



### News from The Chair

Suddenly spring is here with glorious sunny weather for a few days. A time for looking forward and enjoying the company of like minded people at guild meetings.

This AGWSD News includes A Focus on Wales and Central Areas. Thanks to Cath Snape, their Area Link for collating the information from the guilds.

I have had a response to my request for a volunteer guild member to collate the information about the events, summer school, conference and exhibition into a data base that will form the basis for future events. We have a husband and wife team, thank you, as well as another offer to help too. I have to ask them before giving their names.

My other plea is for a webmaster for the AGWSD website. We are beginning a process of updating the information and revamping the website which takes time. If you are at all interested, please contact Mary England, AGWSD Secretary, [secretary@wsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wsd.org.uk)

We have had another batch of the AGWSD leaflets printed ready for guild members going out and about to demonstrate at shows, or for guild exhibitions. There are also book marks that go with the leaflets. There will be leaflets at the AGM if you wish to pick them up then, or contact Mary, [secretary@wsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wsd.org.uk) and she can post them to you.

#### **Guilds Gathering**

The Guild Gathering subcommittee have advised that there may be a few places on the waiting list for the Guild Gathering at St John's College, Worcester University, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June. Please contact [guildsgathering@wsd.org.uk](mailto:guildsgathering@wsd.org.uk).

The Graduate Showcase exhibition will be open Friday evening, all day Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, and on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June in the morning until 1:00 pm. The graduates will be attending so you will be able to talk to them about their work.

The Certificate of Achievement exhibition will be open Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 4:00pm until about 6:30pm and Sunday morning, 19<sup>th</sup> June, from 9:00 am until 1:00pm

**The AGWSD AGM, 28<sup>th</sup> May2022 at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL or by zoom.** Your guild secretary has received all the information about our AGM. I very much hope to meet many delegates and observers in person. The delegate has the travel paid by the AGWSD. The date for notifying Mary England, AGWSD Secretary, of your delegate and observer, registering for attendance by zoom, and return of your postal vote if you are unable to attend, is 7<sup>th</sup> May. The AGWSD is a democratic organisation, this is your chance to hear of the achievements, the forward planning and to ask questions and make comment.

#### **AGWSD Stuart Groom Memorial Library**

I popped down to Trowbridge Museum last week to see how the installation of the AGWSD Stuart Groom Memorial Library was progressing. It is going really well, the shelves are in place and Janet Maher, AGWSD Vice Chair, and her band of volunteers are working with the museum staff to check all the books, to stamp them all with the AGWSD name, and to add the Dewey System classification. The museum is housed in an old mill, inside a wonderful and atmospheric space, with mill equipment and textile related artefacts. Outside it is part of the nineties-built Shires shopping mall, quite a contrast. The Shires car park is on the doorstep. As soon as the library is ready Janet Maher will be in touch with information about borrowing books. If you are in the Trowbridge area it is worth popping on to see the museum, and it is free.



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

## **In Focus.....Wales and Central**

Here at the **Coventry Guild** we too had to think of imaginative ways to stay connected, during this past 18 months. We were all missing seeing each other and what we were each doing, not to mention the lack of opportunity to learn from each other and maintain motivation.

Our monthly 'Keeping in Touch' (KIT) was not so much born as evolved and it provided the forum we sought, which essentially, could be made accessible to all. KIT was distributed by email or paper copies were delivered. It worked by members sending in photos and descriptions of what they were up to and jokes were liberally sprinkled in to raise a smile .... or groan!

Our fantastic innovative and talented members were busy making scrubs for the NHS, long abandoned projects were rediscovered and completed, methods of dyeing were detailed and beautiful garments modelled..... some by understanding husbands! Patterns for masks were circulated through KIT and a detailed series on blanket weaving was an ongoing feature in several month's issues. One member got all her leftovers out and knitted a blanket in squares. Each square was a different pattern from the Knitters Handbook- and she finished the book! A beautiful cosy result. More innovation was shared with un-spinnable fleece being used to line hanging baskets- great for water retention and a built in fertilizer to boot!! Well, what we thought would be a couple of months actually concluded with issue 14! When we finally were able to get back together for a meeting we had a show and tell so we could appreciate and congratulate

In August 2020 we decided a Committee Meeting was long overdue. A sunny afternoon in the garden was envisaged with scones and cream to ease along the proceedings. However, the weather caused a change of plan ,and we had to relocate to the garage and share the venue with motorbikes!

