



# weaversbazaar

## WEAVERSBAZAAR NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to the second **weaversbazaar newsletter** since we picked up the baton from Lin and moved the business to Carnforth. Life has been getting the way somewhat over the last few months, hence the delay between issues – longer than intended, we assure you! But read on for updates on **products** at weaversbazaar; an update on the **solar dyeing challenge**; the usual news about **courses and exhibitions**; some more things to **listen to as you weave**; and finally, meet **Anna Wetherell**, the other new owner of weaversbazaar as well as one half of Nearly Wild Weaving, in '**A Day in the Weave of...**'.

If you have anything you would like us to include in our newsletter, please send the information through to [newsletter@weaversbazaar.com](mailto:newsletter@weaversbazaar.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We can't promise to include everything, but we will try to help spread the word about who is doing what and what's going on. The next issue will come out before Christmas, we hope!

### WEAVERSBAZAAR NEWS AND UPDATES

#### Important notices!

**Christmas – last posting dates and Christmas closure:** The last posting date we will be working to for **deliveries by Christmas** is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December for UK parcels. If you are elsewhere in the world, the date will be earlier – you can check [here](#) to find out more. Please allow several days before the last posting date to get your order in, so that we have time to gather it, pack it and get it in the post or with the courier. For **UK orders, please order by close of Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. For elsewhere in the world it could be as early as **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**, so please do check online using the link above!

We will also be **closing for a period over Christmas and New Year**. Last orders will be sent out on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, so please **place your orders by close of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**. We will start to pick and pack orders again from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. You will be able to order online while we are closed, but your order will not be dealt with until we are back. If you need to place an order for something you're working on, please bear these dates in mind!

Also - a reminder that there's now a **5-year time limit on gift vouchers**. Any new vouchers will be issued with an expiry date. If you already have a voucher, check when it was issued, or contact us to check (we'll need the code as reference), as it will now expire 5 years from date of issue. That still gives those of you with the

oldest vouchers until April 2025 to use them!

**Product News:** As we have settled into running weaversbazaar we have been thinking about the colour range. There are certain colours which are very similar to each other, which we have decided to rationalise. We will be running down our stocks of **Turquoise 6** (alternative is SeaSky5); **Bice Blue** (alternative is Saltire Blue) and **Orange 9** (alternative is Cinnabar 7). This will create a little bit of space on the shelves to look at the Violet range and other potential gaps. So, if you are working on a tapestry that uses any of the colours we are running down, get your order in soon!

Some good news – **pink graphite** is now part of our range! Originally dyed by mistake, it swiftly became popular and we have decided to keep it. It's currently only available in medium, but when we have some space we will look to add it to the fine range as well.

**Shade Cards** – the old ones have run out, but something new is coming very soon! From Kate: "We have gained a colour system at weaversbazaar, thoughtfully set up by Lin and Matty. It uses the colour tool to take you around the colour wheel in 24 steps, exploring tints, tones and shades en route.

At ArtyBird, I watched my students dipping into the jamboree box, pulling out colour ad hoc, completely ignoring any system that may exist, throwing colours together in a delightful way. Ooh, I thought, we need shade cards that allow for this!

Then I watch the palette packs fly off the shelf, as some order is needed to graduate

between colours in our bundles. We need shade cards that allow for this too.

So, we have designed and developed our new shade cards, 26 cards showing each colour family, plus white to black, and warp yarns.



