



Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

August 2021

NEWS



A word from the Chair

Hurrah for Summer School, an event that went ahead and was all the more enjoyable for that. I am sure those who were there will agree that Writtle University College campus was beautiful. There were many small gardens, all slightly unkempt as the students hadn't been there to tend them, full of flowers, little oceans of calm and peace. The workshops were such busy hives of industry, lines hanging with dyed fabrics, much laughter and chatter. I always think it is the friendships that really make a summer school, those who are there every time as well as newcomers to the summer school experience. Sadly some were unable to attend as constraints on travel from abroad were just too much. But Barbs made it from the USA, it took time and great effort, but no summer school would be complete without her and her story telling.

Christina Chisholm, as convenor, kept faith that it would go ahead, even when some thought not. It was so good that she did as it was an event that will be remembered for years to come.

Thank you to Christina and those that helped her, to the tutors and students. An especially heartfelt thank you to Jo and all the staff at Writtle who worked tirelessly to make it such a great event.

During the Open Day a young member of the Writtle staff called in to see what we were doing. She and her colleague had seen us all arrive, and sort of thought we were there to do 'knitting'. As the week progressed she realised there was a little more to summer school than that. She was truly amazed at the work she had see in the workshops, the variety and excellence of all she viewed.

As autumn approaches, and guild meetings in person resume we should put the dark days of the last eighteen months behind us, come out from our isolation and celebrate the fact we all belong to such a wonderful organisation.

Janet Cowther
chair@wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Certificate of Achievement

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

AGWSD Summer School 2021

A truly memorable week was enjoyed by Summer School participants at Writtle University College from 15th-22nd August.

Much was learnt and enjoyed in the fifteen classes; the Fashion Show; evening talks by Mary Schoesser and Melanie Venes; Tutors' Exhibition; Classroom Exhibitions and the Certificate of Art Exhibition.

These few photos give just a flavour of the week.



Fibres positioned ready to create a unique design in the Nuno Felting class



Bold patterns in the Indigo Shibori workshop



Samples in the Eco-Print class labeled for future reference.



Experimenting with wire wefts in the Art Weaves class.



The Greenhouse proved the perfect venue for exploring natural dyeing

Very many thanks to all those students, tutors and helpers who 'held the faith' despite the fluctuating background of the pandemic over the past 18 months.

Christina Chisholm

Convenor SS2021

Journal News

Contents of the Autumn Issue

The autumn issue is published in late August and contains:

8 Swedish Wool	Josefin Waltin
12 Dyeing a Colour Wheel Using Acid Dyes	Linda Moore
18 Tablet Woven Maypole-Dancing Robots	Dave Griffiths
22 A Life at the Loom: The Work and Practice of Janet Phillips - Teacher, Weaver, Author, Designer	Jo Andrews
26 A Tale of Two Spinning Wheels: Albert and an Antique	Alison Garnett
30 A Plant of Many Colours	Carolyn Griffiths
32 Knitting Socks with Handspun Yarn	Hilary Miller
33 Technical Notes: Sleying Chart for ends per inch and ends per centimetre	Stacey Harvey-Brown
41 Ann Hecht 1929 - 2021	Rosalind Lobb, Claude Delmas & Ruth Hecht
40 President's Remarks - Annual Meeting AGWSD 2021	

Plus the usual features such as Book Reviews, Guild Highlights, Association News and Notebook

Vacancy for the JEC Secretary

The Journal Editorial Committee is seeking a volunteer to fill the post of Secretary. Duties include arranging meetings, drafting the agenda and producing 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.

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

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

Other news

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

Speakers List Update

How are you finding the new online Speakers List (<https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list>)? Hopefully it is more 'user friendly' than the old list used to be but any feedback would be very welcome. Remember that you will need your Guild login to access the online Speakers list but that a non-password protected, printable but more limited version can still be found on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>

Have you had any inspiring speakers over the past few months that you would like to share with other Guild's? Do let me know about them so that I can approach them and invite them to join the list.

Last month I asked for insights into how your Guild goes about setting out its programme of events – how far ahead are you planning? What sort of balance do you seek of invited speakers and member-led events? How many workshops do you like to try and include each year? Are workshops more important than talks? Do drop me an email with some comments on how you manage things.

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

Follow the Association on social media: [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Twitter](#)

Association Website: <https://www.wsd.org.uk/> Web Information Point (WIP): <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/>