Alpaca Fleece:** Lovely soft luxurious natural colour alpaca fleece. Let me know the colour and quality you'd like so I can hand pick a fleece. We have a selection of processed 100 gram bumps from \$15.00 - \$30.00, in a variety of natural colours. Postage can be arranged if required. Contact Jo Rhodes 0414 782 277 or jorhodes1955@gmail.com
- **Ashford Traditional spinning wheels:** Two wheels, plus some extras. \$175 each. Contact Walter Wallenborn 0419 937 499 (Mundaring)
- **Rigid heddle:** for an Ashford Knitters Loom, 30cm wide, 7.5 dpi (threads per inch). \$20. Contact Anne Marie 0423 114 256 or annemariekeights@gmail.com
- **Linen and cotton yarns:** Unbleached linen yarns and natural khadi cotton Yarn for sale. Please contact Ann 0402832198 if you're interested
- **Ashford drum carder:** medium 8" wide. Very good condition. \$300. Contact Gwen on 0439 916 947
- **Various items from the Toodyay Spinners**—Phone 0407177817, pick up from Toodyay:
  - \* Ashford Knitters loom plus carry bag 50cm, Ashford Knitters Loom Stand 50cm. Never been used. \$400 the lot (Neg)
  - \* Ashford Traditional Spinning Wheel, hand carders, 3 x bobbins, lazy Kate and niddy noddy. \$200 the lot (Neg)
  - \* Spinning Wheel, lazy Kate, 2 bobbins and niddy noddy. \$200 the lot (Neg)
- **Spinning wheels:** Terry Cavill would like to reduce his large collection of spinning wheels, all in excellent condition. Contact Terry 9731 0947 (Donnybrook)

**Guild members** can advertise in the YarnSpinner events or items for sale at no charge. **Non members** may advertise but must pay \$5 per line, in advance. Contact the editor at the Guild address or by email as on page 15.

**Advertising deadline for April YarnSpinner: 13 March 2021**

*Front cover: From the sharing table—'Romi Hill Cottage' shawl knitted by Mylene Pijpers*

# The YarnSpinner



Newsletter of the Handweavers', Spinners'  
and Dyers' Guild of Western Australia  
Volume 51 No. 02  
March 2021



## COMING UP:

**Saturday 13 March 2021:** Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild of WA Annual General Meeting

**09:30am** Doors open

**10:00am** Library & Yarn Area open

**12:00pm** HWSGDWA Annual General Meeting

Coffee and tea available. BYO mug, morning tea/lunch (no food to share please).

**Contribution deadline for the April 2021 edition of the YarnSpinner: Saturday 13 March 2021**

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed in correspondence in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Guild

## Alexander Park Craft House Guild Groups

### SPINNING GROUP: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month from 10am

Beginners welcome. Library and Yarn Area open. Bring your spindle or spinning wheel, your latest project, and lunch. Coffee and tea provided. Guild equipment is available for hire by members including hand and drum carders, spinning wheels, and dye equipment. Contact Information Officer (details page 15).

### IN-HOUSE WEAVERS: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 9:30am

Anyone is welcome to join us! Contact Brenda Roy 9381 4870 or [brenda@cadplan.com.au](mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au).

### TAPESTRY GROUP:

Stephnie Cantoni [stephniecantoni@bigpond.com](mailto:stephniecantoni@bigpond.com) or Jan Hunter [wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com](mailto:wsf.jmhunter@bigpond.com).

## Guild Membership Fees for 2021

<b>General \$80.00</b>	<b>Concession \$60.00</b>	<b>Associate/Junior \$60.00</b>
<b>Student \$60.00</b>	<b>Family \$97.50</b>	<b>Group \$120.00</b>

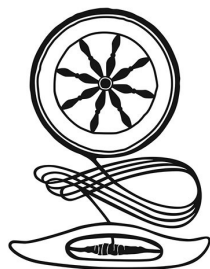
If a person applies for membership after 1 October, their fee will include membership for the current and following year.

