

KHWS Committees Annual Reports – June 2024 to May 2025

For AGM 2025 – September 10, 2025

KHWS COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Lead: Janet Noyes

Communications Past Lead: Nancy Bowman

Additional Website Support: Em Harmsen & Lexy Correa - LOC Marketing and Communications

Mailing List Manager: Norma Rosier - Membership Co-ordinator

Communications Committee oversees the following:

- KHWS Website (including Threads of History)
- KHWS Social Media (Facebook & Instagram)
- KHWS Communications (Mailchimp, Google Group, emails)
- KHWS Studio Calendar (hard copy in studio & digital copy on website)
- Quarterly Submissions to Fibre Focus (OHS magazine)
- KHWS Zoom Account

ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS LEAD TRANSITION

Transition of Communications Lead from Nancy to Janet has slowly taken place over the past year with only partial hand over of some lead items. Nancy continues to be an integral part “behind the scenes” in terms of effort and access to KHWS various communications initiatives.

KHWS WEBSITE

With authorization from the Board and Membership, LOC Marketing & Communications was contracted to help the Communications Team develop a “Members-Only” section on the KHWS website (www.khws.ca) where various documents could be made available for KHWS Members. This was accomplished in late 2024 with the Members Portal containing the following pages: Operational Documents, Forms, General Meeting Minutes, Board Meeting Minutes, Inventories, Newsletters & Resources. The access code to the portal will be updated with each new fiscal year and will be circulated to the updated membership list.

In the first half of 2025, with significant help from Em Harmsen, the KHWS Website has undergone a significant “overhaul” to make it more accessible and inviting. The theme, layout, fonts and content have all been upgraded. This process is still ongoing and Nancy, Em and Janet are working away in the background to make our window to the World Wide Web inviting and informative. Note that the link to the Threads of History site is still active and linked to the KHWS website.

KHWS SOCIAL MEDIA

KHWS has a social media presence in both Facebook and Instagram and these links are shown on the KHWS website. Hopefully everyone has “liked” and “followed” KHWS on these platforms. Currently these sites are managed by Nancy but if there is someone interested in helping out with our social media feeds, please let us know.

KHWS COMMUNICATIONS

KHWS Monthly Newsletters and Meeting Notices are circulated to the membership through Mailchimp. The Newsletter comes out in the middle of each month on the third Wednesday of the month while the Meeting Notice comes out on the first Wednesday of the month, announcing the General Meetings that are held on the Second Wednesday of the month (September through May). Janet has taken the lead on the Mailchimp distributions and Nancy still maintains access for redundancy. The distribution list is managed by the Membership Co-ordinator (Norma Rosier) to ensure that the list reflects the most up-to-date membership listing.

There are a number of Google Groups that have been developed for specific interest groups but the general membership list google group (khws-members@googlegroups.com) has been very useful to get additional information out to the membership. The feedback we have received indicate that this communication is appreciated by the membership as a whole. Again, the distribution list is managed by Norma to ensure the most recent membership listing is used.

The Kinghws@gmail.com remains the main e-mail address for KHWS. It is monitored (almost daily) by the Communications Team and the KHWS Board Chair also has access to this email.

KHWS STUDIO CALENDAR

The online Studio Calendar is managed by Nancy and is accessible on the KHWS website. This calendar is managed through a separate g-mail account. The online calendar is the most current but there is also a hard copy of the Studio Calendar located in the studio.

OHS FIBRE FOCUS SUBMISSIONS

KHWS continues to provide four submissions per year to the Fibre Focus magazine. This submission consists of a short summary of our activities (maximum 100 words) and a photo or two (in required resolution). Currently Nancy is still completing these submissions but we would welcome someone to take over this contribution.

KHWS ZOOM ACCOUNT

The KHWS Zoom account is used weekly for Open Studio meetings as well as for the Winter General Meetings, Board Meetings and various other committee meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

As you can see, there are a few activities that the Communications Team could need help with. If you are interested, please contact Janet (jannoyes48@gmail.com) or Nancy (ncbowman32@gmail.com).

KHWS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS - EVENTS COMMITTEE

Nancy Bowman

“Events” is the longstanding name of this committee. Reflecting on this past year, we can see connections and sharing across a variety of age groups and communities located within the Tett and well beyond.

Several events are cyclical and repeat each year. Some require minimal planning - others require significant planning and preparation(ie summer camp). Often our connections begin with a conversation and grow into an in depth and long term commitment.

The impact of the efforts of our members are difficult to quantify. We know that some participants decide to become members, and several comment that they will be sure to come to the annual sale. The home school group commented it was their favourite field trip and requested to come back another year. A fibre festival organizer commented: “ There are always people who are curious about spinning/weaving and you folks are great to help them get started. You also promote local fibre and fleece - that is why we ask you to come back.”

