

“16 coverlets with Vestfoldsmett was the topic for an audience of more than 100: the oldest from 1708”

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[https://nettverkvevestfold.no/\\_files/200000016-2ede62ede8/jarlsbergavis-mars-2019.pdf](https://nettverkvevestfold.no/_files/200000016-2ede62ede8/jarlsbergavis-mars-2019.pdf)

*“The road is open for my thoughts and your fantasy, just get started,” said Anne Grethe Barø, to 100 ladies. A one-hour lecture about the history of weaving in Vestfold inspired a full audience in Hillestad.*

The event at Fjellhall In Hillestad gathered more than one hundred participants, only one male. Holmestrand Husflidslag arranged it, together with Nettverk Vev Vestfold.

Twice a year, in different places in Vestfold, Nettverk Vev Vestfold holds meetings with special topics. This time it focused on the history behind 16 coverlets made with *Vestfoldsmett*, meaning Vestfold technique. An exhibition of beautiful table-runners was also on view, according to Nora-Marie Sogn Wiik from Husfliden in Holmestrand.



## HISTORY OF THE COVERLETS

The lecturer was Anne Grethe Barø, a weaving teacher and educator from Nøtterøy Husflidslag. She is a member of the board of Nettverk Vev, and participated in the so called “teppekomiteen” (coverlet committee) that gathered the history around different techniques in a new book. “The oldest coverlet is thought to be from 1708, and we have new versions hanging on the wall here today,” Barø pointed out.

## PRESENTING THE HISTORIES

It is important to tell the histories of the coverlets and the techniques that have been used up through the generations. We call it “smett” or Vestfold technique. The coverlet from 1708 today is displayed at the County Hall in Telemark, that is to say the Brekke Museum in Skien. “It was bought in 1913,” explained Nora-Marie Sogn Wiik about the treasured coverlet. The coverlets that were displayed in Fjellhal that night were woven in early 2000s.

## NEW PHOTOS

In the book, *Vestfoldteppene*, the coverlets are photographed again, beautiful pictures that show the details in an altogether different way than in the old booklet.

Nora-Marie Sogn Wiik said, “We have a weaving studio in Svarstad where I live, where we wove many of these coverlets after the studio was established.” She praised the new book which will beautifully convey our knowledge of the coverlets and weaving techniques.



*There would not have been space for more people in the Fjellhall in Hillestad on Monday evening. Nora-Marie Wiik was essential for the meeting, together with the main speaker Anne Grethe Barø.*

[*Vestfoldteppene*. Tønsberg: Vestfold Husflidslag, 2001. This booklet is not an instructional booklet, but includes beautiful photos of the original and reconstructed Vestfoldtepper. A new edition was published in 2019. Limited copies will be available from the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum Store. [Email for information.](#)]