**Renewing Members:** If renewing by mail, please include renewal form (or name, postal address and phone no.) and a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of your receipt and name badge. Renewing members no longer receive a name badge—members get a perpetual badge at joining. To replace a lost badge, contact Membership Officer (details page 15). A \$13 fee applies.

**New members:** For info on joining contact Membership Officer (details page 15).

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

Alexander Park Craft House  
Clyde Road, Menora  
Mail: P.O. Box 446 INGLEWOOD WA 6932  
Email: Information & Publicity Officer  
[candacegibson@yahoo.com](mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com)  
Web: <http://spinweavewa.org/>



## Office Bearers and Convenors

### COMMITTEE

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Avril Liljekvist	0449001103	<a href="mailto:avril.liljekvist@gmail.com">avril.liljekvist@gmail.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT 1</b>	Candace Cranston	0424984883	<a href="mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com">candacegibson@yahoo.com</a>
<b>VICE PRESIDENT 2</b>	Helen Lovitt-Raison	0408272496	<a href="mailto:furrywithruffles@gmail.com">furrywithruffles@gmail.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY—Committee</b>	Gail Hamilton	0438382739	<a href="mailto:gburchell1@bigpond.com">gburchell1@bigpond.com</a>
<b>SECRETARY—General</b>	Jenni Talbot	0488941751	<a href="mailto:jennitalbot@outlook.com">jennitalbot@outlook.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	Charmaine Pedrick	0401342278	<a href="mailto:pedrickc62@gmail.com">pedrickc62@gmail.com</a>
<b>COMMITTEE 1</b>	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	<a href="mailto:kirisamba@gmail.com">kirisamba@gmail.com</a>
<b>2</b>	Janis O'Loughlin	0411212986	<a href="mailto:janis.47@bigpond.com">janis.47@bigpond.com</a>
<b>3</b>	Rachel Meissner	0439595928	<a href="mailto:rmeissner07@gmail.com">rmeissner07@gmail.com</a>
<b>4</b>	Sue Webb	0419937019	<a href="mailto:suewebb23@gmail.com">suewebb23@gmail.com</a>
<b>5</b>	Shona MacDonald	0419685506	<a href="mailto:shona.macdonald@gmail.com">shona.macdonald@gmail.com</a>
<b>6</b>	Brenda Roy	0437904223	<a href="mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au">brenda@cadplan.com.au</a>


### CONVENORS

MEMBERSHIPS	Memberships will go to the Librarian to be incorporated with the Library database.		
YARNSPINNER DISTRIBUTION	<b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>		
YARNSPINNER EDITOR	Cecilia Jordan	0406506941	<a href="mailto:ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com">ceciliajordan@rocketmail.com</a>
LIBRARIAN	Anne McAdam, with Gwen McLeod	0415223922 0439916947	<a href="mailto:anne.mcadam111@gmail.com">anne.mcadam111@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:gwenmcleod@live.com">gwenmcleod@live.com</a>
YARN AREA	Sue Greig	9448 0840	<a href="mailto:sue_greig@hotmail.com">sue_greig@hotmail.com</a>
EQUIPMENT HIRE	Sue Todd	0400370556	<a href="mailto:suetodd@aapt.net.au">suetodd@aapt.net.au</a>
	Sue Greig	9448 0840 0411831814	<a href="mailto:sue_greig@hotmail.com">sue_greig@hotmail.com</a>
APCH REPRESENTATIVE	Rachel Meissner	0439595928	<a href="mailto:rmeissner07@gmail.com">rmeissner07@gmail.com</a>
RAS REPRESENTATIVE	Jenni Talbot with Helen Lovitt	0488941751	<a href="mailto:jennitalbot@outlook.com">jennitalbot@outlook.com</a>
INFORMATION & PUBLICITY	Candace Cranston	0424984883	<a href="mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com">candacegibson@yahoo.com</a>
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS	Helen Lovitt-Raison, with Candace Cranston	0408272496	<a href="mailto:furrywithruffles@gmail.com">furrywithruffles@gmail.com</a>
SPEAKERS	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	<a href="mailto:kirisamba@gmail.com">kirisamba@gmail.com</a>
WORKSHOPS	Kirrin Lill	0400229947	<a href="mailto:kirisamba@gmail.com">kirisamba@gmail.com</a>
HOUSEKEEPER	<b>TO BE CONFIRMED</b>		
SHARING TABLE	Brenda Roy	0437904223	<a href="mailto:brenda@cadplan.com.au">brenda@cadplan.com.au</a>
WEBSITE EDITOR	Candace Cranston	0424984883	<a href="mailto:candacegibson@yahoo.com">candacegibson@yahoo.com</a>
ARCHIVES	Janis O'Loughlin	0411212986	<a href="mailto:janis.47@bigpond.com">janis.47@bigpond.com</a>
AUDITOR	David Williams		
PATRON	<b>VACANT</b>		



