

# CONNECTING US

NARRAWILLY

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compiled by Miriam Miller

**CORRECTION.-** IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER I HAD DATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HANDHOOKING RUGMAKERS (TIGHR) AS 28/29- SEPT AND 1/2 OCT AND OF COURSE IT IS 29/30 SEPT. 1/2 OCT. I DO APOLOGISE. **MIRIAM**



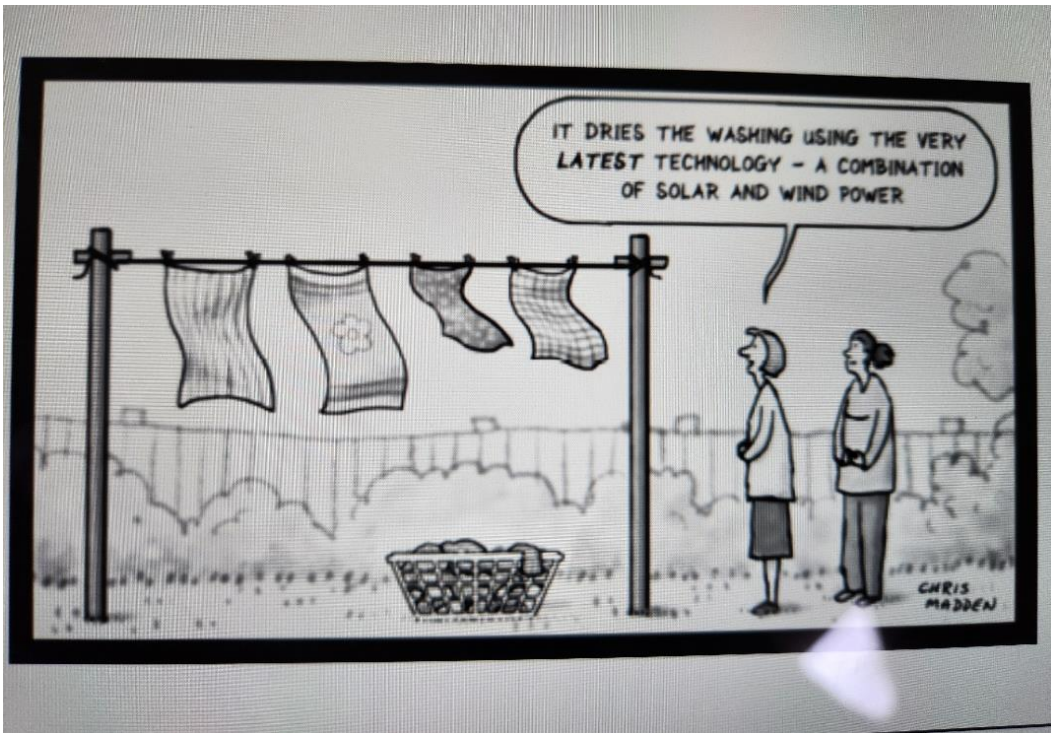
## AUSTRALIA-

### NEW SOUTH WALES. LAKES ENTRANCE.

I worked this for my daughter Sophie's 13th birthday. She will be 53 tomorrow so it is 40 years old and faded. It was of our slate miner's cottage, which I restored from a wreck. I adored it. We had chickens, ducks two dogs and a cat, a black faced lamb and an Anglo Nubian goat called Josephine!

Rhonda.



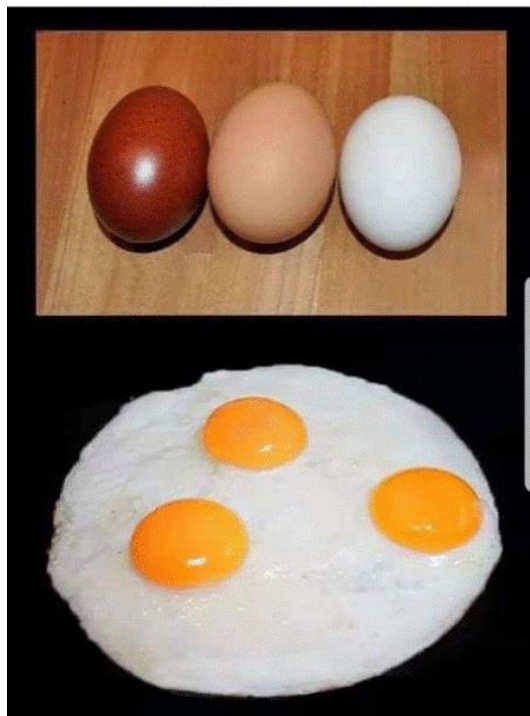


AUSTRALIA

South Australia

Maxine Keys

Cardigan and beanie made from spun merino and silk. Nono felted scarf.



