



## 2017 – Our Year in Review

***KHWS Objective Statement:*** the operation of a handloom weaving and spinning guild for the purposes of study and promotion of the art and craft of handloom weaving and spinning.

While our Guild name includes the descriptive words “weavers” and “spinners”, the expertise, skills, artistry and designs evident in the workshops, demonstrations and the beautiful and useful textile products produced by our talented members include a broad range of fibre creations.

Sharing skills, encouraging interest in our craft and training the artists who will walk in our footsteps are important components of Guild membership. Members enjoy a variety of wonderful workshops; several focus/study groups; established spinning days; monthly Guild meetings; weekly Open Studio sessions; and learning from and growing with one another. In our art form, we travel the world together, studying a broad range of topics and enjoy the beautiful textiles created by fibre friends near and far as we bring back treasures from travels that are a basis for sharing and study.

Another important component of Guild membership is the opportunity to share the history of, as well as the range of possibilities for, creating with fibre. This occurs throughout the year within the Tett and out in the community. We find that visitors wander into the studio whenever people are working there.

2017 has proven to be an exciting and productive year for our Guild members. Our Guild year is planned and recorded from June to end of May so gathering numbers and information for this report present a few challenges each year. The numbers shared here are representative of the entire calendar year, 2017. While we attempt to capture statistics regularly, the more important task is welcoming and enjoying the company of our visitors, keen to see what we do, how we have continued the traditions of weaving and spinning and especially how we can share the skills with either individuals or most importantly, children in the community who will carry these skills forward for the future.

### **HIGHLIGHTS of 2017**

- Numerous in-studio learning opportunities (Open Studios, workshops, study groups)
- Community demonstrations/teaching experiences (Family Day at the TETT, ArtFest, First Capital Day, Sheep Dog Trials/Sheep to Shawl Competition, Culture Days, Kids Creativity Club, Skeleton Park Festival, Community Harvest Kingston’s fete, TETT Birthday Party, Kingston elementary school demos, several Queen's student workshops)
- Welcoming visitors to our Studio (Open Studio, November Sale, Culture Days, ArtsExpo)

<p><b>GUILD WORKSHOPS OFFERED (Jan. – Dec. 2017)</b></p>	<p>- ongoing and varied topics: weaving, spinning, felting ,dye work, rugs, tapestry and baskets</p> <p>- guild members as instructors as well as visiting instructors</p> <p>- also several ‘pop up’/sharing sessions; some pop-ups were posted on the TETT event page and resulted in new members joining the Guild</p>	<p>Coordinated Workshops: 79 member attendees, 6 non-member attendees</p> <p>Pop-up Workshops: 47 members and guest attendees (Dye Station and Open Studio)</p>
<p><b>DYE STATION</b></p>	<p>- used as part of the annual Ontario Handspinning Seminar, hosted in Kingston June 2017</p> <p>- <i>FIRST FRIDAY DYE DAY</i> each month as a training and skills development opportunity for our weavers (as a part of our Trillium Grant commitment) is ongoing</p>	<p>10 Seminar participants – non-members from across Ontario.</p> <p>Monthly dye days enjoyed by 47 member dye enthusiasts.</p>
<p><b>TETT RELATED ACTIVITIES/EVENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Family Day</b> - February 20, 2017</p> <p><b>Arts Expo</b> – Member weavers/spinners participated and demonstrations in the studio</p> <p><b>Culture Days</b> – focus on displays and demonstrations in our studio and we had members in the studio working on blanket weaving and personal projects on the weekend.</p>	<p>400+ visitors through the studio</p> <p>74 visitors in studio</p> <p>162 visited on the Open Studio day alone.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY EVENTS</b></p>	<p><b>First Capital Day</b>- period costumes and demonstrations of period style carding, spinning and weaving</p> <p><b>Artfest</b> – sales; extensive, interactive demonstration are for spinning (spindles and wheel, carding of fresh fleece; simple to complex loom weaving)</p> <p><b>Sheep Dog Trials and SHEEP TO SHAWL COMPETITION</b> – demonstrations; Saturday competition – KHWS had 2 teams involved</p>	<p>We have not attempted to capture the number of interested visitors at these events</p> <p>We display members work and hand out TETT brochures</p> <p>Community events are a priority as time permits and our weavers and spinners are keen to get the craft form out into the Kingston Community.</p>

<b>COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND OUTREACH</b>	School requested presentation re: weaving and spinning for children to experience	
<b>OPEN STUDIO</b>	<p>Wednesday evenings 6-9:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> of the month; Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Guild members have access to the studio at other times as well and visitors will often stop in to see what is happening.</p> <p>We continue to offer our members warps on several looms that are shared regularly for rugs and tea towel weaving.</p> <p>Encouraging visitors to come into the studio and view our work in action is a high priority though can be disruptive during classes, so signage indicating “Workshop in progress- Please do not disturb” does appear at the door when a workshop with an instructor is underway.</p>	<p>We keep records in our daily sign-in book at the studio, and when possible, our members update the counts throughout their work days in studio.</p> <p>In 2017 we welcomed over 1100 visitors into our studios and events both in studio and the Rehearsal Hall for day and evening visit, and Guild events.</p> <p>We did not keep counts for the Summer TETT tours</p>
<b>Annual Event: NOVEMBER SHOW &amp; SALE</b>	<p>Sale in the TETT Rehearsal Room</p> <p>Studio - displays (spinning, weaving varied styles, felting, dyeing) and demonstrations</p>	511 visitors returned to the TETT for our November 2017 sale, held Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018:**

**May 31, 2018: KHWS Celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Kingston’s longest continually practicing Artisan Guild with a PARTY at the Tett!**

Workshops, study groups, more learning opportunities

Guild Challenge

Regular Community Demonstrations, especially Sheep to Shawl Festival, which has become a tradition

Growing our Children’s Programming - using the small looms as a foundation for this successful project’s development and sharing. Extremely well received by parents and schools and fun to organize and share!