***“What part of ‘Do not open the stash cupboard’ was unclear to you, Edward?”***

SOURCE: It Itches, Franklin Habit



**Wise Owls...**

*"How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and colour are their last days."*

**John Burroughs**

*"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face."*

**John Donne**

*"Autumn is the season of change."*

**Taoist proverb**

## Coming up...

Saturday 13 March	HWSDGWA Annual General Meeting, APCH, 12pm (doors open 9:30am)
Saturday 27 March	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 10 April	Guild Annual Showcase, APCH, doors open 9:30am (see pages 8-9 for details)
Saturday 24 April	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 8 May	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH (doors open 9:30am)
Saturday 22 May	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 12 June	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 26 June	Spinning Day, APCH, doors open 9:30am
Saturday 10 July	HWSDGWA General Meeting, APCH (doors open 9:30am)

## Time to put your hand up - we want you!

The Guild's next Annual General Meeting will be held on **13 March 2021**.

All Committee and Convenor positions (i.e. those listed on page 15) will be vacated at the AGM, and will need to be filled. Our Guild cannot function without the generosity of volunteers who give their time and expertise to Committee and Convenor roles. Please consider nominating yourself for one of these important positions!

Nominations forms were enclosed with the November 2020 Yarnspinner (or get a copy from the Information Officer, contact details page 15) and **must be submitted to the Secretaries ASAP**.

If you think you'd like to be involved but aren't sure what it would entail, contact the Information Officer (contact details page 15).





## Staying up to date

Unfortunately it is not always possible to include up-to-date information about changes to the meeting schedule in the Yarnspinner, but the Guild will always follow the Government's guidelines on gatherings.

If you need information about the Guild's activities, you are always welcome to contact Guild President Avril Liljekvist on 0449 001 103, or by email at [avril.liljekvist@gmail.com](mailto:avril.liljekvist@gmail.com) or the Information Officer (details page 15).

The Guild is also on Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/spinweavewa/>

And online:  
<https://spinweavewa.org/>



### WA Coronavirus Health Information Line: 13 COVID (13 26843)

WA Department of Health:  
[https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus)

Australian Government Department of Health:  
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

World Health Organisation:  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14



....and after

(Photos: [granbydrummer.com](https://granbydrummer.com))

In addition to the loom itself, the Society discovered a complete weaver's workshop in the attic, which is impressive and rare. They have a very rare table for making heddles, wool and flax spinning wheels, a quilling wheel, and yarn winders. There is also a floor rug in the house that was made on the loom.

In the future the Salmon Brook Historical Society hope to find a weaving group to set up and use the loom.

**Source:** Margaret Jordan, <https://granbydrummer.com/2021/01/the-loom-in-the-attic/>, <https://www.salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com/>

## Happy Year of the Ox!

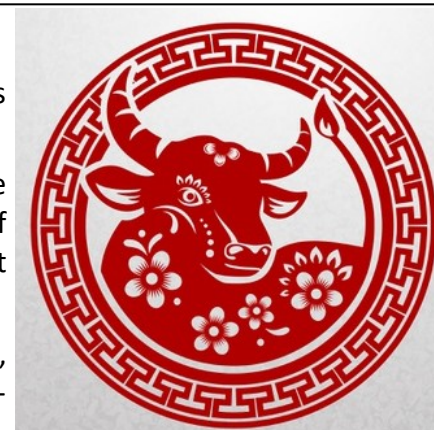
According to the lunar calendar 2021 is the Year of the Ox.

