

October's Meeting

It was a really busy and productive meeting with five visitors joining us. There was a very well-supplied sales table, where members had an opportunity to sell their unwanted items and/or purchase new ones.



Sarah Harris, our speaker, joined us for the morning session and demonstrated spinning on the Great Wheel. Members were enthusiastic to have a go!

On the left Sarah is instructing one of our members.

On the right Frances, our chairperson, is mastering the skill.



The Guild is taking part in a Christmas Tree Festival in December at Holy Trinity Church in Weymouth.



Members of the Guild are decorating a tree using skills related to weaving, spinning and dyeing.

During the meeting several members made Dorset Button style and felted decorations, all the material and instructions provided by Frances.



Show and Tell Table
Pieces of work from 3 members



In the afternoon Sarah entertained us with a very informative and amusing talk entitled **'History of Knitting Patterns'**.

Sarah explained that a lot can be discovered about how the world evolved by looking at knitting patterns.

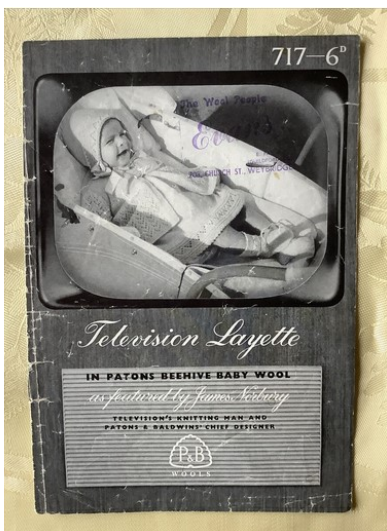
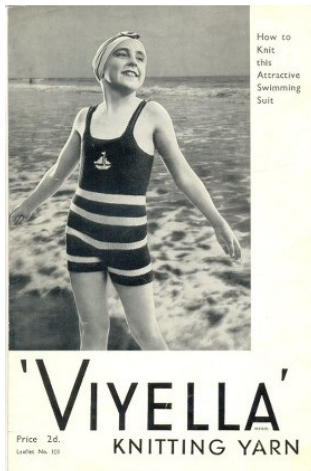
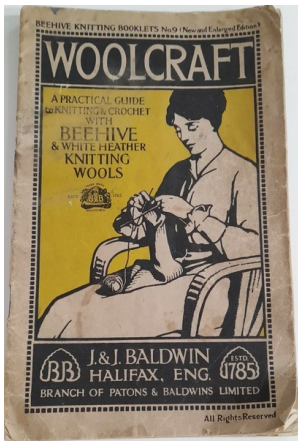
Knitting probably started in North Africa and the first evidence of knitting in Europe was in the Spanish and Moorish Courts in about the 1200s. Early knitting was on four needles. The painting below shows the Virgin Mary, with Jesus looking on, knitting with four needles. It is painted by Bertram of Minden in the 1400s.



Knitting patterns were not written down in the 1200s but passed on by the spoken word.

Sarah then showed us knitting patterns from the early 1950s, some of which brought back memories, especially the knitted bathing costumes!

Below is a selection of what Sarah showed us.



The interest in knitting as a hobby dwindled in the 1980s but there was a comeback in the millennium with the introduction of 'Yarn Bombing' - the activity of covering objects or structures in public places with decorative knitted or crocheted material, as a form of street art.



Sarah ended her talk by describing it as a gentle exercise in nostalgia. A very apt description.

Thank you Sarah.