

The Guild at the Dorset Arts and Crafts Association (DACA)

The Guild set up its gazebos in the Lulworth Courtyard and received many positive comments about the displays - it certainly had that 'Wow' factor! Members were on hand demonstrating spinning, weaving and felting. Understandably there were no demonstrations of dyeing although the initial stage of Japanese Shibori, the stitching element, was demonstrated - the final stage being dyeing.

Weaving was demonstrated both by Kumihimo braiding and narrow braiding on an Inkle loom.



Central Display inside the Gazebo



Two Marudais—the equipment needed for Kumihimo braiding



Display of members' work—many items were for sale



Yet more tempting items for sale

Two items were entered into the judged section of the exhibition - a Shibori lampshade with a complementary cushion, and a woven handbag. Both pieces were awarded a Gold for Work of Outstanding Merit. They were entered by Margaret Eaglestone. Perhaps next year there will be more pieces entered by Guild members!

Woven Handbag



On the left - Table lamp with light on
Above - table lamp without light on

Reflections of DACA from a member who was there for all five days

Five days in a bake house at Wareham!



During this year's record breaking temperatures the Guild was present at DACA Showcase 2026 held at the Purbeck School, Wareham.

Despite only one entry of weaving in the competition section the Guild showed its strengths with a colourful display of members' work covering all our core skills, this was supplemented with demonstrations by members on each day, fortunately those demonstrating did not have to endure the heat of our gazebo and were able to move into the shade of adjacent trees. Their interaction with visitors to our display was much appreciated and was certainly not what Lesley Fidler experienced at the agricultural show she visited (see the article 'Demonstrating - a cautionary tale' in the latest AGWSD News - July '26)

Gaye instructing two visitors
in the art of spinning.



Taking a welcomed lunch break under the
shade of the trees.

Sadly at DACA there are now very few craftspeople demonstrating their crafts so the Guild demonstrators were kept busy explaining the intricacies of spindle spinning through to Kumihimo and Shibori techniques with many visitors looking forward to our Open Day in September to see even more of our members demonstrating their crafts .

Thank you, Tim.