



July 2021

NEWS

Association News

GPC and JEC

We have newly elected members of the GPC and the JEC, welcome.

Should you be interested in joining the GPC or the JEC, please do contact me, Janet Crowther, AGWSD chair, chair@wsd.org.uk. There are vacancies in both committees.

Lorna Shannon is the new editor for the AGWSD News. Lorna will be developing the AGWSD News, as did Charlotte Powell the newly retired editor. Should you have anything of interest you would like to share will all the members of the AGWSD Guilds, please email to Lorna at newsletter@wsd.org.uk

Janet Crowther, AGWSD Chair

AGWSD Certificate of Achievement

There will be three Certificate of Achievement assessments in the exhibition at Summer School, Writtle University College, Essex CM1 3RR, as well as the Certificate in Advanced Textiles Studies student's assessment. The exhibition will be open on the Friday evening 20th August for summer school attendees and the Saturday, 22nd August during Open Day.

Information about all the certificates, Foundation Certificate, the Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies is on the AGWSD website www.wsd.org.uk under the members area, the WIP.

Janet Crowther certificate@wsd.org.uk

Area Links

The restructuring of the regions into five Areas, each with an Area Link, is now up and running. Your guild secretary will be hearing from your Area Link, maybe they have already.

The AGWSD News and the Area Links are both fundamental means of communication for all within the AGWSD, the members of the guilds, the General Purposes Committee, all promoting and sharing who we are and what we do.

Exhibition 2022 'Coal, Cotton and Canals' Leigh Spinners Mill.

The mill is situated between Manchester and Wigan, with Bolton to the north and Warrington to the south.

Do you live in that area and would be willing to be part of the exhibition committee? Please contact chair@wsd.org.uk.

The nucleus of the original committee is in place from 2019/2020. With the postponement of the exhibition from 2020 to 2022, there is urgent need for a convenor and others to take the plans forward to fruition in September 2022

Summer School Course Vacancies

There are still a (very) few vacancies left on courses....please see the dedicated page on the AGWSD website for up to date details of availability, including any available on-campus accommodation. wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021

Contact : Christina Chisholm, Convenor
SS2021@wsd.org.uk

Introduction to the new editor of AGWSD News

My name is Lorna Shannon. I am a new member of the GPC but I have been a member of the Ulster Guild for nine years and the current Secretary.

Textiles have always played a big part in my life. I grew up on the Yorkshire Pennines, surrounded by the history of the woollen trade. My mother joined Craven Guild in the early seventies and father made her first wheel. As a teenager I took little interest but was taken along to demonstrations to card the rolags! When my mother passed in 2011 I inherited the old wheel and taught myself to spin.

What really fascinated me was being able to transform a fleece into a knitted hat to present to the owner of the ewe. Since then I have experimented with many different fibres but I usually come back to native breed wool.

I had no intention of getting into weaving, but seeing an advert for an old four-shaft floor loom for sale nearby, the temptation was too great. Turns out my forebears were cotton weavers; you can't outrun the past. So, now I'm a self-taught weaver with my own business.

The educational aims of the Association are very close to my heart and I am passionate about keeping the textile crafts alive and relevant. I look forward to my new role as editor of the AGWSD News and I hope you'll keep me informed of all the wonderful happenings in your areas. newsletter@wsd.org.uk



AGWSD Summer School Open Day

Writtle University College, near Chelmsford, Essex

Summer School will be open to Day Visitors on **Saturday 21st August**, from 9am to 4pm. Attractions include the Trade Fair, Raffle, Certificate of Achievement Exhibition, Tutors' Exhibition, Classroom displays and afternoon talks; we are also hoping to welcome Christiane from the Berta's Flax project who will deliver a talk (if overseas travel restrictions permit!).

For directions to Writtle, please see the College website writtle.ac.uk/Contact-Us. This website also has a downloadable Campus Map.

There are large car parks at the back of the Campus, but note the one-way system (shown on the map). Please come to the Reception on the Main Campus (marked '1' on the Campus Map) for your Visitor pass. Refreshments will be available at the Tiptree Tea Rooms at the Lordship Campus nearby.

