



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

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: [www.wsd.org.uk](http://www.wsd.org.uk)

President: Jennie Parry Life President: Paddy Bakker

Vice President: Steve Kennett

### **AGWSD News, April 2021**

#### **Association News**

##### **Update from the Chair**

##### **AGWSD Exhibition 2022**

The AGWSD Exhibition 2022 is planned to take place at Leigh Spinners Mill in September 2022. The theme remains as 'Coal, Cotton and Canals', and for the non selected pieces 'Still Waters'.

An Exhibition convenor is required urgently. Whilst many of the original exhibition team are continuing, we do need someone to volunteer to take on this role. Ann Martin, GPC member, will be able to help with all the information already gathered.

##### **Glanffrwd Mill in Wales**

On the death of Margaret Bide, who had restored the mill, there was a possibility that the new owners might make alterations. Cadw has now listed the mill, which is good news.

##### **AGWSD policies**

The GPC are reviewing and revising all policies. Those appropriate for guilds to adapt and adopt will be on the WIP shortly.

##### **The AGWSD and the Embroiderers Guild financial aspects**

The GPC has had a couple of queries related to the financial problems encountered by the Embroiderers Guild. The Embroiderers Guild has frozen the bank accounts of all their branches, as the monies belong to their Headquarters. The enquirers wanted to know if the AGWSD/GPC could act in a similar fashion.

The Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers is organised in a very different way to the Embroiderers Guild.

Each of the AGWSD affiliated guilds, those based in the UK, and the associate guilds, those based outside the UK, are autonomous. Each guild has its own constitution and runs its own affairs, including the financial aspects. Every member of the guilds pays an affiliation fee, or an associate fee, this generally forms part of your annual guild subscription. For this year, the affiliation fee is £2.25, for affiliated guilds, which is half the £4.50 which was due. The affiliation fee pays for your guild delegate to travel to and from the AGM. It gives the members of guilds access to the educational aspects of the AGWSD, the exhibitions, the summers schools, the conferences, at guild member rates, as well as the Foundation Certificate, the Certificate of Achievement and The Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies. Every guild secretary also receives the AGWSD News, and access to the Stuart Groom Memorial Library. The affiliation fee also gives the affiliated guilds public liability insurance.

## **Summer School 2021 – Remaining Spaces**

Writtle University College, near Chelmsford, Essex, 15th - 22nd August 2021

There are now very few places left on a first-come-first-served, non-residential basis, so if you are thinking of coming to Summer School but haven't as yet booked, please contact me immediately on [SS2021@wsd.org.uk](mailto:SS2021@wsd.org.uk). At the time of writing, places are available on: Designing Yarns, Inkle Weaving, Entrelac Knitting, Ply-Split Braiding, Spinning Exotic Fibres and Nuno Felting. If your dream course is not on this list, please let me know and I will add you to the reserve list for the course.

All information is on the dedicated website page at [www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021](http://www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021), including the brochure giving full details of the courses, and the late availability booking form.

Christina Chisholm, SS2021 Convenor

## **Summer School 2021 – Trade Fair**

This will run from 5pm-8pm on Friday 20th August, then from 9am-4pm on Saturday 21st August

If you are interested in booking a place, please contact the Convenor, Christina Chisholm, on [SS2021@wsd.org.uk](mailto:SS2021@wsd.org.uk), in the first instance, who will pass your details onto the Trade Fair organiser, Jane Brighthouse, who will contact you direct to discuss.

## **Mentors for the Foundation Certificate**

Registrations for the FC in Spinning are increasing as lockdown is eased. We have lost a mentor as they have taken another role on the GPC and we have been one short for some time. This FC is now well established and we need two mentors who have achieved the CofA or equivalent to support new registrants. Someone from the North/Scottish Borders and from the East/East Anglia would be ideal, however, all interested people would be most welcome. Please contact either Janet Maher, Foundation Certificate Coordinator on [foundation@wsd.org.uk](mailto:foundation@wsd.org.uk) or Pene Blogg, Assistant FC Coordinator(spinning) on [foundationspin@wsd.org.uk](mailto:foundationspin@wsd.org.uk)

## **A home for The Stuart Groom Memorial Library**

The Association owns a comprehensive library of textile books, many of which have been reviewed in the Journal. The library is dedicated to the late Stuart Groom, past Chair of the Association, who promoted it and found a home for it in a college he worked with. However, the library is currently without a home or a librarian and cannot be used. It is a valuable resource containing over 400 books, focussed on the Association's crafts.

The Association is looking for a home for the library and for someone to take on the role of looking after it, making books available to borrow by post, and potentially to hold 'open days' where Guild members could visit to borrow books. A selection of books is usually taken to Summer School. We are open to the possibility of splitting the library between several venues, if Guilds in different parts of the country would be interested in taking on the librarian role and making the books available again.

If you think you or your Guild could help, please contact Mary England, AGWSD Secretary [secretary@adwsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@adwsd.org.uk)

## **Meet the GPC: Ann Johnson, Area Link for Scotland, Ireland and the overseas Guilds**



Hello

Though a new member of the GPC, I am currently in my twenty first year of Highland Guild membership.