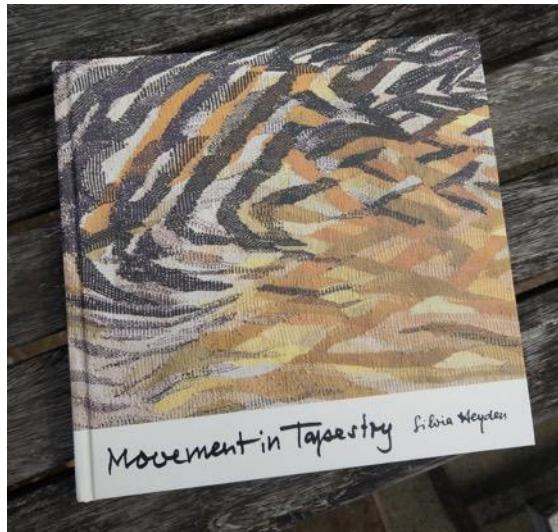
Where more than one yarn is dyed in a colour (eg silk and linen, or medium and fine), samples of all are included. The samples are long enough for you to be able to play away from the shade card structure, but not so long to get tangled. The structure will help you when you need that in a design.

They are designed to grow with us, so you will be able to add and delete if required, rather than needing to buy a complete new set. We hope you love them as much as we do, and they will be on the website soon."

They will cost £35 (plus postage) and will come in a handy calico bag. They will be available to pre-order shortly, and should be available from the end of November!

**Silvia Heyden – Movement in Tapestry:** We have copies of this book back in stock. Hopefully a number of you will see some

of Silvia Heyden's tapestries as part of Heallreef 5 at the Morley Gallery and at Farfield Mill. If you haven't already got a copy of this book, you can order it [online](#). We can highly recommend it – it's already on Kate and Anna's shelves and regularly provides us with inspiration!



As well as ordering online, remember to keep an eye open for **pop-up shops** near you. There are regular pop-up shops at **West Dean College** alongside tapestry courses, with thanks to Margaret Jones for continuing to run these. We also hold (usually) monthly pop-up shops at **ArtyBird Carnforth**, where it may also be possible to collect additional items ordered online to save postage – liaise with [Alison](#) in advance if you would like to make use of this option. Keep an eye on our [website](#) for dates at both of these venues. And those of you attending courses and workshops with [Caron Penney](#) and [Jane Brunning](#) will know that they continue to hold a supply of weaversbazaar yarns.

Another reminder - if you get through a lot of our yarn, do hold onto the **tubes and cones** so you can return them to us. We're happy to provide a small discount for returned tubes and cones that are in

good condition – [contact us](#) for more details.



Finally - if you are a member of the British Tapestry Group or the American Tapestry Alliance, you can get a **discount** for online orders for many of our products. The codes can be found in the member's area of their websites.

## EXHIBITIONS, COURSES AND EVENTS!



**Heallreef 5** will be at the [Morley Gallery](#) in London 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December. The private view and announcement of the curator's prize is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

It can then be seen at [Farfield Mill](#) in Cumbria 8<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The private view and Meet the Makers will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, with announcement of the People's Prize, sponsored by weaversbazaar. Please do vote for your favourite tapestry when you visit the exhibition at any of its venues! All venue details and dates can be found on the [Heallreaf website](#).

The catalogue is available to purchase – details on the [Heallreaf website](#).

And many thanks to the British Tapestry Group and ArtyBird Carnforth for their generous sponsorship of Heallreaf 5, along with all those who have contributed individually. All this wouldn't be happening without you!



**Murmuration Collaboration** – have you spotted this wonderful collaborative project between most of the weavers who took part in [Waterline](#)? It's a set of 12 shaped tapestries that have been woven to capture the sense of movement in a murmuration of birds, with the group working closely together so that the tapestries flow together in shape, colour and, of course, the murmuration itself.

It's now at [Farfield Mill](#) in Cumbria, on show there until 22<sup>nd</sup> December. If you are visiting and want to understand more about the project, do contact [Anna](#) who may be able to meet you there, especially if you are coming with a group – or simply read the additional information that's available online.



Alongside the exhibition, there's a series of articles on [Substack](#), including a series highlighting each weaver, the overall design process and more. There are also regular updates on Facebook and Instagram.

After Farfield Mill, the tapestries will be at the [Scottish Ornithologist's Club at Aberlady](#), just outside Edinburgh, from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 13<sup>th</sup> April. Further venues are being planned, including an intention to show this project in the States and Canada. You can find out more, including links to the various bits of social media, on the [Nearly Wild Weaving website](#).