The Ox follows on from the Year of the Rat, which is traditionally a year of turbulence, change and disasters (that sums 2020 up pretty well!)

The Year of the Ox is traditionally calm, stable, and economically prosperous—which sounds pretty good to me.

People born in the Year of the Ox (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021) are said to be honest, earnest, low key and never look for praise or to be the centre of attention. They gain recognition through their hard work, rarely lose their temper, think logically, and make great leaders. It sounds like Oxen would make great Guild members!

(Source: [chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/ox/](https://chinesenewyear.net/zodiac/ox/), [www.taiwannews.com.tw](https://www.taiwannews.com.tw), [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox\\_\(zodiac\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ox_(zodiac)))



## Treasures in the attic

The Salmon Brook Historical Society (based in the rural town of Salmon Brook, Connecticut, USA) was established in 1945, with the aim of preserving local history for future generations.



The loom in the attic: before.....

In 2019 the Historical Society was gifted an 18th century house and barn once owned by the Wilcox Family. When they inherited the property, they inherited a surprise – there was a loom in the barn attic. Well, what looked like a loom, and a pile of spools, tools, strangely shaped pieces of wood, strings and wires that the Society had no idea what to do with!

A search through local probate records for the Wilcox family

found numerous references to a loom in household inventories dating from 1773 to 1877 – though there is no proof that all these records refer to the same loom, but it is possible. Interestingly, the first Wilcox to come to the New England colonies in 1635 was a linen weaver.

With the help of Nevan Carling from the Marshfield School of Weaving ([www.marshfieldschoolofweaving.com](http://www.marshfieldschoolofweaving.com)) the Society pieced the loom back together, and learned a lot about it.

The oak loom is about 1.5m wide and was not built by a carpenter, but by a timber framer. It dates from the 1700's. It took Nevan and local volunteers two weeks to clean, oil and reassemble all the loom parts.

The Society have displayed the loom in the Wilcox house in its traditional location – not in the barn attic, but in one of the first-floor parlours of the house, near a window for light and sitting as close to the fireplace as possible to keep warm.

*Continued on the next page...*

## Guild General Meetings for 2021

Handweavers', Spinners' and Dyers' Guild WA General meetings will be held at APCH on the following Saturdays in 2021:

- **13 March—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- 8 May
- 10 July
- 11 September
- 13 November

The second Saturday of the month in April, June, August and October will be 'Spinning Days'.

APCH will be open for members to gather, craft, and use the library and Yarn Area but no formal General Meeting will be held.

The fourth Saturday of the month (February-November) will be Spinning Days (see page 2 for details).



## It's time to renew your Guild membership for 2021

A membership renewal form was included with the November 2020 Yarnspinner. If you need another copy, contact the Membership Officer (details page 15).

Membership fees for 2021 can be found on page 2 of the Yarnspinner.

Only those who have paid their membership fees for 2021 will be able to vote at the HWSGDWA Annual General Meeting, to be held on at **12pm on Saturday 13 March**.

2020 memberships officially lapse on 31 March, so those who have not renewed will not receive the April edition of the Yarnspinner.



## Sharing Table Saturday 13 February 2020

Thank you to the three makers who brought their work and opened the sharing space for a new year!

**Isobel Burchell** brought soft comfortable socks knitted in a plummy purple coloured commercial wool. She had also knitted a pair of ethereal looking



"Ghostly Mitts", white and lacy, in Blue-faced Leicester from a pattern by Interweave Knits Winter 2021 which were absolutely gorgeous.



**Gail Hamilton** is also starting the year with socks. One pair were Fifteens by Ros Clarke with a purple stripe pattern and the other short and sweet with blue stripes, very cute, were confusedly (to an uninitiated sock knitter like me) labelled Pink Lemonade by Amy Rapp! They



turned out beautifully, Gail, even if you got the colour wrong!



**Mylene Pijpers**, new to our Guild but not Crafting or to Craft House, shared with us a delectable, grey, 'Romi Hill Cottage' shawl knitted in soft, soft possum and wool yarn which was a souvenir of New Zealand (see photo on front cover). Thank you and welcome, Mylene. We hope to see more of your work.

I assumed that everyone else was hoarding their making masterpieces (or in my case, efforts) to bring to the Showcase, now in April! Happy New Textile Year, Everyone!

**Brenda Roy**

North Ronaldsay fleece is typically white or grey, but also comes in shades of browns, beiges, reds and blacks. A full fleece weighs about 1kg. It is a double-coated breed, meaning they have a soft wool undercoat and coarser overcoat.

Sian Tarrant's official job title is Sheep Dyke Warden. She spends her days checking and repairing the dyke, using traditional dry-stone walling techniques. She also helps manage the flock, who are shorn and their wool processed into yarn.

To find out more or "adopt-a-sheep":

- go to <https://www.woollygreenjumper.com/>
- find Sian (woollygreenjumper) on Instagram or Facebook

### **Additional sources:**

Jenni Talbot, *The People's Friend*,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North\\_Ronaldsay\\_sheep](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Ronaldsay_sheep)

### From the archives...

AUGUST, 1974

THE YARN SPINNER

Page 3

#### DYE PLANTS FOR THE MONTH - HEDERA

(1) CURRENTLY FLOWERING IS A YELLOW IVY. Known locally as Galloping-Susan. The heads of flowers if gathered and used fresh 1 lb of flower heads to 1 lb of wool, will give with an alum mordant a very attractive yellow, which seems fairly fast to light.

#### (2) SOUR SOB - Ace tosellia Oxalis

This plant is flowering profusely along all the waste plots, and the flower heads given an excellent acid yellow color if an alum mordant is used. Rinse well.

#### (3) BRACKEN - Pteris Aquitina

The dark brown fronds are just appearing in the garden and it is these brown, young shoots which give the strongest and deepest shades of green. All mordants give good colors, again this dye appears fairly fast.

## Let them eat seaweed!

Sian Tarrant (known online as woollygreen-jumper) is a marine biologist who has worked in all kinds of isolated places in Scotland and Chile, studying the local wildlife. But she found her passion when she came to live and work on North Ronaldsay, the northernmost island in the Orkney archipelago, known for its historic lighthouse, migratory bird life some very unusual sheep.

North Ronaldsay is home to North Ronaldsay sheep, an ancient breed that is thought to be one of the earliest to arrive in Britain, potentially during the Iron Age.

A 1.8m dyke (called the drystane dyke) completely encircles the island. It was built by the islanders in 1832 to keep the wild sheep on the foreshore, away from the cattle pasture and crofts inside. So without grass to graze on the North Ronaldsay sheep have evolved to subsist almost entirely on seaweed. Apart from the marine iguana, native to the Galapagos Islands, it is the only land animal known to have such a diet.



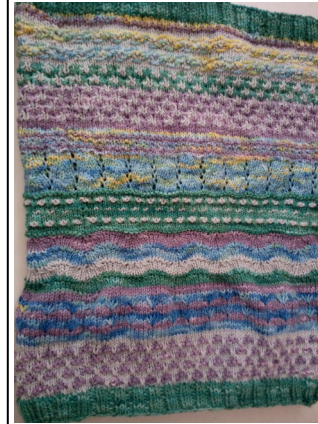
North Ronaldsay are small sheep, weighing only around 25-30kg, standing about 41cm at the shoulders. They were historically raised for their wool.

*Continued on the next page...*

PHOTOS: North Ronaldsay sheep eating seaweed, and the drystone dyke (Source: [www.woollygreenjumper.com/](http://www.woollygreenjumper.com/))

Oops!...

