



### **A Word from the Chair**

The GPC is meeting mid-October in person after a very long-time using zoom. I, for one, am delighted we are meeting face to face as I have fallen out with zoom completely. It served a very acceptable function enabling the business of the GPC and the AGWSD to continue over the past eighteen months, but living breathing people are so much better than those appearing on a screen.

I very much hope that the members of guilds are now back in their meeting venues, enjoying each other's company and sharing all they do.

When I was in the Hampshire area recently, I visited the Whitchurch Silk Mill. Firstly to see the renovated mill which is certainly worth a visit as it is a wonderful example of a working mill, weaving the most exquisite silk pieces. But secondly, to see the British Tapestry Group's exhibition, 'Threads in Sheds' currently running until the 21st November. I recognised many of the names as guild members. The mill also has a rather good cafe.

It is so good to be out and about again. Please do let your Area Link know of any interesting events and how your guild is faring. One of the guilds I belong to has had a flurry of new members, a very good sign for the future.

Of course, you can always write a piece for this newsletter yourself as it is intended to be all about you and the guilds.

Janet Crowther, AGWSD Chair

[chair@wsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@wsd.org.uk)

### **An invitation to a great talk**

Mel Sweetnam of [mairiesschoolhouse.com](http://mairiesschoolhouse.com), the natural dye educator from Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia will be giving a Zoom talk called the (In) Temperate Natural Dyer to the London Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers on Saturday 16th October at 2.00 pm.

The focus will be on species common to her part of Canada and to the UK, of which there are many. She is going to demonstrate a range of natural dye related uses for temperate species as mordant assists, dyes and show colours in whole cloth dyeing and in various surface design techniques.

*This is open to non members via Eventbrite*  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-intemperate-natural-dyer-with-mel-sweetnam-tickets-174099094077>

### **Scottish Maritime Museum Climate Fringe Day - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

#### **Loving Earth Project Drop-In Workshops**

Create your own textile panel on the opening day of the Loving Earth Project exhibition. Your panel can express climate change issues or what you love about the planet and nature – anything you love about Earth!

In this led session you will get as much guidance as you need to start your on textile project. All levels of experience welcome from beginners to expert crafters. Materials will be provided and the workshop is included in your entry to the Museum.

You can take your textile panel home or it can become part of the exhibition and go on display at the Scottish Maritime Museum Dumbarton as part of The Loving Earth Project exhibition!

Workshop Event Page – Scottish Maritime Museum

<https://www.scottishmaritimemuseum.org/event/dumbarton-climate-fringe-weekend-loving-earth-project-panel-making-workshop/>

## **British Textile Biennial 2021, 1 – 31 October 21**

British Textile Biennial returns this year with new artist commissions, exhibitions and performances presented against the backdrop of the impressive infrastructure of the cotton industry in Pennine Lancashire.

This October, BTB21 turns its attention to the global nature of textiles and the relationships they create, both historically and now, with a major new commission by Turner Prize winner Lubaina Himid, fashion historian Amber Butchart as guest curator, a groundbreaking, sustainable fashion project with designer Patrick Grant and a collaboration with artist James Fox and actor Maxine Peake.

Venues include: the Great Barn at Gawthorpe Hall, Blackburn Cotton Exchange, the Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington, The Whitaker, Rossendale and Queen Street Mill, Burnley The Textile and Place conference is hosted by Manchester School of Art,

### **Two other highlights**

Gandhi's homespun philosophy is the inspiration behind Homegrown/Homespun; a collaboration with designer Patrick Grant, Super Slow Way and North West England Fibreshed. In Spring 2021 a field of flax and woad was planted on a piece of unused ground on the banks of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in Blackburn, to be harvested and processed in the autumn and finally, spun, dyed and woven in Blackburn to create the first pair of commercial Homegrown/Homespun jeans live in the town centre during the Biennial.

The tension between the industrialisation of cotton manufacturing and traditional cottage industry is the starting point for James Fox's new work that explores the history of protest and punishment via the Lancashire loombreaker riots of 1826. The installation at Helmshore Mill includes James' trademark hard-hitting embroideries and prints plus a new film collaboration with Maxine Peake presenting the tragic continuum of women's experience of the criminal justice system over two centuries.

All information reproduced from BTB21 website <https://britishtextilebiennial.co.uk/news/british-textile-biennial-2021-programme-announced-for-1-31-october-2021/>

## **Speakers List Update**

With COVID restrictions being reduced, and Guilds increasingly able to meet in person again, now is the time to re-engage with your membership by booking an inspiring speaker or workshop tutor.

Search the Speakers List (<https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list>) for something different; exploring 'Shoddy' with John Parkinson, experimental 3D knitting with Alison Ellen, getting insights into future textiles using biometric design with Veronika Kapsali or having a go at mixed media stitch and print collage with Kate Andre – the opportunities are endless!

And if you prefer the print-based version of the list it can still be found on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

If you have enjoyed the presentation or workshop of one of our speakers recently, do please let me know so that I can pass on recommendations.

Matty Smith  
[speakerslist@wsd.org.uk](mailto:speakerslist@wsd.org.uk)

## **Other news**

In order to see events in your area promoted here please send me details.  
[newsletter@wsd.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@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](mailto: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](mailto:diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk)

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