

March 2026



It was another very positive meeting full of crafting activities and a full-to-overflowing Sales Table.

On Saturday morning as well as the usual spinning and weaving with members working on their current projects, there were two mini workshops. Frances and Pene were continuing their support group with new spinners.



Margaret ran an 'Introduction to Kumihimo Braiding' using a marudai.



Winding the warp onto the bobbins



Ten members joined the braiding workshop, some bringing their own marudais - their first time of using!

Margaret went through the whole process—winding the warp onto the bobbins, transferring the weighted bobbins and counterweight bag to the marudai and then working the three basic braids - round, square and flat. Everyone successfully produced a length of braiding.



Working the marudais to create the braids



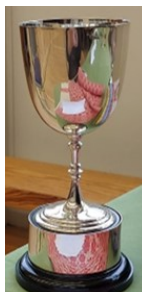
There were two competitions for weaving judged at the meeting by a member of the New Forest Guild, Annabella Harding.



The Norah Whittaker Hall trophy for loom weaving was won this year by Margaret Eaglestone, with runner-up, Frances Fletcher. Chair, Nicky Footer, presented the winners with their awards.

On the left Margaret with her winning pieces

Norah Whittaker-Hall trophy



On the right Frances with her winning piece





The Anita Furzey trophy for tapestry weaving was won this year by Frances Fletcher, with runner-up, Carol Lewis. Chair, Nicky Footer, presented the winners with their awards.

On the left Frances with her winning piece



On the right Carol with her winning piece



The Anita Furzey trophy

In the afternoon we were treated to a fascinating talk by our guest speaker, Julie Hodges, on Ply-Split Braiding. Julie studied Woven Textiles at the Liverpool Art School, now John Moores University, at Liverpool in the early 1970s. She then worked in the Textiles Department at the Surrey Institute of Art & Design, Farnham.

Julie was introduced to Ply-Split Braiding after she attended a workshop taught by Peter Collingwood.

Ply-Split braiding is found in Rajasthan and Gujarat in north-west India. Traditionally it is used for camel girths and animal regalia and made mainly from goat's hair yarn. It is the craft of men.

Julie has developed the techniques and makes both functional items and more decorative creative sculptures.

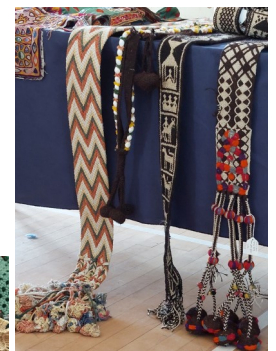
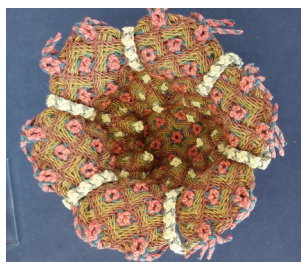


During the talk Julie demonstrated how to make the cords necessary to ply split as well as a brief demonstration on single course oblique twining. It gave those attending the workshop on the following day an insight into what they would be doing and it certainly whetted their appetites.

This gallery shows some of the display items Julie brought along to enhance her talk



Julie demonstrating ply-split braiding



Ply-Split Braiding Workshop

Eight members attended the workshop on Sunday. As well as being taught how to make really attractive cords, Julie went through stage by stage how to make four different types of single course oblique twining (SCoT) braid :-

Diagonal Stripe

Waves

Chevron

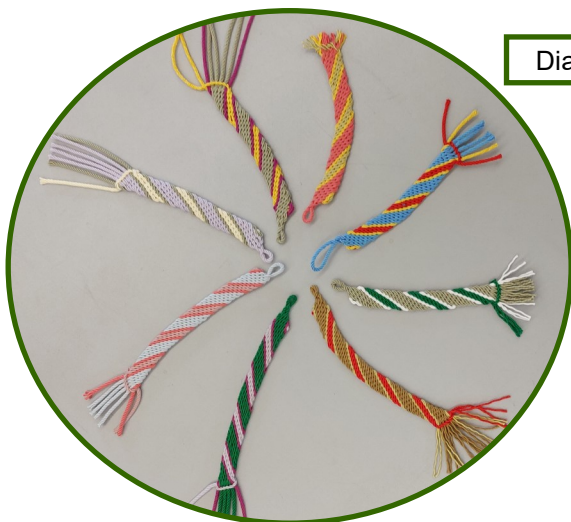
Zigzag

The group was shown various methods of both starting and finishing the braids. The tool that was used to split the plies was called a gripfid.

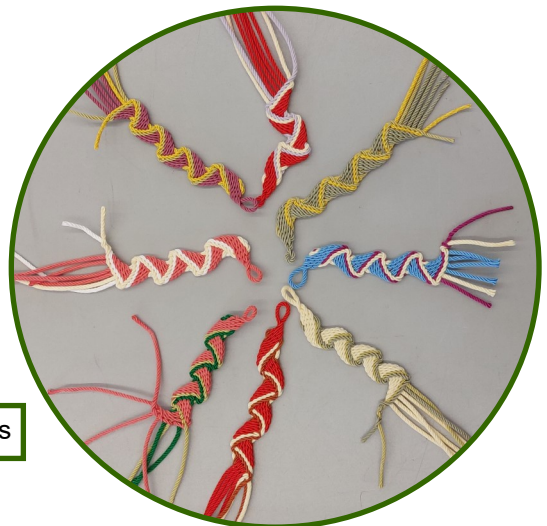


Full concentration from Clare and Ellen

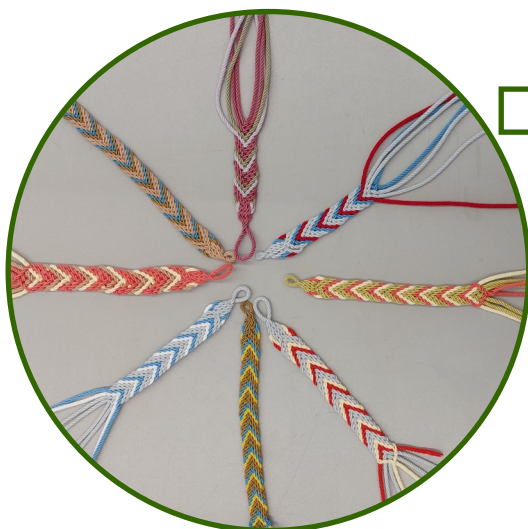
Close-up of the gripfid in action in the right-hand



Diagonal Stripe



Waves



Chevron



Zig-Zag and Cords

At the end of the workshop there was an opportunity to purchase a gripfid and also one or more of Julie's publications. It was a brilliant workshop with Julie inspiring everyone to take this craft further.

Thank you Julie