



THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: www.wsd.org.uk

President: Jenny Balfour Paul Life President: Paddy Bakker

Vice Presidents: Peter Penneck, Jenifer Midgley

Association Newsletter, August 2018

Association News

Message from our Chair

At the beginning of July, I travelled down to London for a JEC meeting, which is always very interesting. The committee on the JEC are so committed, so dedicated and work so professionally. It is hard to imagine, when your Journal pops through your letter box, that it was created by volunteers up and down the country, using email. Brilliant! If you have not seen a copy in a while you will not be able to appreciate what you are missing. The Journal have a lovely new, user friendly website and you can subscribe online. If you are not happy paying online, why not ask a guild member to do it for you and pay them? There is so much more to read on their website too.

I then travelled up to Glasgow to join the Scottish Guilds to set up the National Exhibition. When we arrived at the gallery at 8.30 on the Friday morning, there was nothing but carpet on the floor! The University porters set up the stands, and four volunteers set about covering them in cloth. Various other members arrived with cars loaded with body parts (mannequins), bolts of fabric, display equipment, ironing board, iron etc. and then all the wonderful exhibits came from Edinburgh. We even had one member who had come down from a remote part of the Shetlands to volunteer. The first full day we just set up the gallery; Saturday, another early start and late finish, we had a place for everything, although some exhibits were moved several times, to find just the right spot. Sunday was spent dressing displays, tweaking, putting up info cards, hanging the feelie pieces and then the Hoover came out!

It is just so lovely seeing a beautiful piece of work from Somerset, hanging next to a piece from West Scotland, etc. It shows that we are part of something so much bigger than our own guild. The Guilds from Scotland have done an amazing job and the GPC would like to record our thanks to all of them.

I went home on the Sunday and travelled back up to Glasgow on the following Friday for the Private View and GPC meeting. Visitors to the event have loved the exhibition and especially having the feelie pieces, as we know how we all love touching textiles. If you are intending to produce something for 2020 please do remember not only are feelie piece essential for the exhibition, they are equally essential for the jury. Sadly some work, which was probably excellent, was rejected because of the quality of the photo, whilst others were accepted because the jury were able to handle the feelie pieces.

National Exhibition 2020

It was so lovely to meet some of the National Exhibition 2020 committee at the Private View. The Committee were able to glean a lot of info from seeing the exhibition, but also from talking with those who organised 2016 and Barbara, convener for 2018. With all of our events, it is so lovely to see how those who have already organised events are so willing to offer help and advice to those following.

The title for this exhibition will be 'Coal, Cotton, Canals'. The unselected theme will be 'Still Waters' using a 6"/15 cm ring.

I am told that Wales are also looking at suitable venues for the 2022 National Exhibition, and I understand some members from the South West, who loved the 2018 Conference, will be looking at venues for the 2022 National Conference.

Regions

In 2012, I took the idea of regions to the GPC and as we can see this is working well. Those regions who have organised events have made lasting friendships, not only between individuals but also at guild level.

Following on from regions, I suggested regional reps, so that each region would be assigned a GPC member, and a name and a face to contact. It is impossible for the Association Secretary to build relationships with each and every Guild, and having regions is far more manageable. I know this has been a long time coming and for this I apologise but ten regions requires ten reps and we just didn't have the numbers on the GPC to do this. As of our recent GPC meeting, we now have the reps and they will be getting in touch with you all as soon as they can. This is a learning curve for all of us, both reps and guilds, and it will take time for things to happen. In the longer term it would be so lovely if those regions which don't have regional events organise their own, so smaller guilds can enjoy a workshop and or talks which they currently aren't able to do. Regions can of course open up an event to all members.

Website and Emails

We have known for some time that the website and the email system were no longer fit for purpose and needed to be completely changed. Until this year, there was no-one on the GPC who had the confidence to do this until Soo Coates became Secretary. We now have a wonderful new user friendly website (<https://www.wsd.org.uk/>), which can be viewed on computers, tablets, & smart phones and has been viewed by almost 5000 people. The website is so easy for guilds to populate their own page and whilst some have done so, there are still those who have not. This is a wonderful opportunity to help to promote your guild to a much wider audience. It is recommended that all guilds use a generic email.

