



News from The Chair

‘Coal, Cotton and Canals’ AGWSD Exhibition

September 2022, Leigh Spinners Mill, Park Lane, Leigh, WN7 2LA

As mentioned in the last AGWSD News, GPC members visited the mill recently. It is an amazing industrial site. The Association has held their exhibitions in many and varied venues, stately homes, art galleries, museums, all sorts of venues. We have a small group of people who are moving this forward. Please, if you are interested in helping, maybe as a steward during the exhibition, maybe with helping put up the exhibition, maybe helping with the unpacking of the selected items and, after the exhibition, repacking for return to the makers. That wonderful saying, ‘many hands make light work’, is so very true. Please email chair@wsd.org.uk

Guild members are so good at volunteering to make all of our events happen.

Information about the exhibition will be emailed to Guild Secretaries in the New Year.

AGWSD Summer School 2023

Harper Adams University, Shropshire 13th – 20th August 2023

A huge ‘thank you’ to those that have volunteered to form the subcommittee, after the request for volunteers in last month’s AGWSD News. They are just beginning the process of putting all the parts of a summer school together. It may seem a while away, but start saving now, not forgetting that bursaries are available for summer schools. Summer Schools are for all, they are such an incredible experience.

AGWSD Guild Gathering ‘Colour the Full Spectrum’

17th – 19th June 2022

I popped up to Worcester yesterday to visit the venue and to meet the Guild Gathering subcommittee. Thank you to these volunteers, for all their hard work, particularly as the event had to be postponed for two years. It is a lovely venue, and for those with places on the event, the workrooms are spacious, the lecture theatre and all the spaces that are going to be used, just right.

AGWSD Certificate of Achievement

The assessments for the CoA 2022 will take place at the Guild Gathering in Worcester. Information concerning registration for assessment will be emailed to those currently registered for the CoA by mid December. The room for the assessments is bright and airy. The CoA exhibition will be open on the Saturday 18th June late afternoon, and on the Sunday morning.

GPC and JEC committee nominations for 2022 election

Guild Secretaries have received the information for the AGWSD AGM on 28th May to be held at Conway Hall, London and by zoom.

The AGWSD is looking for nominations for both the GPC and for the JEC. Computer skills are a huge advantage as communication these days is via the internet. Organisational skills, working within a team, and the commitment to be involved in our organisation, are all good starting points. Association secretary, Mary England will hold a zoom meeting with all those who are nominated giving an introduction to the AGWSD, once the nominations have been received and before the

Please contact me, Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk for more information about any of these opportunities/events

Meet the GPC

Cath Snape—Area Rep for Wales and Central England

Hi Cath calling from Yorkshire. I've crafted all my life, sewing, knitting, embroidery, cross stitch, you name it I've tried it, for enjoyment rather than mastery. I learnt to spin when pregnant with my son, little realising that working and childrearing were full time activities. The spinning lapsed. About 15 years ago, when off work with depression, a



friend cleaned my wheel, reminded me how to spin and gave me bundles of beautiful fibre. I joined York and the Online Guilds and loved the companionship and learning. Tempted to learn more I studied for certificates in spinning and then became a mentor for others. I struggle to say no, so when asked to join York committee, I agreed. When told there is always someone from York on the GPC I succumbed to pressure. I have gained so much from being a member of guilds and realise how much the association does, I wanted to give back just a little. I have a background in the health service, with some teaching and research experience. I hope to contribute my interest in education and diversity to the association. My role on the GPC is as Area rep for Wales and Central England. I know Yorkshire doesn't quite fit geographically, but emails and zoom will be a bonus and when restrictions lift further, I hope to meet some of the guilds.

Geraldine Wilkins (Ulster Guild) on the final courses to be run by Jason Collingwood.

I recently had the opportunity to undertake two intensive 3-day courses in 3-end block weave and twill rug weaving techniques led by master-weaver Jason Collingwood. We participants had come from far and wide, hosted by the welcoming and ever-helpful members of Devon Weavers Workshop, and within both groups there was a wide range of weaving backgrounds and levels of experience.

