

SPINALONG – NOVEMBER 2019



Well, what a surprise, our display at the All Wales Event came first and we we're presented with the shield. Our thanks must go to Sheila Morgan for all her hard work in putting the display together on the Friday and taking it all down on the Saturday. Also, thanks to those of you who provided items for the display.

Heres are a couple of other photos from the event



Our challenge display was much admired by all the visitors to the event. This will be kept for future events.

The talk was about the life and work of Riitta Sinkonen Davies from Pembrokeshire, she told us how she started and showed slides of her work. She also had samples on display. She has a website- [riittaweaving.wordpress.com](http://riittaweaving.wordpress.com)

Please don't forget to pay your membership subscription if you haven't already done so. Those of you who have not paid will not be on the membership list, and you will not receive any newsletters or updates.

Hopefully the new programme will be available at the November meeting.

Recently four members were asked by the Welsh Woollen Mill if we could give a hands on teaching session to visitors to the mill under the heading 'Wool to garment'. We agreed and on a very wet Thursday we had 12 visitors (including two ladies from America who were on holiday and a gentleman) to show the process to. The majority of them had done nothing with wool before so we started with the basics, where wool comes from, shearing and the different types and grades of wool. Alison had brought with her two fleeces to show how different these are. One was a very coarse Herdwick and the other a very nice Jacob. It was interesting to see their reactions to the differences. Next Carole explained the different ways of washing fleeces and they were surprised that you could use very hot water. Cristina and Barbara then showed the various ways of carding using both hand carders, flick carders and, of course, the drum carders. The rest of the time before lunch was spent practicing with hand carders and the drum carder, and showing them spinning from the results of the carding.

After a very pleasant lunch in the Mill cafeteria we got back to work. The afternoon was spent teaching the visitors how to spin. Some got it straight away, others could not keep the treadle going the right way, a problem we all remember from when we started spinning. With those having difficulty Carole did the treadling while the visitor did the drafting. Some visitors were very interested in the weaving looms we had brought with us and Alison spent the afternoon showing them who they worked and they had a go on the rigid heddle looms.

This was a very good day spent passing on our knowledge, and although we may not see these people at our guild (most of them live too far away, especially the Americans) I think they will continue to learn the craft we love so much.

A short biography from Barbara Harper our Secretary...

I started getting involved in the textile community about 6 years ago. I've always knitted and sewed but when I retired from teaching I had more time to develop my skills. I'm largely self taught but had the good fortune to form part of a group of keen dyers at Armley Mills in Leeds who, with the museum curator and Debbie Tomkies, worked on recreating heritage dyes from a 200 year old dye book which culminated in an exhibition at the museum. My interests are mainly dyeing and spinning and I love experimenting with new techniques.

Next month will be Lynn's turn to tell us about her spinning story.

Please don't forget that if you have anything you want put in SpinAlong email it to me, email address on the programme.

Carole