Thoughts from Rhonda.

As long as you feel pain, you're still alive. As long as you make mistakes, you're still human. As long as you keep trying there's still hope.

**ENGLAND – DURHAM.** = Durham Rug makers (A story about this group)

Website <https://e-voice.org.uk/durhamrugmakers/>

[Just a note about e-voice. This is an organisation to supply free support to help non-profit making public groups, who have little computer experience (like us!!!), to set up and run a web site. It has been fantastic for us!!]

We currently meet in two places, - Monday Gala Theatre Café 10.00 – 12.00 Wednesday Bowburn Community Centre 10.00 – 1,00

Bowburn is our prime site because of the size of rooms and the storage facilities. We have an active membership of about 40 people and we indulge(!) in many crafts. Apart from the clippie mats and hooking we also do needle punch, latch hook, needle felting (wet and dry), locker hooking, peg looming, mixed media, knitting and sewing. A lot of our members were initially taught by Heather through the Education in the Community but when that project ended, members then passed on skills to new members who also brought their own skills to the group. The group is self-led but we hold informal workshops to pass on our skills and also invite outside experts to learn new skills. We have just had a hooking with hosiery session and hope to do a needle punch workshop in the near future.

We used to attend outside events and now that covid restrictions are lifted we are beginning to pick up again. Last year we attended the Sedgefield Agricultural Show and Darlington Pump Museum Open Day, (where we found some lovely new members!) and gave a talk to Heighington W. I. This year we hope to attend Sedgefield again and we are holding a Woolcraft and Textile Open Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.

One particular piece of news might be of interest. Edith and Ken kept in touch with Les Ritchie (Heather's husband) and daughter Chrissie. Les contacted us last week to ask if the DRM would be interested in taking Heather's stock of material. If anyone has seen Heather's studio, they will have some idea of how much she had!! When Les showed us there were thirteen huge bags so we are collecting and sorting them in stages!! Ken Haswell. **Next pages photos from Durham Rugmakers.**





