



Ebor Ruggers

www.eborruggers.com

September 2014

MEETING NEWS

6th September:

Heather Ritchie will be visiting us to talk about her work in the Gambia with Rug Aid. Voluntary donations will be welcomed for Rug Aid. You can read more about this initiative below, adapted from the information on Heather's website at www.rug-aid.org. We hope as many members as possible will be there to listen to this inspirational rug maker talk about her craft and valuable work in Africa.

4th October:

This will be a working meeting, and we will also be welcoming visitors as part of this year's York 50+ Festival.



Enjoying the sunshine at our picnic.

YARNDALE 2014

Saturday 27th 10.00 - 5.30

Sunday 28th September 10.00 - 4.30

Skipton Livestock Centre

This was a fantastic event last year and comes highly recommended. It was worth going for the wonderful displays of crochet bunting alone! This will again be on show, as well as this year's theme of crochet mandalas.

Similar in style to Woolfest (but nearer!), YarnDale is described as "a creative festival celebrating all things woolly and wonderful"! As well as stands and exhibitions, there will be a full programme of workshops, including one on hooked postcards which looks intriguing. See yarndale.co.uk for full details.

I was hoping to run a coach outing to this event but alas, I have been thwarted by insurance and other problems, and therefore have had to cancel. I am hoping to organise a similar trip next year on a slightly different basis however.

I was planning to suggest that those who expressed an interest might travel to Skipton by train, but it seems that engineering works are taking place that weekend between Leeds and Shipley. The journey will now involve a bus replacement service and take considerably longer than usual.

Last year we found that driving was a good option as it only took about an hour to get there, and the event was well signed on approach to Skipton. However, it would be worth aiming for the opening time of 10am as it got very busy later on.

See you there!

MEETING REPORT

August:

Picnic at the Bee Loft

There was a terrific turnout for our annual picnic which was held at the Bee Loft in Angram by kind invitation of Heather Lamborn. Our friends from Woodhorn Matters travelled down in a minibus to join us and brought some of their wonderful work to share with us. It was lovely to welcome them.

We were blessed with fine and warm weather for the most part, although a very sharp squally shower had those outside making a dash for cover! Fortunately there was plenty of room in Heather's spacious workroom. Thanks to those who brought delicious cake/meringues to share.

Many thanks to Heather for hosting this most sociable occasion!

The Story behind Rug Aid

In late 2004, internationally renowned rug maker and teacher, Heather Ritchie, visited Zanzibar in east Africa. Local women and children who she lived with were fascinated when she demonstrated the very simple and safe technique of rug making - using recycled local material, clothes, yarn and plastic bags - and quickly picked it up.

On her return to the UK, Heather developed her idea. She and two friends set up Rug Aid, a not-for-profit social enterprise. Heather's goal was to make a difference to some of the poorest communities in Africa by providing people with the opportunity to bring about change in their lives 'from the bottom up'.

Rug Aid's first project started in The Gambia in February 2007. Heather heard that begging had recently been outlawed there, a move which deprived many blind Gambian adults of their only source of income. Very few of them had been able to go to school as children so they did not have the skills needed to hold down a job.

After learning of the new problem this already underprivileged group faced, Heather specifically chose to work with people with visual impairments. She thought she would be almost exclusively teaching women and children but, when she arrived for her first workshop session, she found to her delight that the students were a mixed group of men and women. Heather felt an immediate empathy with these people, all of whom have a degree of visual impairment or are the sighted members of the family of someone with a visual impairment, because her father became blind when she was five.

Rug Aid encourages people to draw on the stories of their lives - families, animals, friends, transport, homes, schools - as well as the colours, patterns and textures of their environments, both rural and urban, to produce beautiful and very saleable works of art which will bring pleasure to both the creator and the purchaser. The project harnesses the artistic skills people already have and inspires people who are not sure that they have any artistic talent to express themselves through colours and patterns.

News Flash – we are in the process of negotiating an exhibition space at City Screen, York, for January 2015. Let's all get hooking and prodding! Details to follow...

The Rag Rug

In our kitchen was a rag rug
my mother bought for its bright mix of colors.
It was my task on cleaning days
to drape it over the line in the back yard
and, with a tool shaped like the wing
of a giant dragonfly, proceed to whack it
until a cumulus of dust swirled overhead,
earning my mother's approval.
Cleaning—what she called "redding up"—
was both industry and passion for her,
while I, in my arrogance, thought it foolish
and beneath my talents: The dust she chased
from one corner fled to another,
and then she, too, was dust.

Grown old now, I live alone
in a house Time traded me, house for house,
until I learned grief also is a kind of clutter:
Drive one grief out the door,
two others knock, seeking a place within.
And though too late, I ask for her forgiveness,
who hated whatever tarnished or made dim
the light and luster of common things:
lamp, glass vase, the figure in a photograph,
wood grain of table, braiding in a rug—
this rag rug I took from memory
and put into a poem, that I might see it, as before,
dancing its tiny fires into the morning's
early slant of light.

Peter Everwine

I don't know about you, but September always feels like a new beginning to me, which of course it is, the beginning of a new academic year. I have a lingering feeling that I should be sharpening my pencils, packing my satchel and vowing that this year I really will get to grips with quadratic equations... So every September I am seized by the urge to embark on a new course and peruse the brochures with enthusiasm.

If this rings a bell and you fancy something new and crafty, have a look at the [Learning4everyone](#) guide online or visit the council offices in York. Crafts on offer range from dressmaking and crochet through to feltmaking and stained glass. Or why not have a go at bookbinding?

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