We're also planning to give some online talks about the project, and can give face to face ones as well if you have a group who are interested and we can work out the logistics.



**Nearly Wild Weaving** are getting back into the swing of things after their summer break and trips to Shetland for Wool Week alongside a parallel trip to Nepal. Their next *Tapestry: In Conversation* is with Tim Gresham, on 27<sup>th</sup> November, followed by *Tapestry Together* on Weaving Soumak on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December and *Troubleshooting Tapestry* on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets

and further details for all these online events are available via [Eventbrite](#).

More information about their online and other activities can be found on their [website](#), including details of accessing recorded sessions and further information about the re-run of their retreat *Singing the Land, Weaving the Stories* in Scotland in early June 2025.



The British Tapestry Group will be holding their **AGM**, via zoom, at 4pm UK time (GMT) on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Attendance is free, but please do book a ticket via [Eventbrite](#) so that they know how many will be attending, and, most importantly, whether they will be quorate!

Looking ahead, BTG will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025 and into 2026. There will be a national exhibition which will tour between a number of venues, starting at the [Gracefield Arts Centre](#) in Dumfries on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025. There will also be a symposium and workshops alongside the opening of the exhibition. Further details are on the BTG [website](#).

Entry to the juried exhibition is open to full members of BTG, so if you are interested in taking part make sure your membership is up to date! The monthly eNews keeps members informed and

exhibition details are available in the members area of the website. Members also get a 10% discount on most products with online orders at [weaversbazaar...](#)!

Excitingly, there will be two tapestry exhibitions on at Gracefield at that point in time! [Interconnections 5](#), a biennial group exhibition by Scottish and Irish weavers, will be on at the same time. Book your travel now!

Some of the BTG Regional Groups are also planning exhibitions during 2025 and 2026. The Eastern Region are developing a 'Fenlands' exhibition in Hertford for March 2025. The Northern Group will have a travelling exhibition, Tapestry of the North: Our Textile Heritage, starting at Farfield Mill in mid-September 2025 and moving on to Kirkleatham Museum near Redcar, and then the Bankfield Museum in Halifax, both during 2026. More news on these as plans develop!

## Damascus Fiber Arts School Tapestry Talks

For less than the price of a burger these days, you can join the Damascus Fiber Arts School for their monthly Tapestry Talks. One Saturday a month, an invited artist will give a presentation about their tapestry journey.

Their next talk will feature **Michael Rohde**, on exploring ways of turning ideas into weaving, **Saturday Nov 16**. The recording from October of **Tommie Scanlin**, on using textile methods to mark time, is now available, until December 26th. The earlier recording of their talk with **Sue Weil** is available until November 25<sup>th</sup>, so act quickly if you want access to that one!

Join them each month -- it only costs \$10 -- by [signing up on their website](#).

### Lecture Tour Videos

See previous Summer Lecture Tours for 2020 and 2021. You can view Vimeo videos on various subjects. Some of the lectures are:

**Mary Lane:** Mark Making in Tapestry

**Amy Belgan:** Creative Journey to Tapestry

**Barbara Burns:** Tapestry Influences and Work

**John & Marilyn Harrison:** From our Farm Flock

**Barbara Hitzemann:** Dyeing Wool with Seasonal Plants

There are many more. To see a complete list and view the videos go to [Lecture Tour Links - Damascus Fiber Arts School](#).

Donations to the school for these recordings are very welcome!

The **Handweavers Guild of America** have just recorded their 200<sup>th</sup> episode of [Textiles and Tea](#)! This series includes a wide range of weavers and other textile artists, so is well worth a look, and a listen. They're available on [YouTube](#).

Also on YouTube, **Dovecot Studios** have a series of [videos and audio recordings](#) available, including the ones that were at the recent exhibition of the Chris Ofili tapestries, The Caged Bird's Song. One of the audio recordings is the weavers discussing their experience of weaving the tapestries. Fascinating!