Once we were able to meet outdoors we went for it..... we rearranged our venue.... and met up in a field! Balloons and a chalk board marked the way and we spent lovely days spinning and weaving in a sun lit meadow. So idyllic, but we did have some enquiries from passersby as to whether they could come into the car boot sale too!

During lockdown, we did have many enquiries and these have resulted in new members recently joining. Our Web Site has been the main source of information but we have bookings, steadily coming in, for getting out and about to events from Easter onwards and these will help to publicise our craft further.

We held our Christmas lunch in January and our February meeting was successful with shared lunches being reinstated. We have a full program arranged for the rest of the year, so lots to look forward to.

Coventry may have become famous for the devastation during WW2 but there are still many mediaeval buildings still standing. One such row of buildings, originally built in 1455 and due for demolition was rescued and restored by dedicated trustees and opened to the public in 2007. The Weaver's House, one of the cottages, was known to be the home and workplace of a weaver, so the house has been set as it would have been in 1540, and a replica loom was built on the top floor where the weaver would have worked.

Our Guild has been a supporter of this project from the beginning, and on the monthly open days you will find some of our members demonstrating spinning and explaining our craft to fascinated visitors. We are so keen that we also wear mediaeval costumes. The Weaver's House also has a thriving weavers group with weekly meetings on Thursdays.

Best wishes to all the Guilds, as we pick up the threads and weave a New Year.

We count ourselves incredibly lucky in **Gwent Guild** because we have a permanent room in a community farm where we can store all our equipment and which we can use 6 days a week with enough room to accommodate several weavers and many spinners at once. Over the 65 years that we have existed we have accumulated equipment to enable us to practise many different aspects of spinning weaving and dyeing. Our usual meeting days are Tuesdays and Saturdays with a quiet day on a Wednesday for the weavers. When lockdown came and we could no longer meet we all felt bereft. After the initial lockdown we got ourselves organised and began twice weekly zoom meetings. Unfortunately this excluded some members because they were not able to, or didn't want to use zoom. We also kept in touch using What's App and EMails. We had some zoom workshops and announced to members that we would have a post covid exhibition when we could meet again. To this end members were gifted 200gms of fibre to spin in the hope that they would produce something for the exhibition from the fibre.

## **In Focus.....Wales and Central continued**

The committee aimed to stay connected and encourage members to keep up their skills and to learn new ones. We had a lockdown challenge where four cards were drawn at random and members produced something following the cards, for example; mode – Spinning, technique - crochet, fibre - alpaca, colour - monochrome. We were also able to meet outside occasionally in a community garden in the summer when weather allowed. It was wonderful to be surrounded by flowers and plants after being locked down for so long.

Fast forward from March 2020 to October 2021 and we were able to meet again in our room but members were understandably reluctant to meet in person. We were concerned that we would lose a lot of members because we had not seen them for such a long time. Even though we have lost a few members we have had new ones join and now have as many members as we had before Covid.

Our AGM was in November, and we organised a celebration for the guild's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary and an exhibition of lockdown work. As part of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we exhibited old photo albums of the guild, showing members from years ago and the events that they went to, to keep alive the skills of weaving, spinning and dyeing. Current members had been busy in the previous 18 months. There was beautiful weaving from our most experienced and our least experienced weavers, for example shawls and scarves. The spinners produced hanks of hand spun yarn, some of which was also dyed, and there were several completed garments, not to forget the felted waistcoats and bags and a large green felted frog. Hopefully the lovely exhibition we were able to hang will encourage members to get in full swing again with the crafts of weaving, spinning and dyeing. We have a full programme of monthly workshops for 2022 let us hope they can all go ahead.

### **Abergele Guild**

During lockdown and periods of high covid infection rates we maintained contact over Zoom, sharing our work as well as enjoying talks and workshops both from members and professional providers. Topics included Drum carding techniques, Natural dye plants and dyeing techniques, Spinning for a purpose and the work of the National Association. On a couple of these occasions we welcomed guests from other guilds.

Our guild retains many long-standing members who are able to support new members in a wide variety of skills:

Jenni Frost, now our programme secretary has in the past held all committee roles. She keeps her own flock of Shetland sheep whose fleeces are processed for yarn as well as blankets, throws and accessories.

Jenni is an avid spinner, knitter and weaver; generous in passing on her skills and knowledge to others.