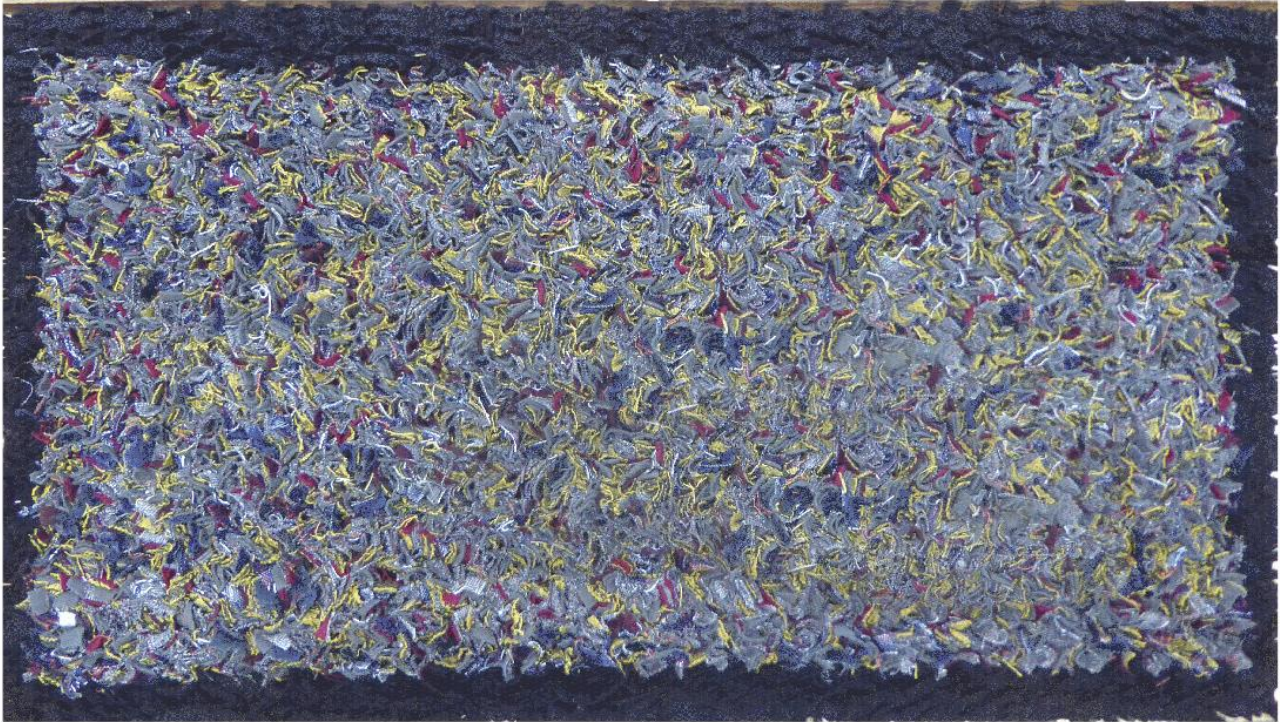
Punchneedle,  
Lindisfarne castle

We also support a registered blind person who can work in clippie and hooking techniques using a spring loaded bodger. The 4 photos.





Continued Durham Rug group



2 proggy rugs made on commission





## Continued Durham Rugmakers





**AMERICA** – Catherine Flowers. My first Proggy Rug, my own design. I took a class in Bangor, ME and then fell in love with it. Teacher: Toni Philbrick from The Keeping Room - Hampden, Maine  
At “Spring has Sprung 2023” workshops and Hook-in held in Bangor, ME.

Rug is: 23” x 28”





## SCOTLAND. NORTH BERWICK. -Katrina

. Made from Harris tweed scraps - the colours are inspired by Scotland's wild green, heather-filled hills. Katrina



## AUSTRALIA – NEW SOUTH WALES – NOWRA.

**CREATIVE MOMENTS EXHIBITION.** 1<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023

Spinners, Potters and Wood Workers





## Continued Creative Moments.







Continued Creative Moments.

Some of the pottery was made by one of our Narrawilly Proggie Ruggers, Clair. And the green shoulder wrap by Annette McCarthy

CANADA -Winne Glavine

### The Circular Economy How Rug Hookers/Other Craft Persons Can Participate

**Definition:** The *circular economy* is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, the life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum.

**Textile Waste** consists of clothing, shoes, household linens and toys. Canadians alone toss away close to 500 million kilograms of fabric items on a yearly basis. (check your country's textile waste)

Like many of you, the world I grew up in did not revolve around buzz words like *reduce, reuse, recycle* but our family lived in a *waste not, want not world* where only absolute garbage was thrown away.

Like the rest of the world, rug hookers and other craft persons have a responsibility to reduce, reuse and recycle. For many of us, and I am no different, we love to purchase and use all the various textures, bibs and bobs to create still more 'stuff'. Perhaps it's time to return to our roots, and begin using repurposed or sustainable fibers.

As rug hookers and crafters 'our' role in the circular economy is of significance and we can help by:



1. Creating items that can be used – mats for the floor, bags, pillows, tea cozies, and wearable items such as mittens, jackets and hats. Cover foot stools, piano and other benches. In other words – functional art;
  2. Creating quilts that tell the story of our lives – using your clothing. (each and every quilt I have made by our mother shows the colors and textures of the time – and when and where we wore ‘that dress’, ‘those pants’ or ‘that shirt’;
  3. Purchasing wool blazers, pants, skirts, sari silks and other clothing such as t-shirts, jersey and velour clothing, and sheets from yard and estate sales and second-hand stores; Ask for donations from neighbours, family and friends. (don’t forget to wash it in hot water to get rid of any tiny critters, dog, cat and cigarette fur and smells);
  4. Using ‘sustainable’ products such as wool fabric and yarn, which, in turn, the purchase of such contributes to our local economies;
  5. Finding a place in your piece for buttons and zippers;
  6. Using up your stash or start trading amongst each other, rather than purchasing new;
  7. Talk about the environment and how we are participating in it. Are we contributing to the waste or helping reduce it ; and
  8. Setting up a challenge within your groups or guilds to create just one item from previously loved clothing. Better yet, be the first to send me a picture of a mat you created using previously loved clothing to create the top for a foot stool, bench, basket or bag, telling me the story behind the piece. What is it hooked on, with what, etc.
- I love giving out prizes and the next one could show up in your email.