My Guild membership began, as things often do, with a chance encounter. Towards the end of a day trip with friends from a beginners' spinning class we stopped at a small shop with a spinning wheel on a sign outside. Though it seemed unusual for it to be open in the evening, we went in only to discover that the shop was in fact closed and the cars parked outside belonged to Guild committee members who were having a meeting there!

After that first encounter with the committee, I joined the Guild and subsequently I have undertaken several roles there including magazine editor, membership secretary, workshop organizer, secretary and newsletter editor.

As a Guild member and as a member of a local spinning group I have also been involved in organizing both national and international video link-ups for both fun competitions and subsequent information presentations and scarf exchanges.

Guild membership has given me immense opportunities to advance my knowledge and skills in spinning, weaving and dyeing in a supportive environment with likeminded fibre enthusiasts.

Living in the far north of Scotland, travel to Guild meetings and workshops has at times been challenging but always worthwhile. While nothing can replace meetings in person this has made me acutely aware of the additional dimension technology can bring to our activities but also aware of the challenges access to this can present.

After a career lecturing face to face with students and subsequently combining this with writing and delivering distance learning courses in subjects quite unrelated to textiles, I now really enjoy, through demonstrations and 'come and try it' sessions, helping others begin, enjoy and flourish on their journeys in our crafts.

In terms of my role on the GPC, as Area Link for Scotland, Ireland and the overseas Guilds I look forward to meeting more members. Rest assured, however, that your affiliation fees will not be spent on travel expenses as I swan around this country and abroad! While I just love meeting up with and speaking to people and will do so where possible, I will use all possible means of communication. My focus will be on encouraging co-operation and events at both local and regional levels and helping to bridge the gap between the national Association and Guild members

## **Journal News**

The Journal Editorial Committee is urgently seeking several volunteers to join the committee to fill vacant roles. Volunteers would initially be co-opted and stand for election at the Association AGM in 2022. The vacancies are:

A **Secretary** to take over from Judith Evans who is retiring after five years of keeping the committee supported and organised. The Secretary drafts the agenda and produces the minutes of JEC meetings, books the venue for committee meetings (or arranges Zoom meetings), maintains committee membership records, administers the GDrive (which we use for all JEC business), is a contact point for the committee and generally keeps us all on the straight and narrow. Do you have good organisational and computer skills? You could be just the person we are looking for!

**Exhibition Reviews Editor:** to identify exhibitions for review, to contact reviewers and to edit text. You will need good computer skills, keep an eye on forthcoming exhibitions and meet production schedule dates.

We are also looking for someone to help with **project management** and provide general assistance to the committee. The role requires good computer skills, ability to work to deadlines and willingness to pick up new work.

The committee meets four times per year with meetings currently held via Zoom. When face-to face meetings are possible they will be in central London, though we will continue to hold some of the meetings by Zoom. Travel and other essential expenses are paid. All JEC business is conducted on GSuite. JEC is a very hands-on committee and needs a regular commitment of time from members, but it is very rewarding to be part of the team that produces a high quality publication.

For more information or to discuss the roles please contact Hilary Miller, Chair JEC  
[chair@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@journalwsd.org.uk)

### **Summer 2021 issue**

In the next issue, due out in late May, we have two articles on using acid dyes. Penny Renn writes about her introduction to acid dyeing and Linda More explains how to dye a colour wheel using four basic colours.

Lesley Willcock helps weavers with an easy to use guide to the Ashenhurst formula for determining sett, especially when using fine yarns. The lively work of a group of weavers in the Netherlands is introduced by Selma Sindram. This is the first in a series of articles which will explore contemporary handweaving in other countries.

The Online Guild spinning challenge in 2020 gave the participants a series of criteria to fulfill in order to push them outside their comfort zone. Cath Snape and Jo Finlow introduce the results achieved by seven of the participants who found the exercise a rewarding experience.

We have a review of an exhibition of contemporary woven blankets curated by Welsh weaver Laura Thomas at Llantarnam Grange, Cwmbran, There is also an inspiring Readers' Showcase, and the usual book reviews, Notebook, Diary and Association News.

## **News from Guilds**

### **Obituary: Barbara Spicer**

Barbara died suddenly at the end of March. She had been a Somerset Guild member for many years serving on the committee as Secretary for ten of those years. Barbara completed the old Bradford diploma course in spinning, weaving and dyeing. Although she loved all crafts (tattling and dolls houses in addition to our core crafts), her real interest was natural dyeing. She was an accomplished dyer and considered a local expert. She has run many workshops in the South West and done many talks. Barbara collected old dye recipes and had gathered all John Edmonds recipe books together, including his Manual of Textile Dyeing of the 18th Century. She will be missed as a colleague and for her knowledge and skill in natural dyeing.

### **Floor Loom wanted**

I am looking for a small floor loom no larger than 30" weaving width. Would need to have 8 shafts and ideally have the option to have two back beams. I would consider a table loom also depending on the size of it. Please contact me at [amypainter@gmail.com](mailto:amypainter@gmail.com) if you are parting with a loom.

## **Elsewhere on the Web**

- Selvedge Blog featured an article about the Association written by Ptolemy Mann, [The Long Thread - Guided Lilies](#)
- Crafts Council recommendations for [exhibitions to see this Spring](#)
- A chair [woven into a willow](#)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk)

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

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