



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, October 2020

Association News

Update from the Chair



As Chair I have the honour of having an overview of the AGWSD, working with the members of the GPC to continue to ensure that the organisation provides educational opportunities for all members of the Member Guilds.

The AGWSD is an organisation unlike many others in the textile world. The member guilds are affiliated, or in the case of non UK guilds, associated, to the AGWSD. The guilds are autonomous. Each has their own constitution and run their affairs as they see appropriate. Through affiliation the guilds are linked to form the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, a unique organisation in the breadth of the crafts covered.

It is this time of year when the guilds pay their affiliation fee. The GPC agreed that, given the unprecedented circumstances, to half the affiliation fee from £4.50 to £2.25 per guild member. Guild secretaries have been advised of this reduction. The affiliation fee covers the public liability insurance for your guild.

The AGWSD also provides a whole range of educational opportunities for the members of the guilds, the biennial Summer Schools, the biennial Conference/Guild Gathering and the biennial Exhibition. These are open to all members of guilds. Non members can apply to summer school or to the conference, but they will have to pay an extra fee. The exhibition is only open to members of guilds.

There are the certificates, open to all who are members of a guild, the Foundation Certificate, with syllabus in spinning, weaving and natural dyeing, for those wanting to have a structured beginning. The Certificate of Achievement which can be taken in spinning, weaving, tapestry weaving, natural dyeing and in synthetic dyeing. The syllabus for each CoA provides a structure allowing for an individual to learn and experiment through practical activities. And the recently re-launched Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies, this is intended to be a personal development, a self directed, in-depth exploration, from an original concept, through planned detailed research, development of ideas, sampling, evaluation to an end product of excellent quality. Information for all the certificates in on the AGWSD website, www.wsd.org.uk

Then there is this newsletter, AGWSD News, currently put together by Charlotte, newsletter@wsd.org.uk, and emailed to all guild secretaries monthly. Your guild secretary will then

forward a copy to each of your guild members. Please let us know if you have anything of interest to others that can be included. I would love to hear snippets of what you have been doing.

Before the AGWSD existed, for a number of years, The Journal was published by the members of that first handful of guilds. Your Journal subscription is due for renewal. You may be able to do this through your guild or directly through the Journal website <https://journalwsd.org.uk/>

A wonderful resource, the Stuart Groom Memorial Library is currently being stored by a member. The GPC are working to make this, once again, accessible to all.

Finally, is the annual AGM. This is the time when each guild is able to send a delegate and an observer to hear about the running of the AGWSD through the reports, to bring up issues for discussion through the Propositions and Points for Discussion, to vote for those standing for election. I missed meeting all of you at the AGM this year. Let's hope it can be a face to face meeting in 2021. The GPC are looking to moving the date for the AGM from April to June, as, hopefully, the restrictions may have eased by then. We will keep you all informed of the changes.

Update on AGWSD events

Summer School 2021

Christina Chisholm, Convenor, has sent a copy of the Summer School brochure to all Guild Secretaries. As a guild secretary, I have had the privilege of being able to look through it, though I am still undecided which course to apply for. Christina will post you a copy if you contact her on SS2021@wsd.org.uk Of course the Summer School brochure is online www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021 The application forms should be sent to Christina by 31st December 2020, after which you will receive notification of your course.

If you are applying for an AGWSD bursary the form, along with the two reference statements, has to be with the AGWSD secretary, Mary England, by 15 November 2020.

The Guild Gathering postponed from this year to 2022

Kate Batchelor, Convenor is in touch with the venue, University of Worcester, and with the speakers, with the anticipation that it will be able to be run in 2022 as was previously planned.

Exhibition 2020

As you know, this also had to be postponed. The GPC are working with Leigh Spinners Mill to reschedule for 2022, with the same theme, 'Coal, Cotton, Canals'.

The Covid situation has resulted in guilds having to change the way they meet, I hope you have been able to work round the all restrictions as meeting like minded people is at the heart of what we are about, what we do.

Like so many of you the GPC is now meeting by zoom. We are in the process of reviewing all we do. This is part of the five year plan to ensure we have all policies up to date, and continue to run the AGWSD as efficiently and we can, providing support and educational activities for guilds and their members. As a charity, we have to make an annual return to the Charity Commission, which includes an examination by Howarths, the independent examiner. This has been completed and Howarths regard the AGWSD as 'well run'. It was rather like an Ofsted inspection, much work, filling in the appropriate paperwork and then waiting for the opinion of the 'inspector'. We have set up working parties by zoom, which has enabled the Summer School bursary information and application to be updated, the Constitution to be reviewed, and the way the UK is organised into areas for communication and for organising the events to be reviewed. We have also updated the EDI policy (Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity).