Nikki Small, our chair, also runs a busy yarn shop specialising in Indie dyed yarns...made nationally famous by the Llandudno goats photographed cavorting outside the shop. Nikki designs patterns as well as knitting crocheting and felting items, whilst developing her spinning and weaving skills.

Di Bruce, secretary continues to explore her love of intuitive weaving...specifically Saori style cloth for garments on both her Piccolo and RH looms as well as rug making on her two upright Dryad tapestry looms using fibres such as roving, spun fleece, selvedge mill waste, and cotton Tee- shirt yarn for the vegans in her life.

Several members process and dye raw fleeces. Val Hill has gained a wealth of expertise in growing, harvesting and using natural dye plants and regularly delights us with her carefully catalogued photos, samples and talks. She is also generous in supplying seeds and plants for others' gardens.

Sue Willis, also a member of Gwynned guild, deserves a mention for her charming miniature tapestries using her handspun yarn the colours and textures of which are inspired by nature.

Last but not least our new treasurer Catherine Bailey, already a successful fibre artist producing machine embroidered art work, grows and processes her own flax. Catherine is looking forward to honing her spinning and weaving skills for when her antique floor loom has been assembled!

We have now resumed twice monthly face to face meetings and are offering a full and varied programme throughout 2022.

Many of us are also looking forward to a visit to Wonderwool in April.

Photographs depicting some of the above mentioned activities can be viewed on our facebook page and website: <https://abergelewsd.org>.

## Area Links

In 2021 we decided, after long and hard thought, to restructure the concept of Regional Representatives with Area Links. Area Links hold regular zoom meetings with the guilds in their area to share information and to have a chat, please join in when you can. Area links can be contacted if you have any queries.

The five Area Links can be contacted;

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Others: Ann Johnson [sanio@wsd.org.uk](mailto:sanio@wsd.org.uk)

Northern: Ann Martin [north@wsd.org.uk](mailto:north@wsd.org.uk)

Wales and Central: Cath Snape [wandc@wsd.org.uk](mailto:wandc@wsd.org.uk)

East and South-East: Andrea Easey [eandse@wsd.org.uk](mailto:eandse@wsd.org.uk)

South and South-West: Pene Blogg [sansw@wsd.org.uk](mailto:sansw@wsd.org.uk)

To find which area your guild is in, please look on the AGWSD website, [wsd.org.uk](http://wsd.org.uk) under Regions.

## Journal News

**Spring 2022; issue 18;** out now and features include;

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

**Issue 282, summer 2022** due out in late May will focus on flax and linen - a fibre attracting a great deal of interest at present.

## Journal Twitter and Instagram account manager

The Journal Editorial Committee is seeking someone to take over the management of the Journal Twitter and Instagram accounts. Katie Weston has filled this role for several years and says:

“This is an extremely rewarding role that brings you in to contact with the very best textile practitioners around the world. It requires a basic working knowledge of social media, and general computer literacy, but the joy of this role is that you can adapt it to suit your own strengths and skills. It’s possible to advance schedule most items, so this is definitely a role that can fit in around your life. Use of social media and curating a volunteer account like The Journal is a great skill to acquire, and would certainly be something that would look good on a CV, and gives you great transferable skills to apply to other positions.”

Katie has kindly offered to help her successor become familiar with the role.

If you are interested, please contact Hilary Miller at [chair@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@journalwsd.org.uk)

## Notebook and Exhibition Reviews Editors

Two editorial roles are also available covering the production of the **Notebook** section of the Journal and for **Exhibition Reviews**. For the Notebook role you would need to search out short news items of interest to Journal readers and edit the section.

The Exhibition Reviews editor identifies exhibitions of interest and finds a reviewer or liaises with a potential contributor who has offered to write a review.

Basic computer skills are required for both posts and candidates would initially be co-opted onto the Journal Editorial Committee. Currently the majority of committee meetings are being held online, but face to face meetings are held in central London. Travel expenses are provided.

Support will be available to help those taking up the posts to become familiar with the Journal editorial process. If you would like more information, please contact Hilary Miller at [chair@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@journalwsd.org.uk)

Hilary Miller

The AGWSD National Exhibition,  
'Coal, Cotton and Canals'  
Leigh Spinners Mill  
3 September - 18 September 2022

I hope the items you are making for the exhibition are well on their way.

This is a reminder about the Entries for Selection.

The first key date is the 3 June 2022 for the entries for selection, remember to get the entries to your Guild secretaries in good time, together with your entry fee of £5.

Fill in Form A: *Entry to Selected Section*.

