



weaversbazaar

WEAVERSBAZAAR NEWSLETTER MAY/JUNE/JULY 2024

Welcome to the new **weaversbazaar newsletter**! It's rather later than intended, but still packed with news and information. We're taking a slightly different approach this time round as we settle into the new regime, so read on for updates on **products** at weaversbazaar; news about our plan to develop **resources** and provide some **challenges** for you all, starting with trying out **solar dyeing**; the usual news about **courses and exhibitions**; some things to **listen to as you weave**; and finally, meet **Kate Horner**, one of the new owners of weaversbazaar as well as the head of ArtyBird Carnforth, 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 by the 15th 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 at the start of September!

WEAVERSBAZAAR NEWS AND UPDATES

Important notices! – Our team are taking a well-earned break between Saturday 27th July and Sunday 4th August. Consequently, no orders will be sent out during the week beginning 29th July! Your last chance to place orders and have them sent out before this break is Thursday 25th July – though if you have a large order please get it in earlier than this. Any orders received between Friday 25th July and Sunday 4th August will be sent out from Monday 5th August.

We have also decided to put 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: The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that we no longer stock some products, following the change in ownership. There are a range of reasons for this, but we are also finding new ways to supply the most popular items. If we have decided to no longer stock certain items we will endeavour to provide links on the website to alternative sources for the same or similar products. One example of this is Artisan Bobbins – the link for these beautiful bobbins, Andrew's artisan adjustable frame and frame stand and more is on our website, and you will be buying direct from the maker. We do have new stock of Silvia

Heyden's book, Movement in Tapestry, however – buy yours while it's still available!

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.

Our recent **poll** asked which your favourite weaversbazaar yarns are. The majority of you, 37%, like our fine wool yarns, with the medium yarns coming second at 20.4%. Next come our linen and silk, but it's also good to know that some of you like our heavy wool yarn, the 5/2. This is currently only available in limited colours, although we do have a reasonable stock of it undyed. If you like using thicker yarns, have you tried it? The nettle is almost as popular, so we will endeavour to either find a new supplier or to point you to alternative sources!

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

And remember - 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!



Heallleaf 5 is now open! You can visit this fabulous exhibition of contemporary handwoven tapestry at Weston Park until 29th August. It's in the Rose Patterson Gallery in the Granary building, open daily with free entry. If you visit when the house is open, you can also see the tapestries that form part of the Weston Park collection, and the grounds are also worth a visit. An entrance fee is payable for these – check the [website](#) for details.

Many congratulations to **Jilly Edwards**, who has won the Heallleaf 5 prize for her tapestry 'Autumn Moon'! It is a beautiful piece – do look out for it when you visit the exhibition.

The catalogue is available to purchase – details on the [Heallleaf website](#), or you can also still buy it through the [Crowdfunder](#) and donate towards the costs of running the exhibition.

After Weston Park, Heallleaf 5 moves to the **Morley Gallery in London 10th – 20th December**. The private view and

announcement of the curator's prize is on Saturday 14th December. It can then be seen at **Farfield Mill in Cumbria** **8th January to 6th April 2025**. The private view and Meet the Makers will be on Saturday 5th April, with announcement of the People's Prize, sponsored by weaversbazaar. Please do vote for your favourite tapestry when you visit the exhibition! All venue details and dates can be found on the [Heallleaf website](#).

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



Talking of crowdfunding, **Cité de la Tapisserie in Aubusson** have set up a [crowdfunder](#) to support the creation of a new tapestry based on the work of Hayao Miyazaki, an image of Mei and Totoro asleep from the animated film *My Neighbour Totoro*. The final tapestry will measure over 31m²! You can find out more about the project, see the rewards on offer, and donate via the link above. The deadline is **31st July**.



[ArtyBird Carnforth](#) have just opened their all college exhibition at [Farfield Mill](#), Cumbria, which runs 10th July – 15th September 2024: **A Process of Change**. Visit to see a range of textile and fibre arts, including woven tapestry, alongside design ideas and materials. A number of the ArtyBird students are making the

most of now having weaversbazaar on their doorstep, so keep your eyes open for a range of applications of our yarns!

In August they are running a [Summer School](#), including some feltmaking, but also 'Once Upon a Time', a chance to investigate storytelling in your chosen textile discipline, including tapestry weaving. Running from 5th to 9th August in Carnforth, places are limited but contact them for further details.

If you're interested in enrolling on any of their longer courses, they are now taking bookings for September start. Tapestry and other weaving, felt making and many other textile courses at a range of levels, City and Guilds accredited – have a look at their [website](#) to find out more.



Dovecot Studios in Edinburgh now has the Chris Ofili set of tapestries, The Caged Bird's Song, in exhibition until 5th October 2024. As well as enjoying the tapestries themselves, it's a chance to learn more about what goes into making these commissions – sampling, developing the cartoon, liaison with the artist and much more. Guided tours are available on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes – check their [website](#) for details.