The email system just didn't work effectively or efficiently. The old system required emails to be sent out in batches and then wait four hours to send the next batch, with many bouncing back. When members volunteer to take on these roles we need to streamline as far as is possible, so they are not spending endless frustrating hours on their laptop! We also want to ensure that when we retire from the GPC there is a seamless and simple transition for new members. This is about future proofing as far as possible and the IT company we have been working with has been brilliant in this respect. We still have banked hours with them for any issues that may arise.

Now we have the new email system we have been able to take a look at the request in 2017 for a pre-AGM online forum to discuss propositions and points of discussions. This had to be put on hold as a delegate who offered to set it up had to withdraw for health reason and the systems we had just weren't fit for purpose. The GPC haven't ignored this request; it sometimes just takes longer than we would like. There will be an online forum for the AGM only. It won't be open all the year. We feel it needs three moderators, as nowadays with the internet we have 24/7 access and no-one can possibly be asked to moderate at that level of commitment. The GPC secretary will be one moderator and we will be inviting applications from the wider membership to also become moderators. Guilds who put forward either propositions and or points for discussion must be willing to answer questions raised by other guilds. There will be a set of rules produced and all conversations will be required to be non-confrontational and polite. If you wouldn't say something to someone's face please don't write it on this forum, or it will be deleted.

Bookmarks

Again, bookmarks are something we have spoken about for some time but things take time and GPC members do have a life, family, work and commitments outside the GPC. Bookmarks were launched at the 2018 Conference and have been a huge success amongst members. If your guild requires more copies, please contact the Association Secretary. If you go out demonstrating, please take them with you.

GDPR

All Guilds have been sent relevant information from the Association Secretary, and will hopefully now comply with these new regulations.

Speakers List

The Speakers List has been rigorously checked to conform to GDPR. Every single person on the list was contacted by email, many of which bounced back, followed by letters asking for permission and up-to-date contact details. Those speakers who didn't respond have been removed from the list. This is an amazing resource for Guild programme organisers. If you have had a really good speaker/workshop and would like other Guilds to also enjoy the same, we will need an application with the endorsement of at least two Guilds the speaker has been to, sent to the Association Secretary. Recommendation forms can be found on the WIP.

Web Information Point

The [Web Information Point \(WIP\)](#) was set up some time ago and required a password to access which caused endless emails to the Association Secretary on an almost daily basis, from members who had lost the password. The whole of the WIP has been meticulously checked to conform to GDPR, and updated as much of the content was clearly very out of date. It was then agreed, as there is nothing confidential on the WIP, why not have open access? The GPC advocate openness and transparency when and where it is acceptable. The Charities Commission website is a huge resource for the Trustees and we check what our legal responsibility etc. is. If we cannot find the information we can call and speak to an advisor.

Social Media

We had an in-depth conversation at a recent GPC meeting and agreed with social media now being very much part of all our lives, the Association needs a robust policy to deal with issues of this nature going forward and we are therefore looking at the possibility of engaging a legal company, with expertise in handling issues on social media in general, to advise us on how to handle things in the future. The Charities Commission charges all Trustees of Charities to have a robust policy to handle such situations in order to uphold the reputation of the Association.

We quite simply do not have the knowledge or expertise on the GPC, so have agreed to look in to what can be done and what is required and therefore following The Charities Commission recommendations to future proof the integrity of The Association. Please check this link for further information: <http://bit.ly/AGWSDSocial>

Certificate of Achievement

I am delighted to report the CofA is going from strength to strength, with several new members having signed up. There is much work to do to bring the CofA up-to-date and fit for purpose. This will not happen overnight and those currently working on their own cert are being fully supported and the current syllabus and handbook will still apply. The handbook will be rewritten to make it clearer and more user friendly. The syllabi needs a more coherent approach, to be more informative with a standard education style with learning outcome, technique and evaluation. The assessment

procedure will also change and there will be guidelines for mentors. This is a large work in progress but hopefully will help many more members to achieve their personal goal. If you have already completed the CofA and feel you would be able to support those going through this, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact certificate@wsd.org.uk

