



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

AGWSD News, July/August 2020

Association News

Message from the Chair

Thank you to all Guilds for their response to the AGWSD AGM held by post/email in April.

The draft minutes are at the end of this message, with very grateful thanks to Janette Matthews our minute taker and Mary England our Secretary.

Since the AGM, the GPC has co-opted Liz Day, Brecknock Guild, to the role of Hon Treasurer. Caroline Murray Gourlay having decided to step down from the role. Caroline is remaining until all the signatories for the banks accounts have been changed. Liz was our treasurer from 2014 – 2019. We are so grateful to her for agreeing to return to the role.

The GPC has also co-opted Ann Martin, North Cheshire Guild and the Leek and District Guild, to the committee.

We welcome the new members of the GPC and the JEC.

Good news, we are planning to reschedule the Guild Gathering for 2022, thank you to the convenor, Kate Batchelor and her subcommittee. We are negotiating the rescheduling of the Exhibition, Coal, Cotton, Canals, sadly also cancelled for this year, for Leigh Spinners Mill in 2022.

The GPC has held two working parties using zoom, one to review and revise the AGWSD Summer School bursaries, the other to look at the working of the regions and the representatives, with a view to making them more flexible. It is such good practice to review all we do; the GPC now has a five year plan establishing this system of working.

Covid 19 and the rescheduling of the Exhibition and the Guild Gathering has given an opportunity for looking at the areas for hosting future AGWSD events, the summer school, the conference and the exhibition.

Meanwhile Christina Chisholm has been working away planning the summer school for 2021 to be held at Writtle College in Essex. The summer school brochure will be available this autumn.

In next to no time, it will be 2021 and the AGWSD AGM time again. Like any committee there is a turnover of GPC members, we are looking for new members to join the GPC at the AGM if not before. The three major events, summer school, conference and exhibition organised by subcommittees on behalf of the AGWSD, all have statistics that need to be collated, firstly for information for future convenors, and to give the AGWSD information when looking for venues. If you like figures and spread sheets, I am not a fan of spread sheets but can appreciate their usefulness, please give a thought to joining the GPC.

Of course we are always on the lookout for convenors for the events. Where you live is no barrier. Most convenors have lived some distance from the venue, local Guild support is always there when

needed. Christina Chisholm lives in the north of Scotland and is convening the Summer School at Writtle in Essex next year. She has visited the venue of course, and is 'working from home' as they say, organising the tutors, the brochure all the admin stuff that can be done where ever you live. I will say that all convenors find that though it is hard work, the rewards are great.

Like a number of guilds, the GPC has been meeting using zoom. The only meetings one can attend and wear ones slippers unnoticed. If you would like to share your experiences when you have been unable to meet in person, or your ways back into meetings physically, please do let me know and we will add these to the future AGWSD monthly News, at chair@wsd.org.uk.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Chair

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, held by postal vote 18 February to 30 April 2020.

Notification of the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (AGWSD) and accompanying documentation was circulated to all affiliated guilds on 18 February 2020 by email.

The decision was taken by the GPC on 10 March 2020 to transform the AGM of the AGWSD due to be held on Saturday 18 April 2020 at Conway Hall in London from a physical meeting to one held by postal vote, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government restrictions.

A revised postal vote form with accompanying documentation, which can be found in Section 9 of the WIP, was sent to all guilds on 12 March 2020. It was to be returned to Mary England, acting Honorary Secretary by midnight on 30 April 2020 by post or email. It sought:

Agreement that the format of the AGM could be changed for 2020, i.e. that the meeting will be held by postal vote and that decisions taken via this route are binding on the GPC;

Acceptance of the following reports which were circulated on 18 February and can be found in Section 9 of the WIP:

2019 AGM draft Minutes

Matters Arising from the 2019 Minutes (see <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/2020-agm/>).

Acting Chair's Report

Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Secretary's Report

Journal Chair's Report

Newsletter & Social Media Report

Certificate of Achievement

Foundation Certificate

Summer School 2019 report

Guilds Gathering 2020 report

National Exhibition 2020 report

Appointment and election of Trustees and other committee members:

Nomination for Chair – Janet Crowther

Nomination for Vice Chair – Janet Maher

Nomination for Honorary Secretary – Mary England

Nominations for GPC – Christina Chisolm, Ann Johnson

Nominations for Journal Committee - Rosemary Mitchell-Schuitevoerder, Lyn Duffus, Jill Shepherd, Martina Müller, Sonya Hammond, Theo Wright, Jo Finlow, Linda More, Geraldine Wilkins
Appointment of External Examiner – the recommendation being to re-appoint Haworths

Proposition 1: The Montgomery Guild proposes that :- The Association should construct and maintain a national database of members.

Proposition 2: The General Purposes Committee of the AGWSD proposes that :-the number of co-opted members is increased from 3 to 4 and that the wording of section F(ii)(d) is changed to:
(d)The General Purposes Committee shall have the power to fill a casual vacancy in its body and to appoint not more than four co-opted members. No one may be appointed as a co-opted member if, as a result, more than one third of the General Purposes Committee would be co-opted members. Co-opted members shall serve only until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. The General Purposes Committee is permitted to propose co-opted members for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting for a further four years

The documentation also included an expense claim form for AGM delegates who had already incurred expenses for the physical AGM.

The outcome of the postal vote was communicated to Guilds on 10 May 2020. Full results are available in Section 9 of the WIP. Summarised results are:

Number of Guilds who responded: 87 (78% of Guilds representing 84% of guild members). The quorum is 30 Guilds.

