

Skills Day Mini-workshop Details 2026

Date of Skills Day – 18th April.

All mini-workshops will be held at the Guild.

Needle Felted Landscape

Leader: Sue Vince

Time: 1.30pm- 3.30pm

Room: Studio 2

Cost: £3

Number of places: 6

Create your own beautiful mini-landscape picture using wool fibre and needle felting technique. Bring a picture or postcard of a scene to inspire you or just let your imagination free! All materials are provided including fibre, a wool 'canvas' and a needle felt needle, which you get to keep. Cost £3 per person.

Longdraw Spinning

Leader: Liz McCarron Heal

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Room: Studio 3

Number of places: 6

Learn to or hone your skills in longdraw woollen spinning. You'll first learn to make perfect fluffy rolags on handcards, and then how to spin them to make bouncy, fuzzy woollen yarn. We'll talk about the best fleeces to use for this technique and the best applications for this type of yarn.

Your spinning wheel (scotch tension is best for this method) with at least one empty bobbin, or you could borrow a guild wheel. Hand cards if you have them, but you can also borrow the guild ones. You might want to bring an apron as we will be carding fleece.

Fleece Sorting

Leader: Kathy Davis

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Room: Studio 1

Number of places: 8

Learn how to assess the characteristics of a raw fleece and sort it into component parts for spinning. A fleece will be provided for learning, but if you have a fleece of your own, do bring it along and we can look at that too!

Please note we will be handling raw fleece, so please take all precautions in handling this type of resource. More details can be found on the Guild website in the Members' Hub under 'resources' – 'Fleece A Buyers' Guide.'

Sock Knitting

Leader: Kathy Davis

Time: 1.30am-4.30pm

Room: Studio 1

Number of places: 4

If you are a knitter and would like to venture into knitting your own socks, Kathy will guide you through sock construction and demystify some of the terminology. Knitting a miniature sample sock (less than 10cms/4" in size) using 4 straight double pointed needles and double-knit yarn should be achievable within three hours, hence the slightly later finish.

You must be able to knit plain & purl to join this mini-workshop.

Natural Dyeing with Black Walnut

Leader: Kath Steggall

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Room: Studio 4

Number of places: 6

Come and have a go at dyeing some of your own wool with last autumn's Black Walnuts from Trish's farm. Find out how to make a dye bath from scratch and finish preparing one that has been steeping for several days. We will compare dyeing mordanted wool with non-mordanted wool. Expect some beautiful rich browns.

Bring along some pre-scoured fleece or yarn that you would like to dye. Total weight per member must not exceed 50g. Please wear old clothes/apron and bring marigold type gloves.

Fabric Flower Collage

Leader: Sarah Bond

Time: 10.30am-12.30pm

Room: Studio 2

Cost: £4

Number of places: 6

Create a beautiful fabric collage based on flowers in a vase. Sarah will also show you how to begin to embellish your collage using the Persian embroidery technique. All materials will be provided, but please bring your own sewing kit including small sharp scissors. Cost £4 per person.

