

## February's Meeting

### Spinning Wheel Clinic and Warping-up Demonstration

Over sixty members turned up to February's Guild Meeting, with spinners taking advantage of a Spinning Wheel Clinic. There was also an opportunity for those wishing to learn about the techniques of preparing a warp, dressing a loom and starting weaving to join David Herring's Warping-up Demonstration. The Guild has recently purchased three new Ashford Brooklyn 4-shaft table looms and David was demonstrating using a Brooklyn loom. Hopefully some at the demonstration will be inspired to hire one of the new looms and start their weaving journey.



One of the Ashford Brooklyn 4-shaft Looms



Another of the Guild's recent purchases is an e-spinner. It is lightweight and compact and is a good alternative for spinners who are not able to use a treadle. It will also be an ideal spinner to take to out to events and shows later in the year.

On the Show and Tell table, one of our members had brought along her drum carder, made by her husband using wood from a now redundant wooden highchair. As you can see from the photograph it is beautifully made.

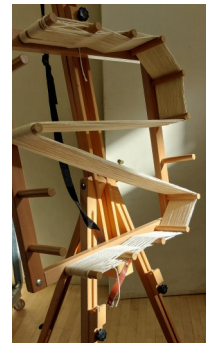


The Guild has been reviewing its policy for competitions by increasing prize money to a realistic amount and purchasing appropriate trophies which the winners will retain for the year. This is our newly purchased Fortescue trophy - 'Ewe with twin lambs', a bronze sculpture mounted on an oak base. The trophy was awarded to Jane Wright for the best skein of wool from the fleece.

Jane (left) is seen here receiving her trophy from Frances Fletcher, chair of the Guild.

## Warping-up Demonstration with David Herring

There is so much preliminary work essential before the weaving process can start. David explained how to calculate the sett, that is, the number of ends per inch for a given thickness thread, and then the number of ends required for the width of the piece of cloth to be woven. Once the length of the cloth is calculated the warp threads are wound on a warping board. The photo shows the completed warp on the board.



The two photos here show, on the left, a warping stick being placed through the end of the warp threads and then, on the right, the half inch bunches being placed between the half inch sections of the raddle - the raddle being fixed to the back beam of the loom. The loom is dressed (warp put on the loom) from the back to the front.



The next stage ideally requires two people, one at the back to wind the warp onto the back beam, and the other at the front tensioning the warp.



Once the cross sticks are firmly in place the next stage is to pull the warp threads through the heddles on the appropriate shaft.



Finally the warp is threaded through the reed and fixed to the front beam.



It is now time to start to weave. The weft thread is wound onto a bobbin and by raising the shafts according to the pattern a shed (gap between the shafts) is formed so that the bobbin can pass along the shed. The weft is now beaten down and the pattern starts to appear.

The two photos below show the weaving of the weft and the start of the pattern.

