



NEWS May 2023

From The Chair

The AGWSD AGM is approaching fast. I am looking forward to meeting so many guild delegates and observers, either at Conway Hall in London, or via Zoom.

If your guild has not contacted Mary England, secretary@wsd.org.uk, yet to either attend the AGM in person, by Zoom or to send a postal vote, please do urgently. The cut off date was the 27th May, but I am sure we would accommodate anyone who wanted to come along.

Apart from the formal business, we will be looking at the policies that the AGWSD has in place that can be amended and adopted by Guilds for their own use. If your Guild has charitable status, the Charity Commission does advise you to have certain policies.

As many of you know I was a teacher. We had many policies, which were discussed and agreed and proved to be so very useful as everyone then knew how we worked as a team. We even had a policy on how to write policies and when the head that had written that one left, we wrote a poem for her about writing policies.

Janet Maher, AGWSD Vice Chair will be leading a practical session in the afternoon about writing your own Risk Assessment Policy. We all need one of those, particularly these days and the Public Liability insurance cover provided by the AGWSD for affiliated Guilds may be infringed if you don't have a risk assessment policy and undertake risk assessments for your gatherings. I was risk assessment person for the school where I taught, it was a huge task the first time around, but so much easier after that. Once done it was easily updated annually.

I was in West Wales for a couple of weeks recently, and visited my favourite flour mill. This time I bought three bags of bread flour from Emma at Y Felin, near Cardigan, as we have worked out that three bags will be sufficient to last until I visit next year. I first met Emma on zoom during covid, she runs the water powered mill with a little help. Her parents renovated it in the seventies, but Emma has now taken on the running of the mill. If you are ever that way, please do call in. Emma does tours as well as selling the freshly milled flour. It makes the best bread. Please don't think I spend hours hand kneading bread, we use a bread maker.

I wasn't able to visit Daniel Harris's Elvet Mill. The derelict mill he is renovating for his Loom Land vision, what an inspirational person. We heard him talk at the Guilds Gathering a year ago. The Journal are intending to have an article about the progress he is making. I can't wait to hear how he is getting along.

A quick mention of Summer School at Harper Adams and the Trade Fair on Saturday 19th August to which all are welcome. The Certificate of Achievement assessment exhibition will be open along with this year's Graduate Showcase. If you are undertaking the CoA or the Foundation Certificate, please do pop in to say hello.

Don't forget to have a look at the wsd.org.uk website as it is about to be merged with the Journal website. It is still work in progress, and will be updated as time allows. Many thanks to those that have worked incredibly hard to ensure that it works.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

Please contact me, chair@wsd.org.uk

Focus on.....the Northern Area

I would like to pass on an article by Hayley from York Guild. They have been busy with activities over the last few months. Over to Hayley:

York guild has seen a great programme over the last 12 months. We've learned about Saori weaving, warping the loom, and rolags and long draw spinning - all from our members, as we had a run of bad luck with speakers last year.

In terms of workshops and events, we had our usual Cober Hill crafting retreat, which is back again for 2023 with two brilliant workshops lined up for colour blending with fibre and colour knitting. We also learned more about fibre prep with an all day workshop from Amanda Hannaford. Our more experienced weavers have been generous with their time, especially Jaqueline James who had a group of weavers over to her studio for a day. The dye group have led on a number of experiments from a zoom-dye-along for indigo through to the onion skin challenge where some members produced a vast array of colours from the humble vegetable.

We visited a record number of shows in 2022, demonstrating at a variety of shows including agricultural shows like Driffield Agriculture Education Day, International Sheepdog Trials at Castle Howard, Sledmere Down on the Farm Day, and Osmotherley, Tockwith and Aldeborough shows. We also attended Selby Abbey Mediaeval Day, Fangfest, and Yorkshire Day at the Merchant Taylor's Hall. These are enjoyable events where we can share our craft and frequently bring us new members. We also had a member, Cath Snape, demonstrating as part of local art and craft event Embracing Wool (an exhibition by fibre Artists) at Scampston Hall Walled Garden; it's great to see fibre crafts being considered as a true art form, and also to get in amongst the farmers at the agricultural shows which can be rewarding for both sides.