The material covered by Jason was comprehensive and detailed as he shared the fundamental weaving principles that have guided his 35 year career at the loom. He illustrated the design potential and technical advantages and disadvantages of alternative weave structures and patterning techniques such as clasped weft. He described adjustments to the loom to improve rug weaving outcomes and passed on the kind of tips that just aren't to be found in books.

Being able to handle and compare rug samples (many woven by his father Peter) helped me to make sense of the hand-outs and my scribbled notes, and setting up the Louet table loom that I was allocated to facilitate shaft switching in the block weave course was a glimpse into another world of possibilities. The days felt very short (there's never enough weaving time) but I left Devon with new skills, new friends and new confidence in my potential as a weaver.

Journal News

J280: Winter 2021 issue of the Journal

The new issue contains the following:

Page 8: Bristol Cloth, Babs Behan

Page 12: No Colour No Contrast, Theo Wright

Page 16: A Natural Dye Adventure, Chris Aslan Alexander

Page 24: Alison Morton 1946 - 2021, Jacy Wall

Page 25: Planning and Making a Picnic Blanket, Sonya Hammond

Page 30: Technical Notes: Spinning Ratios, Sonya Hammond

Page 32: Understanding Colour-and-Weave & Shadow Weave, Stacey Harvey Brown

Page 36: Grand Textiles from Small Islands, Carol Christiansen

Page 40: Women's Woven Voices, Brecia Kralovic-Logan

On page 20 there is the Graduate Showcase: Evie Ctrawshaw & Jane Gray

Plus the usual Notebook, Association News, Book Reviews, Exhibition Reviews, Guild Highlights and Diary.

Why not join the Journal team?

In 2022 the Journal Editorial Committee hopes to recruit new members to learn some of the jobs that will be vacated when current members reach the end of their term on the committee and to provide back-up for critical roles. We need a variety of skills and have several admin opportunities where it will be of great benefit to shadow and support the existing team member. The work can be quite demanding - but equally it is rewarding to be closely involved in the production of the Journal. We are a friendly and knowledgeable team and would welcome prospective members joining a committee meeting as an observer to see how it works. The committee meets four times per year to tie in with the production schedule. We have been meeting via Zoom and will continue to do so for some meetings, but will aim to have at least one face-to-face meeting in Central London next year. Please contact me to find out more and see how your skills could help the Journal.

Hilary Miller

Chair, Journal Editorial Committee

chair@journalwsd.org.uk

Bulk Guild Orders

The Journal continues to offer a discount for bulk Guild orders with a minimum of three orders to a single address. The price remains £16 per subscriber. Please send your orders to the Subscriptions Secretary as soon as you can.

Queries to: subs@journalwsd.org.uk

Working Mills

Thank you for your responses about working weaving and spinning mills in your areas, keep them coming.

Lorraine from East Sussex Guild reminded me about Trefriw Woollen Mills in North Wales.

Trefriw is a family business which was taken over by the current owner's great-grandfather in 1859. They process the wool using machines which are over 50 years old. The machines are powered by electricity generated by a 1940s water driven turbine and the looms and the turbine can be viewed through windows in the shop. They produce traditional Welsh 'Tapestry' which is made up into a variety of products. There is also the Weaver's Garden which contains plants connected with the textile industry.

Visit their website www.t-w-m.co.uk for more information.

Speakers List Update

A new speaker has joined the list following a recommendation from Peterborough Guild.

Chris Carr gave two workshops to the Guild – one on Celtic Dyeing (with a Celtic Lunch) and the other on Medieval Dyeing. The feedback was "Very professional both on historic period knowledge and practical elements of running a dyeing workshop for absolute beginners. Also great fun, relaxed and interactive sessions."

You can find out more about Chris at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list> or 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>.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

Threads in Sheds

The British Tapestry Group National Members touring exhibition aims to preserve the heritage of tapestry weaving and to celebrate contemporary creativity.

Members from across the organisation, who are at various stages of their weaving career have created new works which use a significant element of silk.

The British Tapestry Group exhibition runs from 5th January – 27th March 2022 at

Farfield Mill, Garside Road, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5LW

www.farfieldmill.org.uk

And I will tell you more about Farfield Mill in my next Working Mills feature.

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.

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

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

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, check page 3 of the Journal for print deadlines and send to: diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.