

October 2025

It was another full day at the Guild this month. As well as two mini workshops in the morning there was also a display of Catherine Parr's wonderful tapestries. Below are just three of them.



The subject matter ranged from abstract through to birds, animals, fish and also some of the well-known landscapes of our beautiful Jurassic coast. The Guild has been very fortunate to receive a legacy in Catherine's will of all her tapestry equipment and accessories including nearly 30 tapestries. Nine of Catherine's friends joined us for the morning to view the tapestries. It is hoped to mount an exhibition of Catherine's work in 2028 to celebrate what would have been her 80th birthday year.

The two mini workshops on offer were **'How to card using hand carders'** with **Pene Blogg** and **'An introduction to small felted items'** with **Clare Hughes**.

Pene used the method for hand carding explained in Amanda Hannaford's recent book, **'The Handspinner's Companion'**.

The small felt items created in Clare's workshop, typically, were pumpkins. Each of those in this workshop managed to complete two pumpkins in various shades of orange.



Carding Workshop



Felting Workshop with a display of the completed pumpkins



A very big **'Thank You'** to **Pene** and **Clare** for running these workshops.



Show and Tell Table

Three members displayed their latest creations.

Fiona Whyte - a beautiful woven blanket,
Angie Corbet - a rag rug she demonstrated at September's Open Day

and

Nicky Footer - various pieces of dyed fabric, yarn and fleece that she dyed, again at the Open Day.



In the afternoon our speaker was Katie Allen who describes herself as a farmer, maker and disruptor. It was an inspirational and challenging talk.

Katie and her husband, first generation farmers, own Great Cotmarsh farm in Wiltshire.

The farm has both sheep and cattle. There are 300 sheep, Portland and Castlemilk Moorit, both rare breeds, and 25 British White cows. The two breeds of sheep are different in both temperament and fleece. The British Whites are also considered as a rare breed.

Innovations this year at the farm include the installation of a micro-scale tannery, the first in England, and an Education Centre where, this year, 280 fashion and textile students attended courses run by Katie.

Katie and her husband are members of the South West England Fibershed and are firm advocates of the Soil to Soil cycle where natural fibres are grown, processed, designed, sewn, used by consumers, and then composted back into the soil to start the cycle again.



Katie is also a designer of knitwear. Starting with zero textile skills she has achieved an A level in Textiles followed by an M A in Fashion Textile Design.

Starting with her sheep's wool, she is accountable for every stage of the process of manufacture to the finished product.

Below are examples of her knitwear.