Information can be found in the members area of the AGWSD website, www.wsd.org.uk This is accessible to all members of the member guilds.

Zoom has enabled communications between members of the GPC and between the members of the JEC, to be so much easier, and more frequent, hopefully keeping the AGWSD running for the future, for all the members of the member guilds.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Chair

AGM 2021 - Change of date

The 2021 AGM will be held on 19th June 2021, from 11 to 4 at Conway Hall, London.

The plan is to hold a face-to-face meeting. Should that be impossible the meeting will be held via Zoom.

You may remember that earlier this year we announced that next year's AGM would be held in April. After a lot of thought and given the warnings that the current situation is likely to carry on well into the start of next year, the GPC feel that it is appropriate to reschedule to June. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, it will give more time for you to consider your nominations, propositions, etc for submission. Secondly, we hope it will mean that more guilds will be able to meet to review the reports and submitted proposals, which will be available just after Easter. Thirdly, it gives more time for the situation to return to normal so that more of us are able to meet in person in June.

The new date is within the time scale allowed by the AGWSD Constitution for holding an AGM. The AGM timetable will start early in 2021, the first step being the request for nominations to the GPC and JEC and for your propositions and points for discussion.

Meet the General Purpose Committee (GPC) Penelope Blogg, South West Rep



Throughout my life I have worked with textiles. Making dolls clothes when little, progressing to my own teenage fashion and then on to becoming self employed shaping fabrics. Teaching in the latter years Art and Design at college. The fascination for spinning and dyeing was always there. However, time would not allow me to indulge until 2009 when I joined the Dorset Guild WSD.

I held the position of Chair 2010-2012 and organised the main Exhibition for Dorset Arts and Craft Association showcasing our skills in 2011. In 2017, I achieved the Certificate of Achievement In spinning which was a steep learning curve. However, it gave me the depth and breadth of knowledge and understanding I was looking for. Starting with the raw material such as a fleece is my ideal. Growing the dye plants from seed, I love the whole process start to finish.

The South West Region hosted the National Exhibition in 2016 in Devon at Killerton House National Trust property and I was part of the team which organised the event. I took responsibility for pulling together all the exhibits and designed and led their display. I was particularly proud of the way in which, under constraints, I utilised the rooms and their furniture to show the individual items in the best possible style. This event led me to enquire more into the workings of the Association and the role of the GPC. The following year I decided to put myself forward for the role of South West Area Representative, sitting on the GPC. Additionally, I work with Janet Maher in organising the Foundation Certificate in spinning; and mentor students participating.

I have attended Summer School. An amazing experience, meeting new like-minded people, being away from all distractions, indulging every day in being creative. The Conferences, now called the Guilds Gatherings, were equally enjoyable and widened my knowledge of the background to many related subjects. Exhibitions are inspiring and have encouraged me to improve my skills and try others. It's a pity that we have had to cancel these events for the time being, however, I am looking forward to Summer School next year. Such a variety of courses, I am still deciding on what one I choose. I need to make up my mind soon.

If I had to take one craft book on my desert island, I would take the Complete Japanese Tie-Dyeing, published by Otaku. Japanese indigo seeds hidden in bolts of cotton lawn would be the chosen item. No interruptions for a few years would be an ideal Covid free experience.

Other interests are gardening. I have had an allotment for over 30 years. I grew flax and processed it for my C of A linen skein. It was such a pleasure to complete the journey. However, it is vegetables and soft fruit that take pride of place as I am a very keen cook.

FOCUS on the South West area

Start at the most southerly of our shores, swim along the Cornwall, Devon and Somerset Atlantic coast, up the Bristol Channel to the Severn Bridge, visit a Workhouse in the Bristol area, stroll down through Wiltshire in a South Easterly direction, step through Hampshire's New Forest, have a paddle in the English Channel before heading west along the Jurassic coast to meet up where we started, where land ends. This sums up the area which is aptly called the South West.

As far as the Association is concerned it is of historical importance. It all began in 1947 in Dorset, a large county comforted by some of these aforementioned. An article in the Journal of 1992 described the first meeting. The mycelium fibres spread to neighbouring counties continuing across Britain and recently with the help of the internet is now worldwide: <http://www.onlineguildwdsd.org.uk/>

The South West has fourteen guilds in its area and the highest percentage of Guild members per population except for Wales. Devon is the third largest County in Britain and has five Guilds to cover the area. Due to the geography and history the membership in the South West is the highest in the Association except for the virtual On-line.