Do you have favourite things to listen to while weaving? We know a number of you enjoy audio books. Any other podcasts you can recommend? Email Anna at [newsletter@weaversbazaar.com](mailto:newsletter@weaversbazaar.com) and we'll include them in future newsletters!

## THINGS TO LISTEN TO WHILE WEAVING...

I'm a great fan of listening to podcasts and catching up on my favourite radio programmes while weaving. Here are some things you might be interested in as well:

If you download the **Bloomberg Connects App**, you can hear some of the weavers involved in the **Murmuration** project talking about how the work came about and the sections they wove. There's also an interview with their photographer, Joanne Withers, about her perspective seeing the tapestries for the first time. Once in the app, search for Farfield Mill, then Current Exhibitions. It's a fabulous app – plenty of other venues in there too, including the Burrell Collection (more fabulous tapestries), many museums, galleries, archaeological sites and more!

## DID YOU KNOW...??

The Murmuration Collaboration tapestries have been woven primarily using weaversbazaar fine yarns. Using a common core set of colours and yarns has allowed the weavers to ensure that their tapestries are closely related, and also enabled communication between neighbours, creating a common language for blends and shifts in colours across the 7.5m wide set of tapestries. Most, if not all, of the group already had some weaversbazaar colours in their stash, and more could easily be ordered as needed. It didn't stop individual weavers using their own yarns to supplement the core ones, including adding elements of sparkle in some, but using primarily one set of yarns for the whole piece has enabled this amazing set of tapestries to come together as it has.



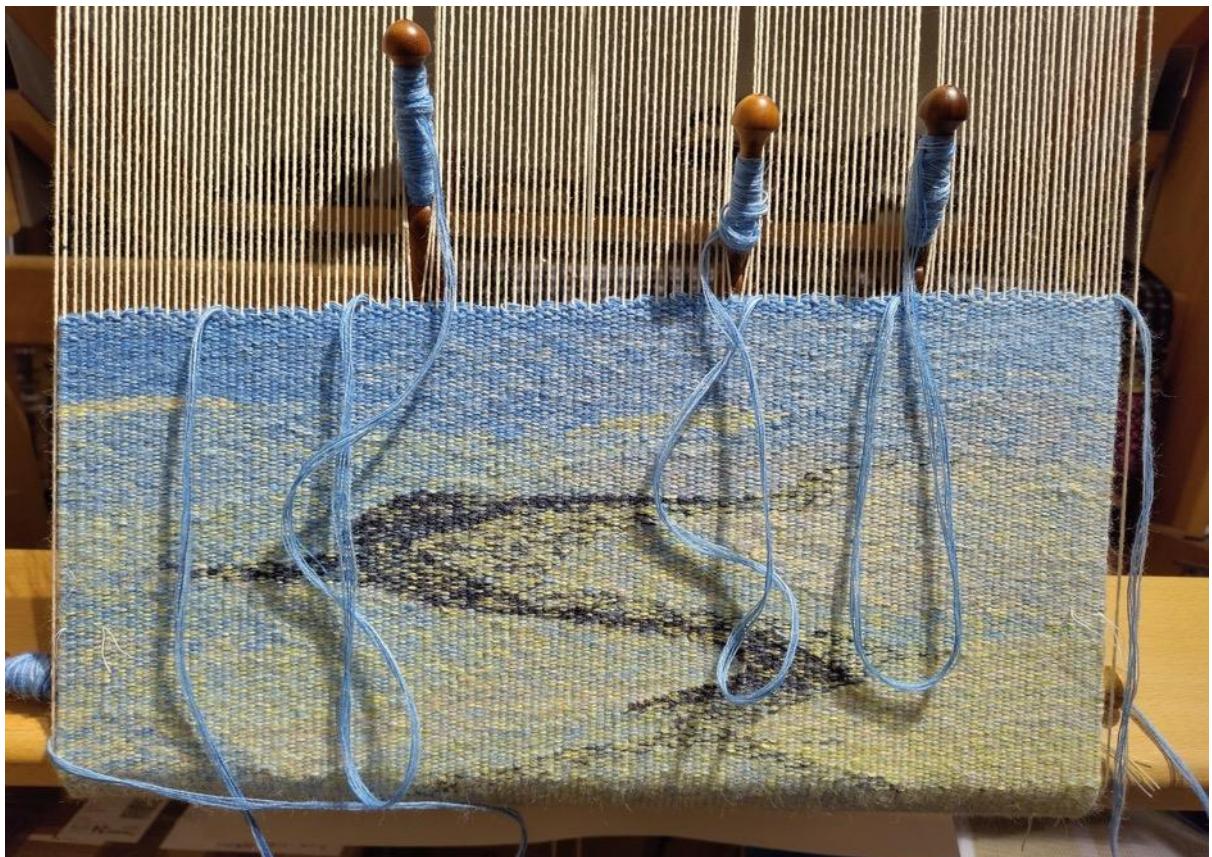
## THE SOLAR DYEING CHALLENGE – AND MORE!