Traders include : Handloom Holdings; The Arty Crafty Place; Fire & Fibre; Joe's Toes; Michael Williams (Woodturner); Uppingham Yarns; Textile Traders; Classic Carders; Felstead Fleece; Sheepy Things; The African Fabric Shop; D T Craft & Design; The Threshing Barn; The Old Bookshop; The Journal for Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Raffle prizes include (full list on display at Summer School) : fibre packs, fleece packs, trader vouchers, handmade slippers, printing block set, batik starter pack, pack of weaving yarns, Bolga basket, dye kit, bundle of Ply magazines, out of print book, subscription to The Journal

Any queries please to Christina Chisholm, Summer School Convenor, on SS2021@wsd.org.uk

Please note : We request all visitors to be vigilant in preventing the spread of the C-19 virus, by wearing face masks indoors, using hand sanitiser, avoid crowding and not attending the event if they, or anyone in their household, has tested positive and/or developed symptoms immediately prior to the Open Day.

Journal News

The Autumn issue of The Journal is due to be published in late August and includes an article on Swedish sheep breeds by Josefin Walin who looks at a number of native breeds that were all but lost. Alison Garnett introduces us to her two spinning wheels - a new handmade wheel and an antique wheel which she brought back into use. Linda More continues her acid dyeing project, with clear instructions on the dyeing process, while Carolyn Griffiths writes about her experiments with extracting colours other than blue from woad. Janet Phillips is a well known weaver, author and teacher - but we learn how a visit to Bernat Klein's mill in Galashiels when she was sixteen proved inspirational and started her on a lifelong career.

Remembering his mother weaving was the starting point for Dave Griffiths to develop a very unusual use for tablet weaving - creating maypole dancing robots, with the aim to help people understand computer programming. Stacey Harvey-Brown has written a technical note on a slewing chart, including a very helpful approach for when your epi or epcm doesn't correspond to the chart. Finally, Ros Lobb, past Journal designer, along with Ruth Hecht and Claude Delmas (past Journal archivist) write about Ann Hecht, weaver and author of the classic Art of the Loom. Ann was also involved in the production of the Journal as designer and editorial co-ordinator and also produced a comprehensive index of the first one hundred issues.

Join the Journal Team 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:

Secretary to arrange meetings, draft the agenda and produce the minutes of JEC meetings. The Secretary also maintains committee membership records and administers the GDrive (which we use for all JEC business) and is a contact point for the committee.

We may consider splitting the role, so would also be interested in recruiting a **Minute Secretary**, who need not be a committee member, but who would attend meetings to take the minutes and then write them up. If you are interested in all or part of the JEC Secretary role, please get in touch so that we can discuss options.

Exhibition Reviews Editor: to identify exhibitions for review, to contact reviewers, edit text and contact galleries for images when necessary.

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

2022: 70th Anniversary of The Journal

The first issue of what was then called the Quarterly Journal of the Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers was produced in March 1952. After several changes of name and format the Journal reaches its 70th anniversary next year. We are planning several features which will reflect on the past 70 years, but will also look forward. We would welcome input from Journal subscribers or Guilds. Can you recall a specific article which inspired you? How has the Journal contributed to your creative life? Let us know.

Hilary Miller, Chair JEC
chair@journalwsd.org.uk

Guild treat from John Arbon

The wonderful people at John Arbon, in appreciation of our support and to celebrate their 20th anniversary are offering Guild members a 20% discount code on all the 20th Anniversary specials on their website.

20% off Discount Code : GSWDTREAT

- Items included in discount

Tops: <https://www.jarbon.com/product-category/virtual-mill-open-weekend/fibre-tops-specials/>

Yarns: <https://www.jarbon.com/product-category/virtual-mill-open-weekend/yarn-specials/>

Other news

Upcoming events in my own area are
5th September Spinning Yarns at Mossley Mill
<https://spinningyarnsfestival.com>

The last ever Yard Fest at Flax Mill Textiles,
Dungiven. Contact them directly for more details
flaxmill@gmx.net

In order to see events in your area promoted here
please send me details. newsletter@wsd.org.uk

Speakers List Update

At the 2021 AGM the new online Speakers' List was formerly launched. Have you had a look at it yet? What do you think about it? Do let me know if you have any suggestions for improving it.

The web address for the online, searchable, more comprehensive Speaker's List is <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list>, for which you will need your Guild login details. The non-password protected, printable but more limited version can still be found on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

Following the successful COVID19 vaccination programme and the further relaxation on restrictions, many Guilds may be looking to revamp their programmes from the Autumn onwards. Do look at what is available through the Speakers List – the diversity of topics is amazing and the options of talks and/or workshops can make for a really engaging event for Guild members.

How do you set about establishing your programme of events? Is it done by one individual, through a committee decision or does your whole Guild membership get to contribute ideas for upcoming events? I would be really interested to get insights into how the Guilds put together their programmes so please do drop me an email with a simple outline of how your Guild does it.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

Contact & Social Media

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, 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/>