As with all areas, the South West has an identity. With Cornwall in particular and the area in general we are surrounded by sea on three sides. The South West has a long tradition of crafts and the geography has helped retain these skills. There is a strong movement in the area to keep ancient crafts alive, such as thatching and also this reflects on our own crafts of weaving, spinning and dyeing.

During these strange times, Covid has made us rethink how we meet, support and continue with our crafts. The on-line guild has had a surge of new members and individual Guilds have kept active, meeting in friendship bubbles and online. Warmley Tower Weavers have changed their name and moved premises, to an old workhouse. They are open 5 days a week to make social distancing easier. Kennet Valley have a strong online presence, three Zoom meetings each month. One for weavers and one for spinners which consist of questions and answers, 'show and tell'. The third one, for the whole guild, consists of a meeting and a talk. On Saturdays they run virtual workshops and a follow up 'show and tell' encouraging anyone to join, even for the short term to get people interested in our crafts. Devon Weavers Workshop are using their workshop following the guidelines for safety. Some Guilds have an online shop attached to their website. Somerset, known in the region for their mid-June Fleece fair, didn't disappoint. The sellers were advertised in a virtual shop.

When we all get back to normal it will be such a pleasure to see each other face to face again. The next big event for the SW region is the Guilds Gathering 2024. If you have any suggestions for interesting talks, venues or would like to take part in helping organise you will find yourself amongst like-minded, enthusiastic people. Please get in touch with your Regional Rep, Penelope Blogg.

Summer School 2021 – Booking open until 31st December

The AGWSD Summer School will be held at Writtle University College, near Chelmsford, Essex, from Sunday 15th August - Sunday 22nd August 2021.

Booking is open until 31st December 2020; all details can be found at the dedicated page on the AGWSD website:

www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021

which includes the downloadable brochure and application forms for Summer School and for the Association Bursary Scheme. Application forms are available in both pdf and Word format, so a printer is not required to apply by e-mail.

Before booking, please also check the FAQ on the website for any queries that you may have.

Allocation of courses will begin in early January 2021, with a 'names out of the hat' system. Please put down three course choices if possible when you apply, ranked in order of preference, to increase your chances of gaining a place at Summer School. As you are drawn 'out of the hat', you will be allocated to an available place following your preferences, but if you have only listed one or two options and neither are available, your application will be put to one side until all names are drawn. At that stage any remaining places will be offered to unplaced applicants.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries on SS2021@wsd.org.uk.

Christina Chisholm, SS2021 Convenor

AGWSD Bursaries for Summer School 2021

As part of their charitable status, the AGWSD invites applications for bursary awards for participants at their Summer Schools. Bursaries may be awarded to those guild members who show they would have difficulty in financial terms in attending the Summer School, and who will use the learning to further their own practice with the intention of disseminating their new skills to others.

The bursaries are awarded at the discretion of the AGWSD General Purposes Committee based on the evidence submitted by the applicant and the two letters of reference supporting the application.

A proportion of the course fee will be considered.

Applicants must be a member of an AGWSD member guild. The information submitted by the applicant and referees will be treated in confidence.

Regrettably bursaries are not available to those who have previously received an AGWSD bursary for a summer school.

Applications are made by completing the bursary application form, on page 24 of this brochure, submitting a written summary of approximately 500 words in support of the application in line with the given guidelines, and also to include two written references in support of the application.

The application form is also available from Guild Secretaries, or can be downloaded from the Association website at www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021, and found in the AGWSD monthly Newsletter.

**Completed applications are to be received by the AGWSD Secretary,
Mary England, Montrose, Tower Road, Ashley Heath, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 4PU,
by 15th November 2020
Email: secretary@wsd.org.uk**

The applicants will receive the decision on their applications by 15th December 2020 which is before the closing date for Summer School applications.

Successful applicants will be issued with a code to insert into the application form which will be used to adjust their payment.

Please note that an offer of a bursary does not guarantee a place on your preferred or any other course.

