

March's Meeting

It was another busy morning at the Guild with members working on their latest projects and purchasing items from a very well-stocked Sales Table.

The competition for the March meeting was the Harold Woodrow Trophy for any item involving the crafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing and felting and open to any member who has not previously won a Guild competition.

There were six entries in total and the winners were, in 1st place, Viviane Bernhard for her colourful wet felting and in 2nd place, Katrina Wall for her delicate woven scarf.



Katrina and Viviane with their winning entries

The Guild is actively revisiting all its competitions adding new ones and increasing the monetary prizes to a more realistic amount.

It is the Guild's aim to have trophies for all its competitions. The Fortescue competition now has two components—one for a skein of wool prepared and spun from the fleece and the other for a skein of yarn spun from any commercially prepared fibre. A silver spinning wheel has recently been purchased for the second component and at the meeting this was presented to last year's winner, Nicky Scott.

The 'Show and Tell' table was full of members' work and showed a wide variety of crafts. As our speaker, Annabel Wilson, was talking about Shibori dyeing, the apron was most appropriate as it included a piece of shibori.



Nicky Scott and the new trophy

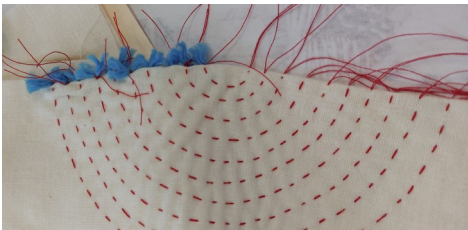
Creating in Shibori

In the afternoon we welcomed Annabel Wilson, who is in fact a member of the Guild, to speak about Shibori dyeing. Annabel is passionate about Shibori and that came through strongly in her talk. Shibori is a Japanese word meaning 'to wring or squeeze' and Annabel describes it as sophisticated tie-dye.

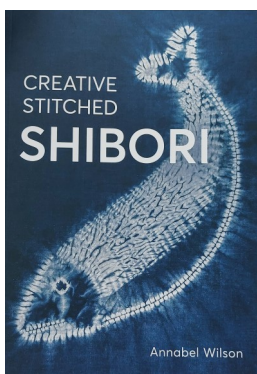
The basket below shows all the equipment necessary to start Shibori dyeing.



There are two basic embroidery stitches used in Shibori—running stitch and oversew stitch.



The two photos above show examples of running stitch on the left and oversew stitch on the right. Once the stitching has been completed the thread is pulled tight so that, when the fabric is immersed in dye, the dye will not penetrate into the areas tightly bound together. This creates subtle and intricate patterns as can be seen in Annabel's pieces.



Annabel's talk was inspirational and many members eagerly signed up to her mailing list to receive news of future events and free patterns.

Annabel's book 'Creative Stitched Shibori' is about to be published and the Guild is certainly going to purchase a copy for the library. It is modestly priced at £12.99. Annabel runs day workshops and several members of the Guild have already booked a place.

Without a doubt it was an outstanding afternoon and all the members went home inspired to learn more about Shibori. Thank you, Annabel!

