



# Ebor Ruggers

[www.eborruggers.com](http://www.eborruggers.com)

June 2012

## MEETING DATES

12.30 - 4.30pm at Dunnington Reading Rooms, Church Street, Dunnington YO19 5PW

9<sup>th</sup> June Working meeting including a beginner's workshop 10-12 noon with Lewis and Louisa Creed. After lunch Lewis and Louisa will stay at the club to offer help and advice. No charge.

7<sup>th</sup> July Working meeting

4<sup>th</sup> August All day Summer event. Details coming soon.



Jenny's splendid chicken shows just what can be achieved with a variations pack! How's yours coming along?

Woolfest, the annual celebration of all things woolly, takes place this month at Mitchell's Livestock Centre Cockermouth on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. With a special emphasis on rare and local fibres, this year's event has a marketplace, workshops and demonstrations. Not to mention real live sheep and other fibre-producing animals! For more information visit [www.woolfest.co.uk](http://www.woolfest.co.uk) or call 01697 478707.

York Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers are organising a coach trip to Woolfest on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at a cost of £20. Contact Mrs Elizabeth Smedley on 01377 288180.

May's Locker Hooking workshop with Anne Lancaster was a great success with around 20 members taking part. Participants all learnt the basic techniques of locker hooking and made a coaster and either a mirror frame or the front for a bag. Anne brought a fantastic array of yarns and fabrics for us all to choose from and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

Have a look at our **Facebook** page for some photos - you can find a link on our website [www.eborruggers.com](http://www.eborruggers.com)

Are you going on Anne's "Hooked and Prodded Landscape" workshop at Ryedale Museum in September (more information @ [www.ragrugging.co.uk](http://www.ragrugging.co.uk)) and need inspiration? "**Inspired Landscape**" is a fabulous new exhibition to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North York Moors National Park. It will showcase new work by 5 artists at the Moors National Park Centre in Danby from May 13<sup>th</sup> - July 17<sup>th</sup>. Call 01439 772737 for details.

North Yorkshire Open Studios 12 takes place over two weekends in June - 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>. 131 artists are taking part this year throughout North Yorkshire. The studios are grouped into three geographical areas: the Dales, Central and Moors and Coast. There are a number of tempting workshops, including one on rag-rugging in Scarborough. Karen Griffiths will be exhibiting her ragwork pieces at the Quaker Meeting House, Airton, Skipton. Full details of all exhibitors, workshops and maps can be found at [www.nyos.org.uk](http://www.nyos.org.uk)

## NAVAJO RUG MAKING IN NEW MEXICO by Jenny Barnes

The photos on the right were taken when I was touring Arizona and New Mexico, visiting Native American reservations and pueblos. The traditions that are still maintained and crafts that are still produced are amazing. They include rug making. The Navajo create rugs by weaving on backstrap looms, often in their traditional hogans. The pictures show a rug in the process of weaving on such a loom, and the spinning process being demonstrated by Katherine Paymella, a Navajo woman living in the Canyon de Chelly near Albuquerque. The rugs are woven in traditional patterns, the wool coming from the churro sheep originally introduced by the Spanish conquistadors. The spindle is similar to the drop spindle used in the UK, but the shaft is longer and it is used in a sitting position, the shaft being twirled along the thigh.

Katherine keeps and shears her own churro sheep. She first produces a loosely spun yarn (what we would call a roving) and then spins it again into the fine yarn she uses for weaving. The yarn is dyed using mainly natural dyes from plants and minerals available locally, though bright red (a favourite colour) is normally a modern chemical dye. Navajo weaving patterns vary widely from simple striped designs developed from the traditional 'chief blankets', through complex geometric patterns as seen in the picture, to modern pictorial rugs showing animals and people about their daily lives, both traditional and modern.

I was fortunate to be able to visit a large trading post that sells rugs from local weavers. I was completely blown away by an antique chief blanket on sale at \$18,000 but commonsense had to rule. Yes, I did buy a rug, just a small one, and yes I will bring it with me to the next meeting I get to - hopefully in June!



## YOUR COMMITTEE

Chair: Gill Barker

Secretary: Susan Jordan

Treasurer: Kathy West

Newsletter: Anne Bush and

Margaret Hockey

Diary and Visitors: Angela Gray

Mini Packs: Maggie Hague

A big thank you to all those members who have told us they are able to receive their newsletter by email - this will save Ebor Ruggers a lot of money. With the recent increase in postage more than half of your subscription would otherwise be going out in the costs for producing and posting the newsletter. If you are happy to receive yours in this way too please let Anne or Margaret know.

Thanks to Angela, Susan and Margaret for braving the chilly weather at the Dutch House Spring Festival, Crayke. There was a lot of interest from the visitors to the festival. We've had several requests for our attendance at different events this summer, including the Great Yorkshire Show, so please contact one of the committee if you can help out.

If you have any items for inclusion in the newsletter please contact Anne Bush at [purplelupin@gmail.com](mailto:purplelupin@gmail.com) or Margaret Hockey at [mhockey53@hotmail.com](mailto:mhockey53@hotmail.com)