Finally, something else for you to think about:

If you sell your product, think about the cost, both time and supplies, for the items you create using new fibers. Then consider the cost, both time and supplies, for the items you create using repurposed textiles. Truly do the math and you will be amazed. Now when you set your table at the markets and price accordingly to the repurposed, your sales will increase because you no longer need to charge such high prices to offset the costs of ‘new’ fibers.

The price point of the repurposed blue jean jacket hooked with repurposed fiber is \$135 Canadian. The jacket cost \$10, linen -\$5; repurposed fibers - \$15 or less, the remaining fee is based on \$15 per hour of my time. Using all new products and fiber, the price increases to \$260 Canadian, my time per hour remains the same.

Winnie Glavine, Hooked Creations NL, Newfoundland & Labrador, Canada

FB Group: 633814067407035

<https://hookedcreationsnl.wixsite.com/hookedcreationsnl>

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A sit upon hooked with t shirt strips on linen, bordered with blue jean strips and backed with a weather proof fabric cut from an old satchel



## Continued Winnie Glavine

Below. -Repurposed blue jean jacket with back centre piece removed. Hooked with a variety of used clothing fabrics, t-shirt- velour-wool, on linen.

Right -Quilt made by our mother using repurposed clothing including the dress I wore when I met my husband 45 years ago, the red patch on the right- hand side



## AUSTRALIA – MILTON Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.

After the article by Winnie, I thought I should add, the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers and I think most rug makers in Australia have only used recycled fabrics in their rugmaking. I will include a photo of our shelves and one of our rugmakers, Christine, spends time each day we meet, sorting the clothing that has come in after the last rug day. And adding it to our shelves. We find we get more black, white, navy, red than we can use, and are often short on greens, oranges, and yellows. We use old blankets too and do dye those, as mostly they are in faded colours. Other fabrics we use as is. It is interesting our rugs are nearly a record of fashion, as my very early rugs had crimplene, which is not worn now. (Photo of our shelves on page 14.)



## Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers continued. On our meeting day 21/7/23



Left-  
Janet's rug  
nearly  
completed



Lots of discussions. Milton Show theme. 'Home grown' decided to ask all to make a cushion to the theme. Delicious lunch as always. So far Miriam and Sue going to TIGHR Conference. In Canada 2024.





