



Minutes of KHWS General Meeting, Wednesday, April 8, 2026 Tett Centre for Creativity and Learning

Meeting was called to order at 7.00 pm (quorum requirement was met)

1. **Welcome:** Cathy Davidson greeted the members.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion: Nancy Carr **Seconded:** Audra Phillips
Carried
3. **Motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026, General Meeting**
Motion: Brandy Hyndman **Seconded:** Gayle Outhwaite
Carried
4. **Programme: Beth Abbott – Spinning and Knitting Shawls and Shawl Shaping**
Beth Abbott provided the members with a great presentation on shawl shaping.

Beth explained that the shawl has been a useful garment for centuries. Shawls probably began as a skin wrapped around shoulders with a piece of bone to pin them in place. Before knitted shawls, there were woven shawls. The woven shawl would typically have been woven as a long rectangle. Shawls were used for working – these were rectangular with long ties behind the waist that kept the wearer warm while not getting in the way of the work. There were church shawls that would typically have more lace and fancy shawls that would typically be made from a finer wool. Once knitting became popular, this medium allowed for shaping the shawl more easily.

Beth showed several shawls that she had knitted, mostly from homespun 2 ply yarn. Each one had a unique story as to what Beth was trying to accomplish. Gabby and Mary modeled the shawls so that the members could see their shape and drape and how they lie around the neck. Beth explained about shaping – demonstrating how she played with increases to achieve the shape that she was looking for. She showed the members examples of triangular shawls, offset triangular shawls, rectangular shawls, square shawls and circular shawls. A couple of the examples would be worn as accessories, rather than as a garment. She showed us examples of Icelandic shawls (beautiful rainbow colours) and Faroese shawls. Each shawl was chosen to demonstrate a different technique with the use of increases and stitches. She demonstrated the use of garter stitches and eyelet among others. Beth uses 3.5 mm – 4 mm needles for her shawls. She recommended choosing a needle size that is bigger than for knitting socks or a sweater because the larger needles allow for more draping and flexibility.

Beth brought in several books for the members to review. She also had provided the membership with links to "Shawl Geometry: Square Knit in the Round" and "5 Easy Top-Down Shawl Shapes" from the Knitting Circle.

Cathy Davidson thanked Beth for the fascinating presentation and advised members that she has a copy of Beth's email with the links referred to above if anyone did not receive the email with the link.

5. **Information Updates/Reports:**

a) **Tett Representative Report**

Cathy gave this report on behalf of Nancy Bowman who could not attend. Staff at the TETT are currently conducting a way finding survey. If any member has suggestions about signage, please send your comments to Nancy.

Other Updates

Cathy Davidson also advised that Cindy from Memorial Centre Market has picked up the donated material for window coverings and thanked the Guild for the donations. Further donations will be gratefully received.

Cathy advised that the Sheep to Yarn Workshop held on March 31 for the Queen's International Student Centre, which was organized by Gabby Marshall and Shelsey Taylor, was a big success. Fleece was donated by Chris and Hollie assisted with demonstrating how drop spindles work. The workshop drew in a great variety of people – even 3 or 4 male students. Photos of the event will be shared.

b) **3P Update**

Cathy Davidson advised that this is a work in progress and will probably not be ready before the summer but should be ready by the time of the Annual General Meeting in September.

c) **Upcoming Presentations**

The judging for the submissions to the Guild Challenge: Text to Textile will take place on May 13 at the General Meeting. An instruction sheet for the Challenge was handed out to the members present. Further information about drop off will be forthcoming in the next Newsletter. There will be prizes for submissions under each of the categories.

d) **Sales:**

Cathy Davidson advised that there was no update on sales at this time.

e) **Membership:** Norma Rosier reported that there are more new members! We now have 130 members.

f) **Treasurer:** Mary Mayo reported that the Budget process has begun, and she is looking for feedback from the Board.

g) **Studio and Equipment** – Janet Noyes reported that there is a studio project – 8 waffle weave tea towels on the J loom and there is another in the works once the May floor loom workshop has wrapped up. The studio team has a few more ideas for studio projects in the next few months.

h) **Workshops:** Gabby Marshall advised that the workshops have been very popular and most are full, with some wait lists. The Lace Weaves Structures workshop has been deferred to the fall. There is still room in the weaving series workshop with Barbara Heins – sessions in April and May. If you are registered for the spinning retreat (July 2-5) with Beth Abbott and Beth

Showalter, you will get a link to a project questionnaire to be completed prior to the workshop. Jackie Sylvester is also organizing a felting workshop with a European felter in August. This will be open to Guild members. It will be expensive, but the end product will be a beautiful pair of boots and a bag.

i) Events

There will be a celebration in the studio, during Open Studio from 1pm-4pm, on Sunday, April 19, to commemorate the founding of the Guild, with snacks and afternoon tea being served.

Hollie Currie is taking the lead on the Guild participation at GATHER in the County on June 13, 2026. Hollie will be sending an email to members asking for volunteers and products for sale.

j) Archiving Project with Queen's University: Yael Schlick advised that she will likely take the materials that she has collated to the Archives next week. From now on, she will probably collect the material to be archived annually, so that the job isn't as demanding. In response to a question, she advised that the Archives are open to the public and anyone can go in and browse through the collection.

k) Other:

- **Nominating Committee**

Stacey Robb was unable to attend, so there was no report from the Nominating Committee.

- **Show and Share:**

- Brandy Hyndman – shawl done on the rigid heddle loom. The warp was a sock weight yarn and the weft was a 2/8 tencel. Lovely rainbow colours called Pride from The Blue Brick.
- Norma Rosier showed the members a "hap" shawl that she is currently knitting from Shetland wool. The shawl is knitted in pieces which are grafted together with garter stitching to make a square shape.

6. Next meeting:

May 13, 2026 – 7 pm.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Gabby Marshall

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm