



Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and
Dyers
Merry Christmas



News from The Chair

Wanted urgently—Event coordinator

A volunteer for the GPC, to be co-opted, and then to stand for election at the AGM. The AGWSD hold three main educational events over two years, the summer school, the exhibition and the conference. These are key events in our education programme, they are open to all members of Guilds to participate. We are looking for someone to act as Event Coordinator. It is not to act as a convenor for the events, rather to act as support for the volunteers that are working for each of the events. There are a number of members of the GPC who have been convenors who have considerable knowledge that would form the basis of information for the role. There would be lots of support available until the role was running successfully. IT skills would be an advantage, as we are hoping to build a data base of relevant information for each event.

Please contact Janet Crowther chair@wsd.org.uk if you are interested. You don't have to have been to all or any of the events, just be willing to learn how they are run.

The AGWSD National Exhibition, 'Coal, Cotton, Canals'

Leigh Spinners Mill

3rd September - 18th September 2022

Information will be emailed to guild secretaries in January. The information send out before the exhibition was postponed in 2020 has been updated. Please only use the new updated information.

We have a good nucleus of volunteers for the exhibition, but could do with some more, every little helps.

Please contact Janet Crowther chair@wsd.org.uk even if it is just to help steward.

Guild Gathering 'Colour-The Full Spectrum'

17th - 19th June 2022

St Johns College, Worcester.

The Guild Gathering subcommittee have been in touch with those who booked for 2020, asking if they would like to book again. The majority have, which is very good. Holding the two workshops as part of the event has restricted numbers. This will be reviewed by the GPC after the event as part of their Five Year Plan.

Summer School 2023

Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire

13th - 20th August 2023

We have a good number of volunteers to form the subcommittee for this AGWSD event. Start saving now!

AGWSD Certificate of Achievement

The coordinator will be emailing all those currently registered to ask if they are putting their work forward for assessment this summer at the Guild Gathering. The CoA assessment exhibitions are a lovely way of sharing the work you have put together to cover the syllabus. They are always a time of celebration.

If you are interested in undertaking any of the certificates, information is on the AGWSD website, wsd.org.uk

As 2021 comes to an end, I would like to wish you all a very happy and joyous time for 2022. May Guilds meet again in person, may they thrive and grow.

Janet Crowther

AGWSD Chair

Meet the GPC

Hello Everyone,

Let me introduce myself. I'm Ann Martin and here is my little friend Effie who is a Cypriot Poodle rescue. Until recently we had been "resting" from our volunteer job of being a "Pets As Therapy Read 2 Dog". So, primary school children read to Effie and I just have a wonderful time. Volunteering must be in my genes as I've spent over 40 years in the Guide Association steering girls from 5 to 25 onto the world stage. Now I enjoy coffee and chat with the older Guiding generation as well as meeting up with the U3A (University of 3rd Age) playing the oriental game of Mah Jong.



I originally joined North Cheshire SWD mainly on the advice of my work colleagues. We worked in Quarry Bank Mill, hand spinning and weaving, at Styal not far from Manchester Airport, and that's how I got introduced, in 2004, to spinning in the first place. An interested visitor turned spinning demonstrator in the blink of an eye. What a brilliant job it was with the National Trust. At Quarry Bank, an eighteenth century cotton mill, my jobs included running workshops for schools and adults. We taught crafts such as batik, weaving, screen printing, spinning, felting and dyeing as well as storytelling for the preschool children. In addition, the Mill work included demonstrating hand spinning and weaving to the public, using a spindle wheel, spinning jenny, hand loom and fly shuttle loom all in a dubious 18th Century costume. Later, I was also trained on the mill machinery using carding engines, roving engines, ring spinner and a mule spinner with 540 spindles. Now I've retired I can spend more time volunteering again.

I now belong to two Guilds, North Cheshire and Leek and District. They are both completely different. North Cheshire has over 40 members and meet up in a large village hall. Because of numbers we are able to run workshops, have speakers and getting better days and eat cake at every monthly meeting. It's quite an undertaking, I know as I'm North Cheshire's programme secretary. Leek is a much smaller guild, has only 2 speakers a year and has a lot more in-house workshops which are run by the members. It is great to belong to two such diverse guilds.

I have recently joined the General Purposes Committee (GPC) and I now know what I've let myself in for! I was first co-opted onto the GPC as I was on the 2020 Exhibition committee. As we know, that pesky virus had something to say that year, so the following AGM I was voted on the GPC officially. I'm currently the Northern Area link, which covers guilds in both the North East and the North West. I know several guilds in the North West but look forward to meeting new friends in the North East, either in person or by zoom. I'm still involved with the new National Exhibition committee 2022 so will be a bit busy.