We have also branched out into more Zoom events. We have had workshops, meetings, and even speakers that we've branched out into last year. With more zoom speakers to come later in the year when the nights start to draw in again and there's less time for outdoor activities, it's proving a great addition to the guild's repertoire. We've also enjoyed sharing some of our speakers with the Bradford guild (us canny Yorkshire folk love saving money by splitting the costs).

Bradford Guild's, Krystyna has sent this interesting link for performing a weaver's knot.

Here is a [link to the video of my mum](#) (86 at the time) doing a weavers knot.

Mum and dad were refugees from Poland after the 2nd world war and were allowed to settle in the UK.

Mum lived in Blackburn and in her 20's she went to work in a cotton mill that made sheets for M&S. Her

job was to look after 20 looms all working at dangerous speeds. If any of the threads broke she had to quickly repair them, so you can imagine that she had to do this many 100's or even 1000's of times a day.

She left weaving when she had my brother at 27 but never forgot how to do a weaver's knot. When I took up weaving on a rigid heddle in December 2018, she was fascinated and tried to teach me to do a weaver's knot. In order for me to learn I videoed her, so I could pause when I needed to.

I am so thankful that I took this video as she passed away in April 2021.

And finally from Diane at Fylde Heddles and Treadles.

One of the smaller of the northern area guilds, we are based in the northwest in rural Fylde and meet Monday evenings with occasional full day Saturday workshops. We have about 25 active members with a wide range of skills and expertise, some are absolute beginners others have decades of experience. We don't take ourselves or our crafting too seriously, life is too short. Our monthly skill shares cover a range of fibre-related topics - recently we've covered two colour crochet, brioche knitting, lace making, carding tips and tricks and finishing methods for weavers.

Saturday workshops may include warping looms, dyeing, or one on one teaching... or just a great opportunity to spend the day crafting with like minded friends. Cont....

Focus On continued



We demonstrate at two local shows - Great Eccleston where we sponsor various spinning, weaving, dyeing and handmade classes in the handicrafts tent, and Fylde Vintage. Details for all our meetings are on the WSD website, we are also on Facebook and Instagram.

Carded batts from Fylde H&T

Thanks to Hayley, Krystyna and Diane for giving us an insight into their Guilds.

Ann Martin

Northern Area Link north@wsd.org.uk

Two opportunities from Devon Weaver's Workshop

Kasuri: warp and weft ikat - Marilyn Robert

Ikat is a woven resist technique. Threads are bound according to a pattern and then dyed leaving undyed areas where there are resist ties. Ikat is classified as warp ikat, weft ikat, and double ikat, depending on which set or sets of threads are bound. The pattern appears as it is woven. The primary, traditional dye used for *kasuri* (ikat) is indigo. We will discuss all of this and learn from samples and texts during the workshop which will be structured over four days: the first two are devoted to understanding the patterns, preparing the warp and weft threads, and dyeing them; the last two days participants will dress their looms and weave.

Course Dates: Fri 8 to Mon 11 September 2023 *or* Sat 16 to Tues 19 September 2023

Fees: £410. This is a 4 day course with only 8 participants on each.

Book via the website: www.devonweaversworkshop.org

Krokbragd: for rugs and upholstery - Angie Parker

Under the guidance of Krokbragd addict Angie Parker, you will learn to warp up and weave this weft-faced Scandinavian weaving technique. Once you have the hang of the basics - exploring popular Krokbragd and double Krokbragd patterns, you will be encouraged to find your own style through play and experimentation; learn how to create your own contemporary structures and grow in confidence with your use of colour and texture. There will be an opportunity to try weaving at different sets and focus on ways to weave durable samples for floor coverings, wall-hangings and niche upholstery projects before scaling projects up to a floor loom after the course should you wish to.

