



**THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND
DYERS**

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

President: Jennie Parry Life President: Paddy Bakker

Vice President: Steve Kennett

Association Newsletter, April 2020

Association News

Message from the AGWSD Acting Chair, Janet Crowther

Hello to all members of the AGWSD guilds,

In my message to the guild members on 23 March, I was being so optimistic, so hopeful that the events we have planned for this summer would go ahead. As the days have progressed it is not to be.

AGM

I will start with the AGM that would have taken place on 18th April at the Conway Hall in London. As you know this has been changed to a 'postal' vote. Thank you to all the guilds that have discussed the AGM information and returned the voting form. I am so impressed that you have managed to communicate with your members when we are unable to have face to face meetings. If your guild has still to return the voting form, please remember it is to be with Mary England, AGWSD Secretary by 30th April.

Guild Gathering Colour – The Full Spectrum 19 – 21 June 2020

After much heart searching and with discussion with the Guild Gathering sub-committee the GPC has agreed that it is not possible to hold the Guild Gathering this June. Those that booked to go have been contacted and the convenor and sub-committee are in the process of organising the return of the booking fee.

I know so many were looking forward to the weekend, the lectures, the workshops and the very good company of like minded people.

It is hoped that the Guild Gathering may be rescheduled, this is under discussion but, I am sure you will appreciate, deciding when and where would have to be organised, which can't realistically take place until the current world crisis is over.

AGWSD Exhibition

'Coal, Cotton, Canals' to be held at Leigh Spinners Mill, 5th – 20th September 2020

After considered discussion the members of the GPC have very regrettably agreed to the cancellation of the AGWSD Exhibition at Leigh Spinners Mill in September 2020. The existing dates for the selection process and for the non selected items are now cancelled. Other avenues for the exhibition are currently being explored. The member Guilds of the AGWSD will be informed as soon as a workable solution has been agreed. This will depend on how the current situation evolves within the time scale of the AGWSD events.

The GPC hope that you will all continue to work for our National Exhibition whenever and however it will take place.

The GPC would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly for the Guild Gathering and for the Exhibition. Cancelling/postponing was the last thing we hoped to do, but it has now become inevitable

AGWSD Summer School 2021

Writtle University College Chelmsford, 15 – 22 August 2021

Good news

The plans for this are all going well, the college and the tutors have been booked with an exciting and varied array of courses. Christina Chisholm, convenor, with her sub-committee is working on all the regular parts that make a summer school such a wonderful event.

As I mentioned in the email of 23 March, we are lucky to have such an organisation as the AGWSD with all the member Guilds, with all their members who are working to keep the whole organisation in one piece, by finding creative ways to hold meetings and to share skills and friendship.

This information and any updates will be on the AGWSD website, emailed to all member guilds and included in the AGWSD Newsletter.

Keep safe, keep smiling and keep creative

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Acting Chair

A message from the Speaker's List Coordinator

I have recently taken on the coordination of the Speaker's List and would like to invite all Guilds to help by providing some information about how the list is used. I recognise that Guilds will not be having meetings right now but this 'quiet time' does provide an opportunity to not only update the list but to also implement some changes to it that we hope will make it more usable and helpful.

Firstly, I am interested to know how many of the Guilds use the Speaker's List, which can be found in Section 8 on the Web Information Point (<https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/>). Does your Guild make use of it and, if so, what do you find helpful and what might be done to improve it? If your Guild does not use the List, could you briefly explain why that is?

Secondly, to enable more speakers to go onto the list, a new category will be introduced called 'New Speakers'. These will be speakers who have only been to one Guild to become known to a wider audience whilst building up the required number of formal recommendations. If you have had a good speaker/workshop tutor in the past 12 months do let me know who they were. Please give the name of the speaker you are recommending, the contact details used when booking them, the title of the talk they gave and why they are being recommended.

Any questions, feedback or suggestions will get to me at speakerslist@wsd.org.uk and I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Matty Smith
Speaker's List Coordinator

Journal News

Journal 274: Summer 2020 Guild Bulk Orders

At this stage we anticipate that the summer 2020 issue of the Journal will be printed as scheduled but we are aware that with the suspension of Guild meetings it may be difficult to distribute Journals to members in the normal way. If so, we are able to offer a digital subscription for this issue only, which would mean that your members would be able to read the Journal on publication date. If you would like to take up this offer please inform the Subscriptions Secretary so that she can arrange for your members to have access to the digital version. You will then be able to give them the print version when you are next able to hold a meeting.

Alternatively, you could have the bulk order delivered to a different address or you can request that we hold the mailing until meetings are able to resume. However, for reasons of cost, we are unable to post copies of the Journal to individual members.

Please send your requests directly to the subscriptions secretary by 11 May 2020:
subs@journalwsd.org.uk

To look forward to in the Summer 2020 issue of The Journal

We have a detailed interview with Jenny Dean, looking at how she became interested in natural dyes, how she developed her knowledge and how she works. It is a fascinating insight and typical of many textile artists, she didn't start from an art background. There is an article on a study by the Rare Breeds Society into the fleeces of a number of primitive sheep breeds. Sonya Hammond starts a series of Technical Notes with the technicalities of twist for spinners. Carolyn Griffiths writes about her exploration of Saori weaving and the different approach it encourages. With a different slant Dinah Clements explains how to weave on three shafts on a rigid heddle loom. Why not experiment with ice dyeing? Sarah Perkins gives clear instructions on this novel technique. Finally, we have a report from the Sheep to Sugar project which has been running in Wales for a year or so. It throws light on a little known aspect of the rural woollen industry in eighteenth century mid-Wales and its links to the the Atlantic slave trade. Plus all the usual features, though this issue we are not including the diary as there is too much uncertainty over when exhibitions may open.

We expect publication on schedule in late May.

Elsewhere on the Web

- [Fabric of the North](#) in-person exhibition is postponed, but the tapestries are available to view via their online exhibition, with some works for sale.
- The Get Creative Festival is encouraging people to share their creative activities using #GetCreativeAtHome, and encouraging creative groups to share their activities on www.getcreativeuk.com
- The British Tapestry Group are joining with the American Tapestry Alliance to reach out to weavers across the world to applaud and give our thanks to the medical professions, the ancillary workers and the ordinary people who are working to keep us, the people, fed and healthy and a message to other weavers that we are all in this together, united, hand in hand.

Our applause would be in the form of a small tapestry (or it might be a detail of a larger tapestry you are already working on). The theme would be to symbolise reaching out in friendship around the world. Some may like to do a rainbow, or a hand, heart, flower, bird and so on.

If you would like to take part, then post a photo of your tapestry to social media with one or all of the hashtags below. Don't forget to include your name and country so we can see who and where you are! If you do not use social media, email info@thebritishtapestrygroup.co.uk with your name, country, the title of your work and clearly note in the subject "BTG Applauds from" and your name and we will post it for you. Everyone is invited to join in. Hashtags: #btg/ata-tapestryweaversapplaud #btg/ata-tapestryweaversunited #btg/ata-saythankyou #weavingacrosstheworld #tapestryweaving

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Visit [The Journal's Diary](#) pages for detailed event listings.

Contact & Social Media

Sign up to receive the newsletter direct: <http://eepurl.com/dhDYkX>

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

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