The activities of this committee provide lots of evidence for our values

~ connect ~ contribute ~ share

The following chart is a brief outline of the activities in 2024-2025 - as well as a tentative listing for next year.

KHWS 2024-2025 Events and Community Connections		
DATE	EVENT/COMMUNITY	DESCRIPTION
June 1, 2024	Lansdowne Fibre+Textile Event	
August 5, 2024	Tett wide - open	Studio open + active
August 9,10,11 2024	Sheep to Shawl Grass Creek Park	3 days - interactive demonstration/displays Sheep to Shawl competition and auction
August 24, 2024	Kemptville - StashIt Fibre and Textile	Interactive demo/display
Sept. 28, 2024	Doors Open - Tett wide	Studio open + active

October 2024	KFPL - Make It Program Sheep to Yarn	Hands on program of fleece process
December 11, 2024	Home School Group - Gananoque	In studio - hands on program
February 11, 2025	Family Day - studio activity Weave a friendship bracelet	In studio - Tett wide event
March - April	4H Textile group Athens	Initial planning - expect a longer term arrangement
April 2025	Woven Together Series - Partnership with ISKA - 4 week series	Cancelled this year
May 3, 2025	Spencerville Fibre Festival	Interactive displays and demos
KHWS 2025-2026 EVENTS - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS		
May 9, 2025	Regional Heritage Fair - Queen's	Interactive demos and displays Janet N. organizer
June 7, 2025	Lansdowne Textile Event	Elaine H - organizer -"People's Choice Award" Summer fibres - flax, cotton, silk
June, July, August	4H Textile club	Introduction meeting Washing fleece Some attended the Sheep to Shawl event
July	KFPL - Make it Program - Sheep to Yarn	Public demand requested a repeat

July 11 and 24, 2025	Summer Camp @ the Tett	Rehearsal Hall + studio
August 4, 2025	Tett wide - pop ups/open studios	In studio - hands on - very active
August 8,9,10	Grass Creek Park - Partnership with Kingston Sheep Dog Trials (KSD)	Demonstrations and displays (Fri.and Sun.) Sheep to Shawl Competition, judging, and auction 4 teams this year: Belleville, Warkworth and Kingston (2)
August 23, 2025	StashIt Fibre and Textiles - Kemptville	Interactive demos and displays
Oct 4, 2025	Tett @ 10 celebration 7pm - 10:30 pm	
TDB	Gananoque Home School Group	
February	Family Day - Tett wide activities	
Spring	Woven Together	

KHWS TETT REPRESENTATIVE

Nancy Bowman

This committee meets for 1 hour approximately every month. It consists of all Tett staff and a representative from every organization in the building.

It provides an opportunity for each group to share upcoming events, make connections and most importantly problem solve and make decisions together. For example, in the past year we decided which days to offer building wide activities and confirmed the holiday closures.

With the direction of this group, the building is now open on Easter Monday and one of the summer holiday Mondays.

Information and ideas are channeled through this committee. The Tett staff introduced the new logo and will provide further support once the 10th year celebration is over.

KHWS MEMBERSHIP

Norma Rosier

The total number of members to the end of May 2025 was 115.

Of these, 11 are life members.

8 members joined after January 2025 and hence paid at the reduced rate.

KHWS STUDIO REPORT:

Nancy Bowman - Spinning Equipment

Janet Noyes & Alida Moffatt - Weaving Equipment

Norma Rosier - Library

Hollie Currie - Dye Station and Window Display

With support from Anne Marie Moon to deal with stash and studio projects

Studio Space and Equipment (Studio Team plus others)

The highlight of this year started with putting the grey cabinets on wheels in June 2024 and then relocating them to improve studio layout receiving positive feedback overall. This was followed in late 2024-early 2025 with a new credenza including secure storage, a large storage cabinet, additional shelving under the front window and new coat rack. These new spaces and reorganization resulted in significant relocation of equipment.

A new laptop and wireless printer were acquired in the summer of 2024 and a member-access account was set up on the lap-top to facilitate access to digital resources in the studio.

Spinning and weaving equipment inventory completed by April 2025; any equipment identified as surplus to studio needs was sold or disposed of.

Fibre Preparation and Spinning (Nancy Bowman)

In conjunction with the significant studio reorganization this year, we have been able to relocate fibre preparation and spinning equipment in a way that allows for easier access and clear labelling.

We received donations of 3 spinning wheels which we decided to keep, selling 3 wheels and still maintaining a variety of brands and styles.

The annual inventory ensures that we are reviewing equipment needs. Maintenance is an ongoing process throughout the year. A major benefit now is that the inventory information is available on the Members-Only Portal on our website for easy reference.