Journal News

News Sheet / Quarterly News

Before the The Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (initially called the Quarterly Journal of the Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers) started in 1952 there was a short lived publication called News Sheet of the Guild of Weavers and Dyers or Quarterly News. The final issue, number 27 in the series, was produced in March 1939. The Journal archive has a few issues and we would be grateful if anyone with copies of the ones we are missing would allow us to make copies to retain in the archive. It is possible that copies might be held in the libraries of some of the earliest Guilds. Please contact: Alison Castle archive@journalwsd.org.uk

Coming in the next issue: Winter 2020

The next issue is due out on 18 November and includes a profile of two weavers 'down under', Anges Hauptli (New Zealand) and Jennifer Robertson (Australia). Both take the natural world as a source of inspiration, but with very different outcomes. The west Yorkshire 'shoddy' trade has been revived by John Parkinson with the emphasis on sustainability and York Guild members had the opportunity to experiment with the recycled fibres. Also with sustainability in mind, Penny Wheeler describes a project looking at closed loop textile production and the use of local dye plants. Anna Crutchley explores some samples woven by Doreen Sanders, a weaver and teacher who focussed on the special qualities of handweaving. Susan Foulkes and Tamaki Takagi introduce us to Sanadahimo, a type of Japanese braid with an interesting history. Contemporary accounts from rural Scotland in the eighteenth century show handspinning flax was a significant source of income and the basis of the rural linen industry. With no exhibition visits this summer, we are invited to a Private

View of Linda More's textile studio - with lots of ideas for organising your textile space. The Diary returns in this issue, and we also have Guild Highlights and book reviews.

Bookkeeper

The Journal is looking for a bookkeeper to help with the accounts. You should be familiar with the Xero software and basic bookkeeping practice. You would work with the JEC Treasurer and need to be able to commit an average of 5 hours per week to this work (the workload does vary across the year, with some busier periods when we deal with a larger number of transactions). This is a contracted role which would suit someone working on a freelance basis. You would support the JEC, but not be required to attend committee meetings. If you are interested in this role please contact: chair@journalwsd.org.uk

Association AGM, April 2020: Nominations for JEC

The Journal committee is looking for a Secretary to replace Judith Evans who will be retiring in April 2021 after five years hard work supporting the JEC. The role involves organising four committee meetings per year, producing the minutes of meetings, keeping records and administering the JEC Google Suite account. Meetings are held in central London or via Zoom. We are looking for someone who is organised, able to work to deadlines and has good IT skills. The Journal team is friendly and knowledgeable and you would have support to learn the role. The JEC term of office is up to five years, with expenses paid for essential expenditure for committee work including travel. If you are interested in the role please get in touch with Hilary Miller: chair@journalwsd.org.uk

Guild Highlights

We rely on Guilds to send us items for this section of the Journal - why not tell us about what your Guild has been doing? We have all had to adapt to current circumstances, and it would be good to know how Guilds have responded. Please get in touch with Rosemary Mitchell-Schuitevoerder highlights@journalwas.org.uk

Diary

Don't forget to contact the Journal if you have events planned for 2021. For the print Journal items should be sent well in advance*, but we can put items on the Journal website diary with shorter notice. Please contact Geraldine Wilkins diary@journalwsd.org.uk

*The deadlines for diary entries in the print issue are: 1 December for Spring; 1 March for Summer; 1 June for Autumn; and 1 September for Winter.

Interested in writing for the Journal?

We are always keen to have proposals for articles - see the Submission Guidelines on the Journal website (click on the link in the top right hand corner of the page) and contact features@journalwsd.org.uk to discuss your ideas.

Elsewhere on the Web

- [A video introduction](#) to the Heritage Crafts Association's Herring gansey project, running until February;
- [300 videos](#) with artists, makers, designers and creators filmed as part of London Craft Week;
- The Knitting & Stitching Shows, [Self Portrait competition](#) will bring their community together virtually, with a series of textile portraits which will be shown on the website plus a limited-edition magazine celebrating three decades of The Knitting & Stitching Shows. Entrants will need to

create a self-portrait to the size specified in the rules, in any textile medium they wish to. Everything from cross-stitch and embroidery through to screen-printing, feltwork, beadwork, a quilt or a knitted jumper is welcome. As long as it has textiles as the basis, you can enter it!

- Earlier this year Jacqueline James was invited to create a tactile, multi-sensory woven handling piece for the permanent collection of the Cooper Gallery in Barnsley, South Yorkshire to coincide with the current exhibition '[Allegories of the Senses](#)' which runs from 15th August to 21st November 2020. The finished piece, measuring 45 x 150 cm, was made in collaboration with Jacqueline's friend and colleague Sarah K Jackson of Winifred Taylor Vintage Textile Art. Sarah made lots of different textured pom poms and tassels and skillfully embellished the entire woven length. Jacqueline thoroughly enjoyed the experience of collaborating with Sarah to design and make something more extraordinary and less functional than a woven rug and they are delighted that the piece will become part of the permanent collection at Cooper Gallery.



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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