



Our community is connected by our shared love of fiber, which naturally entails a respect for the resources of our earth. 'Nature' is the basis for our fibrous passions! Taking care of, and conscientiously using our raw materials economically makes our brain astute and resourceful, finding ways to re-use natural materials and upcycle them!

In collaboration with one of the Netherlands oldest coffee traders located in Zutphen, an interesting project has begun.

The historic town of Zutphen is located in the east of the Netherlands near the IJssel River. Zutphen is one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands and has been inhabited continuously for over 1,700 years. Large, historic buildings form the skyline of the city. With various museums, courtyards and other sights you almost imagine yourself here in the Middle Ages.

Zutphen was established 1,000 years ago, built around a stone burial court and a small church, at the confluence of IJssel and Berkel. Zutphen owes its name to this, because the site between two easily navigable rivers on a hill in the middle of marshy peat soils was called Zuidvenne, which means Zutphen. Around 1190 Zutphen obtained city rights. The city was completely walled in the fourteenth century. developed into a trading city, and in 1285 joined the Hanze, an alliance between German and Northern European trading cities from the 13th to the 18th centuries. By working together in an alliance, these

cities tried to protect and expand their trade. About 200 cities were members of the Hanseatic League.

The Hanze time brought great wealth to Zutphen. By sea and across the IJssel to the Rhine, people from Zutphen mainly transported herring, butter and beer and brought back wine. Over land and over the Berkel, wood was the most important article. Zutphen has a rich history and that can still be seen today, large merchant houses, warehouses parts of city walls. Zutphen owns a number of characteristic buildings and courtyards. Many of these monuments have been restored.

While taking a walk through Zutphen on a clear day, you may be tempted by a delicious coffee scent. This smell can often be smelled throughout the city. It is clear to the inhabitants of the city that coffeehouse 'De Pelikaan' is roasting coffee today.

The coffee house "De Pelikaan" is located in one of the oldest streets of this city. The company has been established here since 1813. Although it was originally a grocery store, the coffee and tea items were already 'specialties' at that time and the coffee was roasted in their own 'Steam Coffee Roaster'. Behind the store was a large warehouse with stables, in which they could house 70 to 80 horses. The farmers from the wider area, who visited the market in Zutphen, delivered their butter, cheese and eggs here in exchange for food and feed. In 1920, most of the food was removed from the



range with the exception of coffee and tea. From that time on, many varieties of coffee and tea are sold at "De Pelikaan".

The shop interior dates from 1904, giving the shop an original and authentic look. The coffee and tea varieties are sometimes hundreds of years old and are therefore tried and tested compositions. Tea consists of a few hundred family blends, recipes from former prominent Dutch families. These recipes are still kept in card boxes.

Nowadays you can enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee or a delicious cup of tea in this authentic atmosphere. You get a complete cup of coffee: starting with a glass of water to neutralize your taste, then a delicious cappuccino, latte macchiato, espresso, or an ordinary cup of coffee served with a coffee liqueur and whipped cream. You could also enjoy a tasty piece of 'Deventer Koek', a cake speciality from another Hanze city thirteen kilometers downstream.

Between the historic shop and the coffee corner is the coffee roasting machine. Coffee beans are delivered raw from the country of origin in bales of 60 or 70 kilograms. The coffee plant belongs to the rough-leaved family and to the genus Coffea. The seeds are the actual coffee beans. There are different types of coffee, only the Arabica is used in Zutphen.

At 'De Pelikaan' you can buy your favourite coffee blend by type, country, or degree of roasting. Apart from the fact that we weavers and spinners all like a good cup of coffee or tea, this is the moment when this story becomes relevant.

The raw coffee is supplied in **jute bags**. Most of these bags are printed with text or images regarding the quality of the coffee beans and country of origin.

Jute is a versatile fibre. The major products made from jute fibre are: yarn, rope and burlap. Jute is extensively used for packaging of agriculture goods. Jute fibre is 100% bio-degradable and recyclable and thus environmentally friendly.

After roasting the coffee, the bags are empty and no longer needed for the coffee shop. These bags that have travelled all over the world and have been made by human hands with hard work, deserve a second life.



Luc, the youngest of four generations of coffee roasters, also sees the possibilities for reusing these coffee bags. And so, a collaboration between a coffee roaster and a yarn artist came about. Together we came up with some useful and decorative items for reuse including: pillows, shopping bags, (gift) packaging, table runners and aprons for baristas.

The aprons for baristas in particular seemed like a good idea. But when we tested this, the aprons proved impossible. Aprons must be washable, and jute needs 2 days to dry. Also the special prints fade after the first wash. Since it is such a nice idea, we made the aprons anyway and they are used only for promotional activities.

Although most burlap bags are very stiff, they can be processed well, with good scissors and a sewing machine. The fabric becomes smoother with use, so pillows give good results. There are now various models on the benches in the tea room to serve the guests. The pillows can also be purchased in the gift shop of 'De Pelikaan'. And possibly soon on the website.

Since 2016, the free distribution of plastic shopping bags has been prohibited in the Netherlands. Jute shopping bags are a good alternative for plastic bags. We have experimented with different bags. Rough almost industrial bags, bags with a romantic touch and practical bags with lining. All designed to be used multiple times.

In addition to bags and pillows, the options are still not nearly exhausted. For example: It is possible to unravel part of the burlap. Threading the remaining piece with the remaining fibers into a rigid heddle loom which gives the fabric a whole new look and possibilities for reuse.

And what about carpets, draft screens, sun blinds..

The possibilities are endless.





DID YOU KNOW...

Jute is one of the longest and most used natural fibres in a wide range of textile applications. It is extracted from the bark of the white jute plant (*Corchorus capsularis*)

Jute is an annual crop taking about 120 days to grow. It thrives in tropical lowland areas with a humidity of 60% to 90%. Jute is a rain-fed crop with little need for fertilizer or pesticides.

Jute is long, soft and shiny, with a length of 1 to 4 metres and a fiber diameter of 17 to 20 microns.

Jute fibres are composed primarily of the plant materials cellulose and lignin. The fibres can be extracted by soaking the stems in water (retting). Retting can be done in several ways, which involve different techniques of bundling jute stems together and soaking in water to help separate the fibres from the stem before stripping. After the retting process, stripping begins. In the stripping process, nonfibrous matter is scraped off, leaving the fibres to be pulled out from within the stem. After this process the fibers will be carded, spun and prepared for use in Jute yarn and twine, spun from raw jute to fibre used for weaving, knitting of various types of jute fabrics.

Jute is a product of South Asia and specifically a product of India and Bangladesh. About 95% of world jute is grown in these two south Asian countries.

Websites:

<https://www.trickythread.shop/>

<https://www.de-pelikaan.nl/#home>



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