As you can see, Kate is rather pleased with the results from her solar dyeing this summer! The **first weaversbazaar Challenge** has been quite popular, with a number of you watching the video, and the sales of undyed yarn have definitely gone up! The challenge is still open, though over the Autumn and Winter things will take a bit longer. Using a sunny windowsill and a period of good sunshine, it's still possible to achieve some fabulous colours, even if you have to wait a bit longer... Or you could simply wait until Spring! If you haven't found it already, our **step-by-step video** is on our [website](#) under 'Join our Challenges'. Enjoy watching your solar pots transform into colour —it's a truly fascinating process!

We're preparing the next stage, which is to take these naturally dyed yarns and weave them using hachure and other techniques, asking the question 'what happens if...?'. We can't wait to see what beautiful textures and patterns emerge from this experiment, and if you can't wait, feel free to start using your yarns (we're sure some of you already have) and send us photos of what you do with them! We're going to set up a new website gallery for our challenges, so it would be lovely to have something to get it going. Send us a photo or two, a bit of text about what you've experimented with and which dyes you have used, and we'll collate them. Email [anna@weaversbazaar.com](mailto:anna@weaversbazaar.com).

We're also working on explorations of our colour range, starting with Apple, which we suspect most of you already have! Keep an eye out for our 'Have a BAL!' series, where we will look at ways to use the existing range and what to do where there might be gaps (other than dyeing your own to fill them – and we only have limited shelf space!).

If you have any questions about any of our projects, or have queries you would like some suggestions for, please do [get in touch](#)!



*Anna's section of the Murmuration tapestries in progress, woven primarily with weaversbazaar fine.*

## A DAY IN THE WEAVE OF... ANNA WETHERELL

Anna is the other new owner of weaversbazaar. Here's your chance to get to know her a bit better:

I came to tapestry weaving in May 2013, learning the core skills on a week-long beginners' course with Ros Bryant in Orkney. For a number of years, it sat alongside my job at Natural England, where I was working as a geologist, hydrogeologist and wetland ecologist. In 2019, however, the opportunity came to take early severance (not retirement, as I regularly remind people!), and I could move into tapestry weaving full time. The covid pandemic arrived soon after I started my new life, providing me with space and time to think and study further, if online initially. As with so many of you reading this, I don't have an art background, my comfort zone being in the sciences, so I braced myself to take on the challenge of improving my art and design skills.

Since picking up tapestry weaving I have done courses with a range of weavers, including at West Dean with Philip Sanderson, Pat Taylor and Caron Penney; Higham Hall with Louise Martin; and returning to Orkney a number of times for further courses with Ros and Louise. Since 2020 I have studied with Fiona Hutchison, doing two years of her Studio Practice course, and also done courses, online, with Elizabeth Buckley and Rebecca Mezoff. I love the different skills and approaches we learn from working with a range of professional weavers, and also from being on these courses and hearing the queries from fellow participants. We all learn so much simply from being in the same room as each other, even a virtual room. This approach has become the foundation of what we do at Nearly Wild Weaving.