Dates: Fri 19 to Sun 21 January 2024

Fees: £315

Book via the website: www.devonweaversworkshop.org

Journal News

Journal issue 286: Summer 2023

7	Understanding Weaving Drafts - Part 1	Stacey Harvey-Brown
10	The True Colour of Cotinus: A gentle way into botanical printing on fabric	Elisabeth Viguié-Culshaw
15	'There's a rug in that' - Exploring sources of inspiration	Mark Cullen
18	The Weaving Disc - an exploration of technique Part 2	Susan J Foulkes
22	Readers' Showcase: Blood, Sweat and Tears	Jo Lilley
27	Technical Notes: Thoughts on How to Fill a Bobbin	Sonya Hammond
28	Graduate Showcase: Becky Bullas	
30	Graduate Showcase: Marie Gillies	
32	Tim Searcy (1938 -2022): Past Chair and Vice President of the Association	

Plus: Guild Highlights, Association News, Exhibition Reviews, Book Reviews and Diary

All the Journal information is now or very shortly will be on the Association website www.wsd.org.uk
Access it via The Journal tab on the AGWSD Home page.

Journal Editorial Committee vacancies

Are you systematic, with an eye for detail and would like to help produce The Journal? The JEC is looking for a **Copy Editor** to take over from Lyn Duffus, who has done the job for many years. The Copy Editor receives all the content for an issue, checks for readability, raises any queries with the editors, and ensures that images supplied are usable. The Copy Editor works with committee members and the designer to ensure the Journal is produced on time and to the standard readers have come to expect. Do you have experience of editing a guild newsletter, or other publishing experience? If you are interested in this role, do get in touch and we can discuss what is involved - you would join a lively team who will be able to give support to anyone taking up the post.

We are also looking for a **Dye Editor** - the role involves commissioning features from authors and editing them. The Journal covers both practical and historic aspects of dyeing and natural and synthetic dyes - some experience in dyeing would be helpful to understand the technical aspects - but you wouldn't need to be a specialist dyer yourself. A new editor will be supported to get established in the role.

The JEC meets four times per year, currently via Zoom with at least one in-person meeting in London. All necessary travel and other expenses are reimbursed. Please contact chair@journalwsd.org.uk to discuss the roles and find out more information.

Exhibitions and Events

Friendship Day

Mid Essex Guild invite members of neighbouring guilds to join us on our Friendship Day on 16th July. Spend the day Chatting, Spinning, Weaving, Crafting in a 13th century National Trust Barn.

There will be refreshments, stalls, equipment service or repair, a presentation of a Monks Habit created by Mid Essex Guild for the National Trust.

Grange Barn, Grange Hill, Coggeshall, Essex CO6 1RE.
Parking available at the Barn. 10am to 4pm
For information contact Mid Essex Guild – 07855 385696.

Fleece Fair

The Somerset Guild is holding their annual Fleece Fair on Saturday 17 June at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall near Taunton from 09.30 - 13.30. All are welcome to purchase a wide variety of fleeces. Some demonstrations and teas and cake available.

For further information contact <secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk

Cottenham Village College Summer School

Across five days in July adult learners have an opportunity to join a wide range of creative and engaging courses including Anna Crutchley's wonderful 'Weaving on a Four-Shaft Loom'

For more information please email community@astracottenham.org

Speakers List Update

In addition to subjects covering our core skills of weaving, spinning and dyeing, we have Speakers who deliver insights into a wide range of related topics.

Alison Ellen and Fiona Morris each focus on different aspects of knitting. Amanda Sutherland's interests lie in the world of creative design, crafting, costume and textiles. For Anna Crutchley it's all about passementerie whilst for Eliza McClelland its beadwork. If braiding is something you think might interest your members, then Julie Hedges is the person to get in touch with.

<https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list> or if you prefer the print-based version of the list it can still be found on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

70 year celebration

The Notts and District guild has recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary, holding a wonderful afternoon tea party with all members contributing to the feast. Their monthly digest includes some wonderful pictures and a newspaper article from 1957 which mentions a concern that the guild might close due to membership being down to 11.

Please contact guild secretary Kate Padwick at wsdnotts@live.co.uk for a copy of the digest

Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent to: newsletter@wsd.org.uk. All news received by 20th of each month will be considered for that month's edition.

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, check page 3 of the Journal for print deadlines and send to: diary@journalwsd.org.uk If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.

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

Web Information Point (WIP): <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/>