Sometime I might get a chance to continue my cotton spinning as that is my favourite craft using my spindle wheel. However, knitting, bobbin lace, crochet, drop spindling, macramé, dyeing and inkle weaving also keeps my hands occupied. Who decreed that there should be only 24 hours in a day?

Happy crafting
Ann Martin (Northern Area Link)

Association Newsletter: December 2021

Issue: 280, Winter 2021

The winter 2021 issue includes an article on Bristol Cloth. The author, Babs Behan, describes how she is producing cloth with resources local to her, collaborating with other small businesses demonstrating sustainability.

Theo Wright's No Colour No Contrast project looks at the interaction of colour and design and he describes how he developed his ideas. Looking back a few years Chris Aslan Alexander tells the story of trying to buy natural dyes for the rug-weaving workshop he ran for some years in Uzbekistan - not a straightforward process.

If you are thinking of undertaking a major project based on handspinning, Sonya Hammond's project to create a picnic blanket from handspun yarn is a helpful guide to thinking through the processes. Colour and weave and shadow weave are two techniques that can produce fabrics that look complex, but are relatively simple to achieve. Stacey Harvey-Brown's article describes how the techniques work and provides a good starting point.

With Shetland Wool Week cancelled again in 2021, Carol Christiansen provides a guide to the rich textile heritage of the Shetland Isles shown in the collection of the Shetland Museum.

There are also the usual sections such as the Notebook, Book Reviews, Guild Highlights, two inspiring Graduate Showcases and a short appreciation of linen weaver, Alison Morton, who died in June. There will be a longer article about Alison's work in the summer 2022 issue.

Feedback

The Journal Editorial Committee welcomes feedback from readers and suggestions on what you would like to see in the Journal. If you would like to write for the journal do get in touch, either with the relevant editor (see the email addresses on page 3 of the Journal) or to chair@journalwdsd.org.uk.

Submission guidelines for the journal are available on the Journal website (www.journalwdsd.org.uk) - look for the link in the top right hand corner of the screen.

Nominations for JEC

We are looking for new members to join the Journal Editorial Committee at the AGM in 2022 - if you'd like more information on what is involved, please contact chair@journalwdsd.org.uk

Invitation to Longdraw Zoom Event

Sue Macniven, tutor and hand-spinner from South West Scotland is our next Zoom Guild speaker on the 8th January at 2.00 pm. Her talk on longdraw tips and hints will also include discussion around fibre choice, preparation and spinning of exotic fibres.

This is available to non Guild members on Eventbrite at :-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sue-macniven-spinning-with-longdraw-tips-and-hints-tickets-227826474117>

Juliette
Programme Co-ordinator
London Guild

ALISON MORTON MEMORIAL AWARDS 2022

In addition to the 2022 biennial awards to weavers the Theo Moorman Trust for Weavers, in partnership with Ruthin Craft Centre, are offering two further opportunities for 2022 only.

Weaving residencies at Ruthin Craft Centre 12 - 26 March 2022

Application deadline: 5 January 2022

The residencies are offered to two weavers to work on Alison Morton's two looms in the gallery during the exhibition in her memory at *Ruthin Craft Centre, Denbighshire*. Accommodation will be provided and a fee of £1500 will be paid to each weaver.

For further details see <https://www.theomoormantrust.org.uk/2022-alison-morton-awards>



Speakers List Update

We have another new speaker on the list! **Carey Fleiner** is currently Senior Lecturer in Classical (Roman) History at the University of Winchester. She brings together her academic expertise and her love of textiles in several well-illustrated talks on textiles and the ancient world as well as workshops. You can find all her details in the searchable online list or downloadable print-format list.

A quick search of the Speaker's List online brought up eight names of speakers who explore **freestyle** or **freeform** in various disciplines:

Bee Weir - Freestyle weaving and freestyle knitting & crochet

Fiona Morris - Knitting, especially freeform and patchwork or domino techniques but also Fairisle and felt making.

Freda Robinson - Braid techniques made using many techniques, including kumihimo and lucet, to produce jewellery, passementerie and embellishments. Also, bead making.

Freyalynn Close-Hainsworth - A wide range of topics covering all aspects of spinning from fleece selection through preparation, carding and spinning as well as dyeing.

Kate Andre - Surface design on paper and fabric for use in textile projects.

Patricia M Greaves - Felt making and mixed media textiles

Pauline Turner - Crochet in all its varied forms

Rita Parniczky - A multi-disciplinary artist working with weave, mixed-media, sculpture, installation and photography.

Any of these speakers would give your Guild members an interesting and enlightening talk or workshop. However, if you are looking for something else, check out the searchable, online Speakers list <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

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.