



## December 2010

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### Introduction

Welcome to our first weaversbazaar newsletter! We have put this together with the objective of keeping you informed about weaversbazaar developments. We hope that, over time, this newsletter will become one element in a range of facilities we provide which are aimed at all textile artists but especially the tapestry weaving community.

In setting up weaversbazaar we had a number of objectives:

- To provide textile artists with a bespoke yarn dyeing service
- To provide a range of yarn particularly, but not exclusively aimed at tapestry weaving
- To further facilitate a renaissance of tapestry weaving as a textile art form

Ambitious indeed! However we have been really encouraged by the response we have received over the past six months and as feedback and sharing of experiences is a key element in realising our ambitions we hope to hear from you about how you have used weaversbazaar yarns and what additional features you would like to see so as to enhance your use of them.

We really hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to your comments and (hopefully) contributions in upcoming editions.

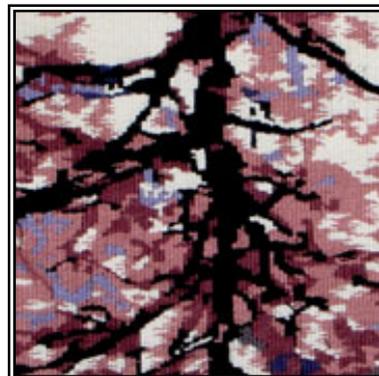
Meanwhile we take this opportunity of wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a productive New Year.

*Lin and Matty*

### weaversbazaar Yarns

Matty and Lin met in 2008 at the West Dean College 2008 Summer School on tapestry weaving. Although we had both woven on traditional looms, we were new to tapestry weaving and over the course of the six days, under the tutorage of Caron Penney, shared a 'eureka!' moment as we came to realise the sense of 'coming home' that weaving tapestries gave us. Having found the textile art form that we wanted to pursue and to develop, we were then faced with a challenge shared by so many others; how to source, in a consistent and sustainable way, just the right yarns in just the right colours.

In the course of our explorations we identified both suppliers of good quality worsted wool yarns and dyers able to take small samples and to dye at small quantities to a consistently high standard. Our first batch of yarns were a collection of colours Lin needed to weave a piece called 'Reflected Tree' (right) – this was a range of muted pinks, purples and aubergines in 2/18 yarn weights which allowed six to eight strands per weft with lots of scope for blending.



Matty then obtained a batch of 2/12 yarn custom-dyed to a specific shade of slate grey. Using just this and an undyed yarn of the same weight in blends of six strands per weft, she wove an image entitled 'Neda' (left), creating a range of subtle tonal qualities.



Having worked with the yarns we felt they were absolutely the ideal tapestry wool but that they could also be used for lace knitting, lace making, woven upholstery and rugs.

In addition the facility to provide bespoke dyeing seemed like the ideal basis from which to launch a very special service; weaversbazaar was established over the summer of 2010 with the website going live in September of the same year.

However, having sourced the right yarns and established the means of offering a custom-dyeing facility, weaversbazaar has another very clear aim: we want to contribute to a renaissance in tapestry weaving as an art form. As individuals both Lin and Matty have established links with The British Tapestry Group and the American Tapestry Alliance. In addition, both are members of the Online Guild of Spinners, Weavers & Dyers. Through these organisations, as well as via weaversbazaar, we hope to see the community of tapestry weavers grow and flourish; so we would welcome your feedback and your weaving stories so that we can share them with others.

## Yarn News

The weaversbazaar colour range is defined by design needs rather than by some pre-determined commercial palette. Consequently it has grown in a rather idiosyncratic way. The origins of the initial range of colours are described above. Since then a further range of 10 colours were added in response to weaves that we are/were planning to do. Beyond that we have been really interested in the approaches taken by others who have requested custom-dyed colours; in one case this was a range of six colours all within the same blue colour band but with subtle variation in levels of saturation. Another customer has focused on three distinct colours all at the same saturation level but within the purple/maroon spectrum. Yet another customer has a 'wish list' of yarns that is exceedingly diverse in the colours it ranges across – virtually a full rainbow! Overall we have almost doubled the original colour range, for as these custom-dyed colours come into stock we shall be making them available to others within the pre-dyed range. Full details and photos will be uploaded in the New Year.

## The story of a weave: a personal perspective from Matty

I have recently completed a weave entitled 'Sunrise Shadows' which was a hugely rewarding experience from a number of perspectives. Firstly, from a design point of view it was one of those images that came into being almost fully formed; I had been out early, walking my greyhound, Lily. It was a very bright morning in early October, with a strong sun rising behind us and driving long shadows before it. Lily and I were walking beside a winter wheat field, newly germinated creating a carpet of rich, bright green. There before me was this pair of shadows just asking to be woven!

I took a few photos using my mobile phone and when I got home I enlarged one I liked, printed it and then created a cartoon by tracing over just the two shadows. Again, the composition just seemed to be right without my having to make any changes! I decided to weave the image sideways so that I could not only create the long diagonal lines created by the shadows but also hatch four shades of green across the background.



Then came my next great satisfaction – weaversbazaar had just the colours I needed! For the background I chose green (0007), emerald (0016), soft green (0017)



and gold (0014) 2/18's, creating four distinct blends, using six strands to a weft and weaving on a sett of 3epc. For the shadow areas I used aubergine (0005) and emerald (0016) to not only create that purple tone shadows have but to also carry the green tone through.

The actual weave is A4 size and it was completed in just 10 days. I have got as far as mounting it on 3mm MDF but have yet to decide the final presentation.

I normally agonise over the design process, and weave and un-weave endlessly to get things the way I want them - but this weave, from conception to completion, just seemed to be on a self-fulfilling journey. I hope you enjoy the end result as much as I enjoyed creating it!

Have you got a story of a weave that you would like to share? Do get in touch and share it with us.

## Links

The internet is a great source of information and here are links to a few of the main tapestry groups around the world:

The British Tapestry Group: <http://www.thebritishtapestrygroup.co.uk/index.htm>

The European Tapestry Forum: <http://www.tapestry.dk/about.html>

The American Tapestry Alliance: <http://www.americantapestryalliance.org/>

The Canadian Tapestry Network: <http://www.canadiantapestrynetwork.com/>

The Australian Tapestry Workshop: <http://www.austapestry.com.au/>

The Ramses Wissa Wassef Art Centre: <http://www.wissa-wassef-arts.com/intro.htm>

Do you have any favourite links? Do let us have them so that we can share them with others.

## weaversbazaar 2011....

We have lots of ideas about how tapestry weaving might be made more accessible and how the techniques of weaving tapestry might be more widely shared. Over the next twelve months we shall be sharing these with you.

If you have ideas, stories or suggestions on facilities or supplies you would like to have access to, then just drop us an email ([info@weaversbazaar.com](mailto:info@weaversbazaar.com))

Meanwhile we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of weaversbazaar, to wish you all best wishes for the Season and for the New Year.

**Happy Weaving!!**



# weaversbazaar