Also at Dovecot, **Tapestry 5** will have a small exhibition, Time & Place, in the Dovecot café from 26th July to 7th September. Tapestry 5 are a small group of Edinburgh based tapestry weavers, (Pru

Irvine, Ayesha Barlas, Irene Campbell, Sarah Hill and David Ingrey) who studied together under Fiona Hutchison. Judging from their Instagram posts (tapestry5edi), it should be a fabulous exhibition of small works.

An additional excuse to visit Dovecot in the next few months (as if we needed one!) is to see the newly completed **Tania Kovats** tapestry, Seamounts, woven by the Dovecot team. This will be on the viewing balcony 27th July to 2nd November.



So many tapestry exhibitions to see at the moment! **Jo Barker and Sara Brennan** have a joint exhibition, Marking Time and Place, at [Ruthin Craft Centre](#) until 22nd September. They are giving a talk about their work and launching their catalogue on **Friday 26th July** at 2:30pm. Contact the Craft Centre for tickets.

On the other side of the country, **Threadworks** are having an exhibition of their work, The Mirror of Time, at [RHS Hyde Hall](#) in Essex from 16th to 27th August. Painting, weaving and various other textile works will be on show. Normal admission charges apply.



Murmuration Collaboration – have you spotted this wonderful collaborative project between most of the weavers who took part in Waterline?

Alongside the set of 12 shaped tapestries that are being woven to capture the sense of movement in a murmuration, there's a series of articles on [Substack](#) as well as regular updates on Facebook and Instagram. The tapestries are due to be exhibited at **Shetland Wool Week** 28th September to 5th October, followed by **Farfield Mill**, Cumbria and the **Scottish Ornithologist's Club at Aberlady**, just outside Edinburgh. 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](#).



Nearly Wild Weaving is having a break from their online sessions until September, but there may still be a place or two available on the trip to Nepal that they are organising in late September to mid-October, alongside ethical tour company, Nomadic Skies. **Sacred Fibres: Textiles of the Hidden High Himalaya** looks to be an amazing trip to a less visited part of North Western Nepal – contact [Irene](#) if you would be interested in joining them.

They will also be at **Shetland Wool Week** running workshops alongside the **Murmuration** exhibition, 29th September to 5th October. Booking for all Wool Week workshops opens on 24th July at 2pm!

While live online sessions will resume later in the year, most of the previous sessions of *Tapestry Together* and *Tapestry: In Conversation* have been recorded. Access to these is available for a

small fee – contact Anna at [Nearly Wild Weaving](#) for details. They are also looking for suggestions for future topics to discuss in *Tapestry Together* and guests for *Tapestry: In Conversation* – get in touch with them if you have any ideas!

And if you're interested in taking part in some creative activities (sketching, writing, photography, tapestry weaving and more) in a fabulous part of the world, Irene is involved in organising the inaugural **Ardgour, Art and Ale** weekend at Ardgour Ales near Fort William, Scotland, UK, on the last weekend in August. See [Eventbrite](#) for further information and to book.



Looking ahead, the **British Tapestry Group** will be celebrating its 20th 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 in mid-August 2025. We hear that a symposium and workshops are planned for around the time it opens. 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 up to date and exhibition information is available in the members area of the website. Members also get a 10% discount on most products with online orders at weaversbazaar...!

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:

Possibly only available in the UK, [BBC Radio 4's Start the Week](#) on Monday 1st July included a discussion with Mark Hearld, recent artist in residence at Dovecot Studios who is working on a new collaborative design with them; Naomi Robertson, head weaver at Dovecot;

Kathleen Jamie, one of my favourite writers; and Jennifer Lucy Allen, author of 'Clay'. A fascinating discussion around materials, crafting our work, collaborations and more. Available on BBC Sounds.

Haptic and Hue have a series of podcasts called **Tales of Textiles**, looking at textiles, their histories, the many different forms, and their impact – plenty of material to listen to! [Episode 48](#) in series 6 talks about tapestry weaving and the process of collaboration, the relationship between artist and weaver, and includes content from the team at Dovecot Studios as well as others.



FANCY A CHALLENGE...??

weaversbazaar now has close links to ArtyBird Carnforth. As you will see in 'A Day in the Weave of...', Kate Horner, one of the new owners of weaversbazaar, is a keen educator. We are planning to develop the resources on the weaversbazaar website, alongside setting a few [challenges](#), or invitations, to try out certain colours in our range – or to dye your own.

So, fancy trying your hand at some **natural dyeing using solar pots** this Summer?

Discussions have been taking place amongst ArtyBird tapestry weavers about hachure, a technique traditionally used in tapestry to create the illusion of folds in cloth, amongst other things, simply using shades of the same colour from light to dark. But before acid dyes became available, yarn was dyed with natural materials. One intriguing aspect of natural dyeing is its subtlety. Unlike synthetic dyes, natural dyes often produce muted contrasts, particularly between light and dark shades. This subtlety encourages us to explore the rich interplay of warm and cool tones, as well as complementary contrasts, typically resulting in a harmonious mid-tone range.

Which brings us to our **first weaversbazaar Challenge!** This summer, Kate will guide you through an easy and enjoyable way to transform our undyed yarns into a stunning palette of natural colours using **solar pots**. This eco-friendly dyeing method harnesses the power of the sun to create beautiful, unique hues.

