

## **Ruth Gilbert, hand weaver and textile historian. A brief curriculum vitae.**

- I attended Dartington Hall School 1960 to 1970. Influences from those years include weaver Bobbie Cox, dyer/printer Sue Bosence and potter Marian de Trey.
- Work at Craftsman's Mark Yarns for over a year, dyeing, making samples and teaching spinning as well as office work. It is impossible to quantify the things I learned from Morfudd Roberts during my time there, but I owe her my interest in historical textiles and my knowledge of wool types and yarn structure.
- Weaving workshop in Plymouth in 1976, at the Barbican Craft Group, moving to Yorkshire in 1979. Exhibiting member, Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Guild of Yorkshire Craftsmen, Designer Makers North.
- Through involvement in historical re-enactment began to research appropriate techniques and cloth types. Worked as a museum assistant and costumed historical interpreter.
- Studied for MA in History of Textiles and Dress at Winchester School of Art, awarded 2004. In January 2010 awarded MPhil by Textile Conservation Centre, University of Southampton, for my thesis *The King's Vest and the Seaman's Gansey: Continuity and Diversity of Construction in Hand Knitted Body Garments in North Western Europe Since 1550, with Special Reference to Armhole Shaping*.
- My production loom is in my house and I have space for teaching at the Loft Space at Britannia Mills, Slaithwaite. I regard myself as a cloth weaver although most of what I sell is scarves and bags. I research and make replicas of archaeological finds and spend several weeks a year at Kentwell Hall in Suffolk for re-creations of 16<sup>th</sup> century life, weaving and explaining the work to school groups and visiting public.
- I teach modern and historical craft techniques – spinning, knitting and weaving – to children and adults in a variety of situations, including training museum staff and volunteers.
- I am a member of the Early Textiles Study Group and am helping to develop technical training courses.
- My most recent publications are on the terminology of knitting and of non-woven structures. Gilbert, Ruth, 2019, 'On the Terminology of Non-woven Structures and Techniques, and Why It Matters', in Hopkins, Heather, and Katrin Kania, eds., *Ancient Textiles and Modern Science II*, Oxford: Oxbow.  
  
Gilbert, Ruth, 2018, 'Do you read my signal? An attempt at the application of clear terminology in recording archaeological knitwork', in *Archaeological Textiles Review* 60, 25-33.