Foundation Certificates

Like the above, we have had a flurry of new applications and are delighted that so many members from Ireland have joined. Many Guilds have small groups working together on their Foundation Spinning Certificate, which is such good news. If your Guild would like to set up a group please do get in touch with foundation@wsd.org.uk

There has also been a huge amount of work in putting together the Foundation Dyeing Certificate and we are so grateful to Carol Keepax, who has revised the first draft of the syllabus to take in to account feedback received from the wider consultation group. This now needs to go out again as the 2nd draft, and we are very hopeful the pilot can be launched in September. Like much of the Association's work, it is done by volunteers and does take time to implement but we are getting there. Once this has been launched, the plan is to start on the Foundation Weaving Certificate.

For any member who would love to do either Foundation or CofA but is finding fees an issue, please do get in touch with either of the above, as we have widened the scope of the bursary fund from just Summer School to include both of the above, as they too are educational. The Association philosophy is to be inclusive not exclusive, to be encouraging not discouraging.

The Stuart Groom Library

We were so delighted when Nik Knott offered to save the Association Library and house it in her own home. Nik took the library to the National Conference at Kents Hill this year and received an overwhelming response from delegates, with many signing up to membership. If you would like to access this amazing resource please get in touch with library@wsd.org.uk The library is continually expanding with review books from the Journal, as well as some wonderful donations from members.

It is wonderful to think all this work is being done by willing volunteers up and down the country and I would like to thank each and every one of them for making our Association so special. As you can see, there are so many exciting things happening within the Association and I hope you have enjoyed reading all of the above. Obviously your regional reps are available to help with any queries you may have, as we are always open to communication with all members.

Angela Colbridge
Chair for The Association of Guilds of Weavers, spinners & dyers.

Journal News

Coming in your next Journal.....our special Colour Issue!

- Norwich Red - A Lost Recipe for Scarlet On Silk, Wool and Cotton
- Dyeing Fibre for Fractal Spinning - An Exploration of Colour
- For The Love of Indigo - My Journeys Through Indigo Past, Present and Future
- A Creative Approach to Colour in Woven Tapestry
- The Theory of Colour Perception
- Colours of The Sun
- Warp Faced Rep: Table Runner for 4 And 8 Shafts

And we've done our best to introduce as much colour as possible into our regulars: Notebook, Guild Highlights, Book Reviews and Exhibition Reviews.

The issue also includes reports on the Association AGM and Conference.

If you love colour, can you afford to miss this wonderful issue?!

Published in late August! If you don't want to miss an issue, subscribe at www.journalwsd.org.uk for delivery straight to your doormat, or through your Guild.

Journal Subscriptions

I'm delighted to report that we will not, despite ever-rising postage costs, be increasing subscription and cover prices next year. We are able to hold prices at their current level, thanks to a healthy increase in subscriptions, partially due to their availability online and the success of our new website, and containment of operating costs.

Christina Chisholm, JEC Chair

Journal Instagram

We now have a Journal presence on Instagram ([@journal_wsdltd](https://www.instagram.com/journal_wsdltd)) to join our Facebook and Twitter presence. Please join our growing band of followers!

Tips, Ideas and Inspirations for the Blog

Tips, Ideas and Inspirations will be the subject of the [Journal Blog](#), and contributions are welcomed from Guild members. Please submit to: blog@journalwsd.org.uk

Current Issue of the Journal

The current issue of The Journal, Summer 2018, published on 23rd February includes articles on the following:

- A Year's Weaving: Learning to Weave on Home-Made Looms, Coral Newton
- The Women of Yap's Outer Islands: Weaving their Cultural Identity, Joyce McClure
- A Dyer's Art: Kumejima tsumugi, Alison Mitchell
- Tips for Maintaining your Spinning Equipment, Christina Chisholm
- Armley Mills: A Colourful Past, Edna Barker and Barbara Harper
- Dog Combs: A Useful Fibre Preparation Tool, Ann Fisher

If you don't want to miss an issue, subscribe at www.journalwsd.org.uk, or through your Guild.