In the Autumn, we'll take these naturally dyed yarns and weave them using the 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!

Check out our **step-by-step video** on our [website](#) and enjoy watching your solar pots transform over the summer—it's a truly fascinating process! Then send us photos of your results.

And if you have any questions, please do get in touch!



A DAY IN THE WEAVE OF... KATE HORNER

Kate is one of the new owners of weaversbazaar. Here's your chance to get to know her a bit better. Next month it's Anna's turn, assuming she has finished her section of the Murmuration tapestries in time...!

"I am passionate, focused and curious about textiles. And as I discover I immediately want to share. Until now I have done this within the community at ArtyBird Carnforth, but with my new involvement with weaversbazaar, I can now share this with you all as well.

Much of my time is spent teaching and preparing for the range of classes we run at ArtyBird. When I'm not teaching, I love to weave tapestries – but also to explore ideas and materials. My own creative practice is important to me.

My education has been extraordinary, with a spinning and weaving department at school and a contemporary needlework teacher who taught me tapestry. My degree at Huddersfield gave me an insight to industrial practices, whilst my M.A. expanded my studio work.

Teaching has been exhilarating, in secondary school within an extraordinarily creative Expressive Arts department, and with adults as we explore in depth our subject together, under the City & Guilds Accreditation department. This department has been so inspiring to work within, embracing our educational as well as creative ideas in the pursuit of growing professional artists whilst preserving our heritage crafts. ArtyBird Carnforth School for Art and Textiles is an inspiring place of ideas and sharing, and everyone is excited to be part of the weaversbazaar story.

We have moved the business into my weaving workshop. It is a bit of a squeeze, but there is room for both - just. It is inspiring to weave my tapestries surrounded by so much colour!! And this is where I am starting, to understand the colour range that Lin and Matty have created. I am passionate about colour and have taught it for many years, developing a dye system that reflects my approach to observing, matching and mixing. So, I will spend time bringing the 2 systems together in my head and work with them to maximise the range we have. Only then will we start to introduce any new colours to the range, and these will be rigorous in continuing the tradition already established.

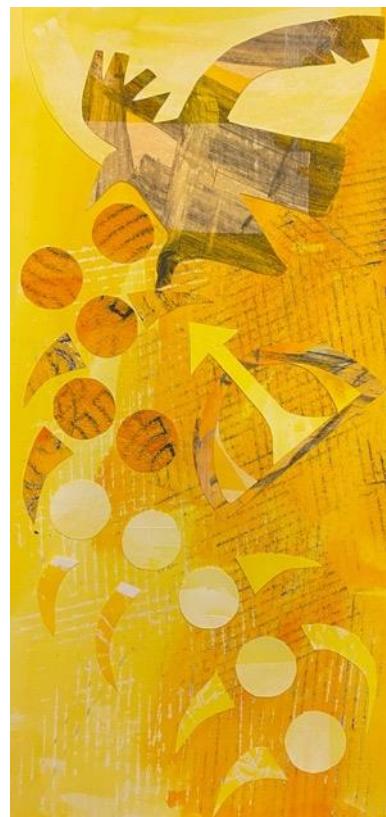
And I will share my explorations, inviting you to join in and we can discover together – the solar pot dyeing challenge is just the first of many.

When Anna first approached me about buying and running weaversbazaar I asked if she could imagine a tapestry world without it? Neither of us could, we have grown up as tapestry weavers with it firmly at the centre of our yarn collection. I have used it in bundles, alone and with other yarns - it plays well with others!! And it dyes beautifully. There are not many tapestries I make where there hasn't been a little dyeing to support the range of colours available. And it is beautiful to stitch with. I have an affinity with wool, and it works so well to stitch into my felt and woven cloths. Students at ArtyBird are exploring these

yarns as well, in embroidery and stitch, felt and more. It feels like a great beginning, bringing together a wealth of experience and knowledge into this new venture.



My own tapestries start with a drawing. In “Trapped” (above) I made drawings of stones trapped in ice outside the ArtyBird Centre. The black ink in the pen ran purple, so I needed a purple tonal range, which I dyed to complement those already available in the weaversbazaar range.



In “Once Upon a Time” (above) I have designed a tapestry in the tradition of storytelling. It was based around the colour yellow, and I needed some primary yellows to sit between the warm and cold yellows in the range. These I have dyed, and they underpin my plan that is emerging through sampling.

You can join me in dyeing your own yarns through our solar pot challenge – see our website for details.

And if you are interested in creating your own “Once Upon a Time...” design, we are running it as a summer school at ArtyBird Carnforth, August 5th – 9th. Contact alisonseddonabc@gmail.com for details.

I’m looking forward to getting to know you all a bit better as we continue to settle into running weaversbazaar, and, in particular, seeing what you create through our challenges, or simply with weaversbazaar yarns.”



We hope you have enjoyed this new issue of the weaversbazaar newsletter. Comments and feedback are welcome, simply email newsletter@weaversbazaar.com. Remember that information regarding events and activities to be included in the next issue should be submitted by 15th of each month. We also welcome suggestions for things to listen to while weaving, or internet rabbit holes to dive down!