The last edition of the Yarnspinner should have said:



Gail Hamilton knitted a super soft shawl using Nunnaba 4ply yarn and the 'Sharon Show' pattern by Casapinka

Gail used Nunnaba 4ply again to knit 'The Secret Handshake' cowl, also a Casapinka design.



## Exploring Eco Dye Workshop

Saturday 20 March 2021 10am to 3 pm

**Location:** Nada Murphy's Studio, 10 Holland St Wembley

**Our goal:** Explore how the eco dye process can be part of your creativity

**Our creative challenge:** Consider how to repurpose materials, learn the steps for eco dying, use an iron blanket, create a beautiful silk scarf, experiment with other materials including found materials, yarn, or paper

**Fee:** \$170

**Includes:** Light vegetarian lunch

Materials: your silk scarf, pre-prepared eco dyes, scoured iron blankets, papers, eco materials, dye baths, steamer, microwave and other tools and some recycled materials.)



### Places limited

PART PROCEEDS DONATED: Lord Mayor's Relief Fund, Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire Appeal 2021

For more information or to register CONTACT Nada Murphy: Eco Dye March 2021 Email [studio@nadamurphy.com.au](mailto:studio@nadamurphy.com.au)

Your place is confirmed once your payment is received.

## **Guild Annual Showcase**

Start knitting, spinning, dyeing, felting and creating for the Guild Annual Showcase on **Saturday 10 April 2021**. There will be no theme this year, so let your imagination run free!

### **Running order for the Annual Showcase:**

**09:30am** Doors open

**10:00am** Library & Yarn Area open

**10:00-10:30am** Entries for the Annual Showcase submitted (no entries will be received after 10:30am)

**11:00-11:45am** HWSWGWA General meeting

**12:00-12:30pm** Lunch and voting

**1:00pm** Award announcements

## **CATEGORIES**

### **General Notes:**

- Two items can be submitted per member per category.
- Items cannot be entered in multiple categories.
- The item must have been completed by the entrant within 12 months of the entry date.
- Entrants are encouraged to attach an artist's statement to their entries.
- Entries can be marked as not for judging if desired.
- Items must be submitted and prepared for Judging between 10:00 and 10:30am on the competition day.
- Winners in all categories will be determined by members votes on the day.

### **WEAVING: THREE COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

- Off loom weaving
- 2 Shaft, Rigid Heddle, or inkle loom weaving
- Multishaft manual loom weaving (excludes computerised, mechanical, dobby-type looms)

### **SPINNING: TWO COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

- 5 ply and under (14wpi or more)- minimum skein 25gr
- over 5 ply (less than 14wpi)- minimum skein 50gr

A skein made from handspun fibre, with attached sample and description of fibre and intended use.

### **FELTING:**

Any felted item.

### **DYEING:**

Natural or chemical dyes permitted. The entry may be a skein or item of commercial or handspun fibre and will be judged on the quality of dyeing only.

### **KNITTING/CROCHET:**

Any handstitched item made from Handspun yarn, spun by the entrant.

### **MIXED MEDIA:**

An item made using predominantly any, or a mixture, of the core crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing or felting, which can include any material, including (but not restricted to) recycled or up-cycled materials. The item can be in any form from garment, decorative, domestic, to sculptural.

### **NOVICE/JUNIOR:**

Any item as per above categories, made by a first-time entrant or member under 18 years of age.

### **GROUP or COLLABORATIVE ENTRY:**

A group entry is to be a single item or cohesive set of items showcasing any mixture of the Guild's core crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing or felting, where a group is defined as three or more individuals (who do not need to be an official Guild group). Items may also be partly crocheted or knitted. Note: items entered as a group entry CANNOT be also entered individually.

### **PRESIDENTS AWARD:**

An entry chosen by the President.

### **POPULAR VOTE:**

Members are to cast a vote for their selection. Votes are to be counted and the winner announced.