2020 AGM to be held be via postal vote: Agreed (84 for, 2 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

GPC reports: Accepted

2019 AGM minutes - Agreed (78 for, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes)

Matters arising – None (72 no matters, 8 abstentions, 7 blank votes)

Acting Chair's report – Accepted (78 for, 5 abstentions, 5 blank votes)

Hon. Treasurer's report – Accepted (77 for, 1 query, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes) – query answer posted on WIP

Secretary's report – Accepted (78 for, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes)

Journal Chair's report – Accepted (78 for, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes)

Newsletter & Social Media report – Accepted (78 for, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes)

Certificate of Achievement report - Accepted (77 for, 1 query, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes) – query answer posted on WIP

Foundation Certificate report – Accepted (77 for, 1 query, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes) – query answer posted on WIP

Summer School 2019 report – Accepted (77 for, 1 query, 4 abstentions, 5 blank votes) – query answer posted on WIP

GPC Nominations:

Janet Crowther (Chair): elected (82 for, 4 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

Janet Maher (Vice-Chair: elected (81 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

Mary England (Hon. Secretary): elected (81 for, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)

Christina Chisholm (GPC): elected (82 for, 4 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

Ann Johnson (GPC): elected (82 for, 4 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

JEC Nominations:

Rosemary Mitchell-Schuitevoerder: elected (80 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)

Lyn Duffus: elected (76 for, 5 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)

Jill Shepherd: elected (76 for, 5 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)

Martina Müller: elected (81 for, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)

Sonya Hammond: elected (76 for, 5 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)
Theo Wright: elected (76 for, 5 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)
Jo Finlow: elected (81 for, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)
Linda More: elected (81 for, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)
Geraldine Wilkins: elected (76 for, 5 against, 4 abstentions, 2 blank votes)
Appointment of Independent Examiner - Haworths Chartered Accountants: Agreed (76 for, 5 abstentions, 6 blank votes)

Proposition 1 , Montgomeryshire Guild: Against (17 for, 62 against, 7 abstentions, 1 blank vote)
Proposition 2, GPC: For (81 for, 1 against, 4 abstentions, 1 blank vote)

In addition to the formal business, 8 guilds provided feedback to the point for discussion put forward by the Diss and District Guild (circulated 18 February 2020) namely that :-

A reduction in the length of the Association Newsletter be considered.

Reason for the point of discussion: The newsletter is a vital and useful three-way link between the Association and Guilds. However, it is sometimes lengthy to read on line, and bulky to print off, especially full page colour posters. Could information about Association events be a brief memo, which then has a link to the Association website for detail? Guild events and non-Association events could also be replaced by a memo and a link to their respective website/information pages or directed to the Journal for a more formal (paid) advert.

6 Guilds indicated that they felt the newsletter was fine as it is, 2 thought it could be shorter.

The Chair thanked the guilds for their response.

The 2021 AGM will be held on Saturday 17 April 2021 at Conway Hall in London

Guilds Gathering

It was a disappointment for many people that it was not possible for the Guilds Gathering weekend to go ahead in June 2020 as planned. Like so many other events that guild members would have been looking forward to this summer, it became a victim of the Covid-19 virus.

The AGWSD has now given the Guilds Gathering committee the go-ahead to reschedule the weekend for June 2022. It cannot be next year, as many guild members will want to attend Summer School. As yet, it is not possible to announce a specific date, but the committee will stay in touch with the speakers and demonstrators, and with the University of Worcester, whose St John's Campus will hopefully again be able to provide the perfect venue. The committee will be in touch with all those who were registered for the event this year, just as soon as they are able to make firm plans. Information will also appear on the Association website.

Journal News

Journal blog: Guild meetings when you can't meet

The Journal blog will be including reports of how Guilds are adapting to not being able to meet in the normal way. Do visit the blog to see what some Guilds are doing and maybe get inspiration for your own Guild.

If your Guild has an innovative idea let Katie Weston know so she can include it in the blog.

Contact: twitter@journalwsd.org.uk

J274: summer 2020

Published 22 May 2020, includes:

An Interview with Jenny Dean - Carolyn Griffiths, Pg.7
Technical Notes: The Technicalities of Twist - Sonya Hammond, Pg.12
Exploring Primitive Breeds - Judith Edwards & Alice Underwood, Pg.13
From Sheep to Sugar - Wales and The Slave Trade - Liz Millman and Prof Chis Evans, Pg.17
A Personal Introduction to Saori Weaving - Carolyn Griffiths, Pg.20
Exploring Ice Dyeing - Sarah Perkins, Pg.24
Three-Shaft Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom - Dinah Clements, Pg.28
Summer School 2019 - Graduate Showcase, Pg.35

Plus Notebook, Guild Highlights, Association News, Exhibition Reviews and Book Reviews.

In the current uncertain circumstances we have not included the Diary section in this issue, but it will return once we know when galleries will reopen and events can be scheduled.

Elsewhere on the Web

- Dovecot Studios have [successfully crowdfunded the first major exhibition of the work of Scottish weaver and pop artist Archie Brennan](#);
- Weaver Theo Wright will be exhibiting at Discover Gather Give in Stratford-upon-Avon, 31 October - 1 November, and Blackthorpe Barn in Suffolk 14 - 15 November;
- Crafts Council's twelve [20th century textile artists you should know](#);
- The Slow Yarn Spinner is [crowdfunding starting her business](#) to teach spinning online.

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

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