I left Natural England thinking that I'd never need to do another webinar or teleconference again. Covid has taught me differently! Zoom has become such a useful tool for so many of us, including for how we started and have developed [Nearly Wild Weaving](#). In late 2020 Irene Evison and I started to explore how we could work together around tapestry weaving. Neither of us profess to be expert tapestry weavers, but we both recognise how much we can learn from each other and fellow weavers, and we are both reasonably adept technologically. We started with *Tapestry Together*, a space in which peer learning means everyone can share and learn from each other. Once a month we meet and discuss a specific topic with an international online community, the most recent looking at weaving abstract. While Irene and I, sometimes with others, present our own experience and approaches, that's only to get the ball rolling. The conversation that follows is wonderfully diverse, and each group comes at the topic from a different perspective.

Early on we also plucked up courage to ask some professional weavers if they would be willing to have a live online conversation with us, discussing how they came into tapestry weaving, their inspiration and designs, and other relevant topics. This has turned into *Tapestry: In Conversation*, and a number of people have commented on the archive that is progressively developing from the recordings. It has also led to a number of projects.



First came [Waterline](#), led by the wonderful Joan Baxter. Fifteen tapestry weavers from Canada, the States, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK came together to weave a series of tapestries connected by a silvery golden line running through them all. The theme was the flow of a river, and it caused us all to look and think about our local rivers and bodies of water, or reflect on those that meant something to us from another period of our lives.

This project brought a disparate group of weavers together, and we decided that we would like to continue working together. This has led to the [Murmuration Collaboration](#), which has already been mentioned above. Most of us continued with the new project, a few choosing not to or realising that other projects and commitments meant that it wasn't going to work for them. But we're all still in touch with each other and have become good friends. Collaborative projects are challenging, require a lot of team work and close liaison, but they are also incredibly rewarding. What we have achieved through Murmuration is simply amazing! There's still a lot of work to do, especially to find the next set of venues to show the tapestries in – these projects are not just about weaving the tapestries, especially if we want them to be seen by as many people as possible and to share our experiences.



But what about my own work outside of these projects? A 20 plus year career in geology and nature conservation doesn't just get put on one side – it's part of who I am. I'm steadily working out how I want to incorporate it into my own work, along with other interests such as archaeology. Both Waterline and Murmuration have helped with that process to a certain extent, but it's also a question of finding my own voice as an artist. Studying with Fiona Hutchison and now at ArtyBird Carnforth is helping me to explore ideas, techniques and approaches towards that end.

As well as finishing the tapestry I'm weaving at Farfield Mill (*right*), which a number of you will have seen on my social media posts (@annawtapestry), I have plans for a series of tapestries based on an exploration of the archaeological trail behind Gairloch Museum (*below*). There are a series of hut circles in the landscape, but I'm also interested in how they sit in the landscape and their relationship to water, rock and sea. Watch this space!



While mulling that over, it's back to doing my part in all those things that are needed behind the scenes of running two small businesses and being part of the team behind BTG. Strangely enough, the studying, design development and weaving often take a back seat, until the



next deadline looms...! I'm sure I'm not alone in struggling to balance and even prioritise my own creativity with all the other demands on my time, let alone when those curve balls happen – and there's been a few of those in the last few months. Hopefully these newsletters can now become more regular!

*(below – weaversbazaar yarns for my section of the Murmuration Collaboration)*



*We hope you have enjoyed this new issue of the weaversbazaar newsletter.*

*Comments and feedback are welcome, simply email [newsletter@weaversbazaar.com](mailto:newsletter@weaversbazaar.com). Remember that information regarding events and activities to be included in the next issue should be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. We also welcome suggestions for things to listen to while weaving, or internet rabbit holes to dive down!*



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