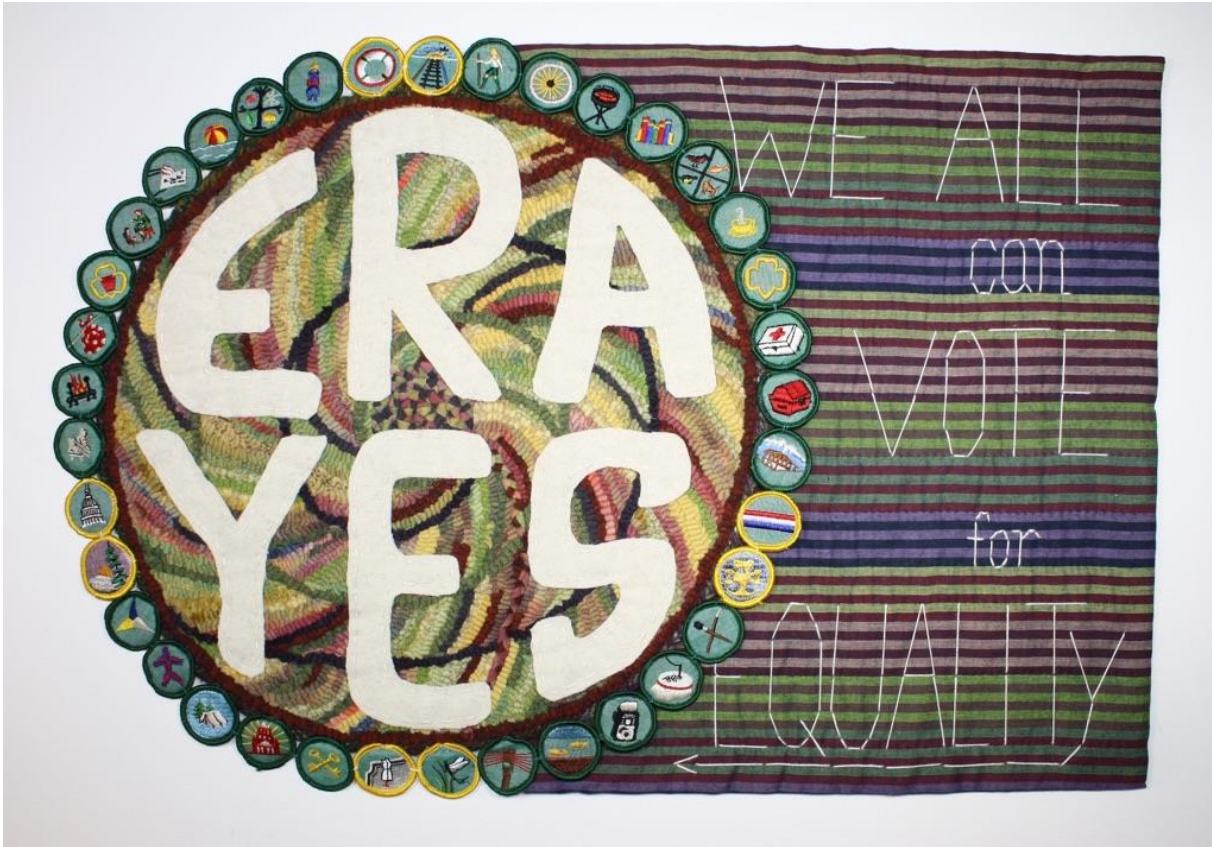
AMERICA- Augusta. Susan Feller.

Susan is curating an exhibition. For details click on the below link.

Here is my most recent blog post announcing the exhibit installation and with link to the digital catalogue

<https://susanfeller.com/2023/07/12/stories-are-made-loop-by-loop-installed/>

The previous blog posts on SusanFeller.com/blog tell about the prep and background information on the artists and their work.



Shelves in Rug Room. Milton. Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers.



Part of the shelves in the Narrawilly Proggy Ruggers meeting room. With the fabrics sorted into colours.



## AUSTRALIA- NEW SOUTH WALES – MILTON -Milton Spinning Group. 23<sup>rd</sup> July



Members were enjoying a 2day workshop. Below part of empty room while the photo was been taken.



## CANADA – NEWFOUNDLAND GANDER. -Patricia Parsons

### A Vacation Memory

This past winter I was lucky enough to be invited to spend a couple of weeks in Barbados with my good friend and fellow rug hooker Carol Bishop-Gwyn, who winters down there each year. The days were warm and lazy, and we did a lot of walking and touring around the island. Every evening we got to see brilliant sunsets as we walked the beach boardwalk and watched the waves roll in. When I got back to Gander, into the bleak midwinter, one stormy day I was tidying up my rug hooking room, and found a stash of wool I had accumulated from here and there, (maybe given some as gifts, too and suddenly I had all the colours of Barbados before me. I drew a primitive scene of lush grass, sand, sea and sky on burlap - and just started to use the colours on hand.





Left, you will see the wonderful colours of the Caribbean - etched in my mind, from walking every day early in the morning and again at sunset. The wool was thick, strands, and fluffy, so it was a challenge to work with, as the grippers on my frame kept pulling out the loops as I moved the mat around the frame. Finally, I decided to cover the grippers in saran wrap to protect the wool, and I used clamps from the Dollar Store to keep the mat tight. That worked better and I am making good progress now. I know

it doesn't look that great now, but once finished and pressed, I think it will be a good reflection and a nice warm memory for me next winter. One lives in hope...I hope each of you is enjoying blue skies wherever you are. Happy Hooking, Pat Parsons, Gander, Canada

### ENGLAND – NORTH YORKSHIRE. Louisa Creed

There is an exhibition of Louisa Creed's rugs at Rydalmere Folk Museum at present. However, if you google Rag Rugs Louisa Creed you can see a great collection of her rugs.



The rug on the left given to me by Louisa in 2006 and the one on the right given to me by her husband Lewis at the same time. when I visited Louisa in York, with Heather Ritchie.

Miriam



THE END.