Recent News from Guilds

Guilds Together Inspires, Midlands Guilds will be holding a biennial event on Saturday 06 October in Coventry at Christ Church, Frankpledge Rd, Coventry, CV3 5GT. The event will include a talk by John Arbon on 'Great British Fibres' followed by sales, demonstrations, and exhibitions from each of the Guilds. Tea, coffee and cake will be available. £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Bookings or enquiries to covwsd@hotmail.com or 07840 520850.

Guild members are participating in **BritSpin**, an autumn team hand-spinning marathon linked to UK Wool Week, which will take place between 11 - 14 October 2018. The aims of BritSpin are:

- the promotion of handspinning (using a spindle or wheel);
- to support/help raise the profile of the Campaign for Wool and UK British Wool.

Further details about the event can be found on the BritSpin website <http://britspin.org.uk/about.html>

Elsewhere on the Web

- [The Textile Society's Annual Conference](#) will be held on Saturday 3rd November at the Wellcome Trust, London and will be exploring the theme of 'Inspired By...'
- [The Immigrant Yarn Project](#) is bringing together textile creations from immigrants across the US to tell their personal stories.
- [The Fabric of Protest](#) is a monthly textile workshop at People's History Museum, Manchester, where participants take inspiration from the museum's collection. The exhibition showcases a range of work from garments to woven pieces, alongside printed, crocheted and embroidered textiles.
- [Perth Festival of Yarn 2018](#), shortlisted in the British Knitting and Crochet Awards Best Knitting Show Event category, returns on 08 - 09 September 2018, at Dewars Centre, Perth, Scotland.
- [Weaving New Worlds](#) at William Morris Gallery (16 June - 23 September 2018). 16 international women artists combine traditional weaving techniques with contemporary imagery. Admission free.
- [Huguenot Festival](#) taking place October 2018 will feature over thirty events in and around the City of London, including a talk about the design process behind the sumptuous Spitalfields silks, and a skills day showcasing the crafts of the Huguenots.

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Chiharu Shiota: Beyond Time, 30 Mar – 02 Sep 2018 at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
Installation and performance artist Chiharu Shiota has created a site-specific installation of thread within the beautiful 18th-century Chapel.

<https://ysp.org.uk/exhibitions/chiharu-shiota>

Weaving New Worlds, 16 June - 23 September 2018 (Wednesday to Sunday) at William Morris Gallery
16 international women artists combine traditional weaving techniques with contemporary imagery. Admission free.

<http://www.wmgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions-43/weaving-new-worlds>

AGWSD Summer School 2019: A Textile Heritage, 04 – 11 August 2019 at Askham Bryan College, York

<https://wsdss19.wordpress.com/>

Other Newsletters

- [Crafts Council Newsletter](#)
- [Voluntary Arts Newsletter](#)
- [Craft & Design Newsletter](#)
- [Craft Industry Alliance Newsletter](#)

Contact & Social Media

Sign up to receive the newsletter direct: buff.ly/2qUtXUQ

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent to:
newsletter@wsd.org.uk

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, please send (at least four months in advance) to: diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk

Follow the Association on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

Association Website: <https://www.wsd.org.uk/>

Web Information Point (WIP): <http://aswd.pbworks.com>

Guilds Together *Inspires*

6 October 2018

One day event

by Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

**Great British Fibres –
a talk by John Arbon**

Sale of fibres, yarns
and weaving supplies

Demonstrations of
Saori Weaving
Takadai Braiding

Exhibition of work by guilds

Book Stall
Raffle

Tea/coffee, cakes supplied
– bring your own lunch

Christ Church,
Frank Pledge Road
Coventry CV3 5GT

Doors open 10am

Tickets
purchased in advance £8
or £10 on the door

Bookings or enquiries
covwsd@hotmail.com
text or tel 07840 520850