Photographs: You can attach two A4 pages with photographs of your work (with multiple images). Good photographs are essential for the selectors so they can see all aspects of the item clearly. Any item that has a selvedge that can be seen such as in a rug, tapestry or scarf should have a photograph that shows all the edges. If necessary show which way up the item is to be displayed.

To enable the work to be anonymous for the selectors, please make sure there is nothing to identify you in the photographs or feelie piece.

Feelie pieces: Attach the feelie piece to form A as well. Please remember that the feelie piece of yarn/cloth is essential to the judging process, make sure it shows off your final piece to its best. The feelie piece of the work attached to the submission form should be "finished / blocked / fulled" in the same way the submitted piece will be.

Guild Secretaries will fill in Form B: *Guild Summary Form to accompany entries for the Selected Section from Guild members*. The Guild Secretaries will send all the entries to arrive by 3 June 2022.

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the exhibition.

Please contact Jane White [exhibition@wsd.org.uk](mailto:exhibition@wsd.org.uk) even if it is just to help steward.

### **Win the latest Whitchurch Silk Mill limited edition spun silk scarf**

For just £5, you can enter this amazing prize draw to win this stunning spun silk scarf. Designed by our patron Professor Peter Pilgrim and Annette Poulton, trustee. It was woven and finished at the Mill by Olivia Goldsmith, Trainee Weaver Tackler.

All donations will go towards funding a bursary for a Heritage Skills Summer Placement in 2022 and help to preserve living weaving heritage at the Mill.

Your support will enable another young person to experience living weaving heritage at the Mill, help them gain valuable work experience and inspire them with our unique story.

It was warped by Our Senior Weaver whilst training our Weaver Tackler and Trainee to use our Enoch Rushton Warping Mill. Every thread of this scarf has a yarn to tell. It was woven on our Victorian Looms, and is normally priced at £95 for sale in our shop.

We know that this is a popular design, its arrival in the shop was greeted by a chorus of approval. Now, you can help inspire the next generation of warpers, weavers, tacklers and designers at the Mill. To make it even more special, the scarf tag will be signed by the team who wove it, an incredible piece of our heritage to treasure.

<https://donorbox.org/wsmwebdonation>

## Exhibitions and Events

### Cottenham Summer School

After a 2 year break, I'm absolutely delighted to be teaching *Weaving on a Four Shaft Table Loom* again at Cottenham Summer School 25-29 July 2022.

Cottenham is a few miles north of Cambridge, and the summer school offers a range of subjects. For many years this was a local summer school and more recently people have travelled from afar to join it as the atmosphere is wonderful. The cost of the courses is always very reasonable. Lunch and refreshments are given as part of the course fee and the bookings team can supply a list of local Bed & Breakfasts.

Anna Crutchley

<http://community.cvcweb.net/summer-school>

### Colours of Peru

Tapestries by Maximo Laura

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April

9.30 - 5.30pm

Denbies Gallery London Road Dorking Surrey RH5 6AA

[www.wovencolour.co.uk](http://www.wovencolour.co.uk)

### Works in Silk by Robert Ely

2nd April - 3rd July

Whitchurch Silk Mill

<https://whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk/event/works-in-silk-by-robert-ely/>

## Speakers List Update

We have a new workshop tutor on the Speaker's List! Many of you will be familiar with Christina Chisholm, through her outstanding Certificate of Achievement submissions in spinning (Distinction), weaving (Distinction) and natural dyeing (Credit) or through her tutoring at the 2019 Summer School. She is now offering workshops in a number of topics and you can find all the details on either the online Speaker's List or in the version on the WIP (details below).

Did you know that you can search both the online Speaker's List as well as the printable version? Online the Speaker's List has a bespoke search facility that enables it to be filtered by any factor. The WIP version of the Speaker's List is a PDF file, and this can also be searched for key words using the Adobe Reader software that it is displayed in.

But perhaps you only have access to a printed copy of the Speaker's List? Are you confident it is the most up-to-date version? The only way to be sure, and to make use of the search facilities through either format, is to access it yourself – or perhaps ask a fellow Guild member to do so, with you.

The latest, searchable Speakers List can be found online at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list> using your Guild's login or if you prefer the print-based/fully searchable PDF version it can still be found, without any password, on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list> If you have any problems, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Matty Smith

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

## Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please send 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.

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@thejournalwsd.org.uk](mailto:diary@thejournalwsd.org.uk) If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.