The equipment that is available for rental outside the studio is typically related to workshops. However, many members enjoy bringing their own bobbins and using a studio wheel while they are here.

Spin-Ins were held regularly outside of the studio and well attended (special flax spinning wheel demo Jan 2025).

Weaving (Janet Noyes and Alida Moffatt)

Part of the studio reorganization effort was to improve the use of studio space and rationalize the loom complement and related equipment to provide both a cross section of loom types while retaining sufficient capacity to support ongoing weaving workshops. With the addition of two new Jack looms, other looms were determined to be surplus and sold.

Dye Station (Hollie Currie)

We did have a wonderful Natural dye day led by Katherine Romba in July that was well attended. Looks like this may be an annual play dye day. If members are interested in dyeing workshops please request and we can seek out some instructors.

Dye garden thriving: indigo, sample plant dyes tested (soy milk mordant, handspun wool).

Library (Norma Rosier)

Our library continues to grow due to a number of generous donations of books this year. We also have a new subscription to "Weft" magazine, which is the sister publication to the popular "Ply" magazine, and since we also joined Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) we are receiving issues of "Shuttle, Spindle and DyePot". We are also building up a reference only section of important items that remain in the studio so that they are always accessible. An updated online and searchable inventory of the Guild library has been added to the members portal.

Studio Projects (Anne-Marie Moon, Jackie Sylvester, Janet Noyes, Alida Moffatt, Josée Menard)

Many studio projects were undertaken this year and through into the summer of 2025. The projects are designed as low-cost, hands-on opportunities to try new techniques plus revenue generators for the guild plus using up studio stash.

- Peaceful Rhythms Tea Towels (2024) followed by Overshot Sampler, Bumberet Tea Towels, and Catalogne Weaving in 2025.
- Big Wrap Beach Blanket launched spring 2025 on the Waddington Countermarche Loom.
- Summer 2025: Shades of India Towels, Finnish Twill Towels, False Damask and PinStripe
- One Warp, One Wardrobe → evolved into sewing club's yardage project on the J-Loom.

Donations of Equipment and Fibre

Numerous donations of equipment and fibre were received from individuals and organizations, including looms, spinning wheels, and fibre. All items were considered for their potential value to the members (projects, use in workshops, upgrade equipment etc). When appropriate, donations were identified as surplus, and offered for sale, first to members and then outside the Guild.

Events & Outreach

- Filming for Tett@10 celebrations (Oct 2025) featured studio members and activities.
- Ongoing open invitations to participate in weaving, spinning, dyeing, and collaborative projects

KHWS DYE GARDEN

Katherine Romba

This year was a good one for the dye garden. We had--through new donations, perennials, and some reseeding--Japanese Indigo, marigold, eucalyptus of many varieties, weld, madder, lady's bed straw, and calendula. We had a wonderful group of bucketeers who ensured that the garden was well watered. On July 20, we held our (annual) natural dye day event at the studio, with 10 participants and 11 plants (madder, Japanese indigo, jewelweed, onion skins, poppy petals, turmeric, mint, carrot tops, buckthorn leaves, avocado pits, and gypsywort). Usually we can use many of the garden's plants for the event, but this year plants were developing late, and only the indigo was used. Next year the madder and lady's bedstraw roots should be ready for harvest and dyeing. They both provide a rose/red.

KHWS HOLIDAY STUDIO SALE

Nancy Bowman

While the Kingston Holiday Markets are scheduled throughout the Tett, we open our studio and set up shop with an assortment of our spinning, weaving, felting and baskets for sale. We choose two of the December weekends - setting up on Saturday morning and returning items to the display window on Sunday afternoon. It does mean the studio is not available for workshops on these weekends.

We follow the same Quality Standards as our annual sale.

Some KHWS members have found this sale a good way to submit items for the first time.

Since there is no additional rental fee, and minimal advertising and promotion needed, we benefit financially. We also acknowledge the connections that happen as people are welcomed into our studio.

KHWS SPINNING STUDY GROUP

Currently 19 members in the group (this is a large number if everyone came in person).
6- 10 attend meetings regularly. We met 7 times (October - May) on Sundays 11am - 1pm. We schedule meetings around workshop and sale dates.

Focus this year: fibres (Icelandic fleece , alpaca) - techniques (drafting, woollen spinning/long draw, plying) - tool (using a diz, spindles)

Highlight - Nancy Carr provided an in depth presentation about alpaca with lots of samples

A few members helped with skirting on shearing day at the Sweet Sheep Company Farm.

We will ask for new and renewed interest in September. There have also been suggestions for longer term study groups (ie. spin to weave).

Submitted by Nancy Bowman