

## Sùil air ais : 2023, a year of three tweeds.

2023 was a satisfyingly active year for Sgioba Luaidh, although not back to the frenetic whirlwind of pre-covid times! It's always a very special day when we have the chance to waulk a new tweed, and this year we were very fortunate to have three, yes three! We did the first one in May, a little bit apprehensive since we hadn't done a "wet waulk" for five years, and in that time we have all got a bit older and more decrepit! But hey! We haven't lost our touch! This was Tweed No. 11 for us, and was woven by Belinda of [\*Woven in the Bone\*](#).

No. 12 was from [Skye Weavers](#), and had been waiting for us since before covid struck! Many thanks to our friend Natsumi from Japan, who collected it for us while on holiday in Skye. We were delighted that Andrea from the Weavers was able to come and waulk with us. She was happy with the result, and so were we.



Natsumi, with our new tweed from Skye Weavers.



A good result!

No. 13 was another tweed from *Woven in the Bone*, with Sam, the weaver, able to join us this time. We were also reinforced on the day by a contingent from the Isle of Mull Choir, who for the first time were entering the waulking competition at the Royal National Mod in Paisley. Thanks to our expert tuition (Hem Hem!) they won first place!

We can't leave our total of hand-waulked tweeds at 13, so we hope that our weaver friends will bear that in mind!

Our thanks also go to [Auchindrain Township](#), who kindly allow us to make a mess in their barn, and look after us so well on our regular visits throughout the season.

We had a few other engagements during the year, mostly fairly nearby: Greenock, Langbank, Strachur ... But Deanston Community Centre had us going round in circles!

We must give honourable mention to Catherine, whose artistic creations with teacake wrappers give us a touch of culture.

And we pay tribute to the heroism of Frances, who turned up to waulk the Skye tweed despite considerable pain from nerve damage after a difficult dental extraction the

previous day. She was not able to talk much (for which thanks were no doubt given!), but Innes and Myra stepped into the breach to act as very competent “front men”.

We look forward to what the next year may bring – perhaps No. 14? Meantime, we thank all our friends for their support, and wish you a peaceful, healthy 2024. Bliadhna mhath ùr do ar càirdean gu léir. Tha sinn a’guidhe dhuibh agus dhuinne slàinte, sonas agus sìth – agus òrain gu leòr!



Teacake luadh. We think it's one of Catherine's best efforts!



Busy at Auchindrain.