



NEWS July 2023

News from The Chair

I have recently likened the AGWSD to a wonderful pair of arms that reach out and gather up all the guilds to give nurture in the form of educational opportunities to those wishing to join in and enjoy them. (Of course we ask for the payment of the affiliation/associate fee as we can't do all these things without a bit of cash in the bank.) The Association is not a guild in its own right, your groups are, with your own constitution, financial accounting, venue finding, membership, talks and workshops. The Association, as well as providing educational opportunities, can be a listening ear, can be supportive, but we can't tell you what to do. That is not the role of the AGWSD.

There is much angst about attracting new members to guilds. I am lucky to belong to guilds that are having a real upturn in membership. It is wonderful to see new faces, those willing to take on the challenge of learning to spin, mastering weaving and tackling dyeing; learning from those members that have been through the process of learning themselves. Since the demise of adult education classes, and of longer courses such as City & Guilds, the guilds are one route that is sought out by those wishing to learn and even by those who are skilled practitioners already. We never stop learning. Keep up the good work, the guilds are the life saver for our crafts. You are all so very brilliant about going out to meet the public, demonstrating what we do, encouraging others to join in and maybe starting a spark of interest to be followed up by guild membership.

A couple of weeks ago I travelled to the Lancs and Lakes Guild for a chat about the Association, how it works; and the certificates, and how they work.

It was quite a way to travel, but well worth every minute as the Lancs and Lakes members epitomised what, to my mind, a guild should be. Welcoming, smiling and sharing skills. They provided a cup of coffee and a biscuit, and they listened attentively including the youngest who was a month old, though the baby may have been asleep. Thank you to the members of the Lancs and Lakes Guild. It was such a pleasure to meet you.

If your guild would like a free talk, please contact me, chair@wsd.org.uk

The development of the Area Link Zoom meetings are a good way of sharing all your guild's successes or any problems you would like help with. You can share workshop and speaker ideas; find out more about the Association and about what is happening in the wider world of our crafts. The Zoom meetings are usually held in the two weeks before a GPC meeting. Information and the Zoom Link are emailed to your Guild secretary ahead of the meeting and the remaining GPC dates for this year are 29th July, 7th October and 9th December

One difficulty is, that to continue providing all the opportunities that come with affiliation/associate membership of the AGWSD, we need more volunteers. If you are interested in joining the GPC or the JEC, and wish to learn more about how they work, please email Mary England for the GPC, secretary@wsd.org.uk, or Sue McDaid for the JEC, secretary@journalwsd.org.uk. We will then invite you to attend a GPC or JEC meeting, in person or by Zoom so that you can get a better idea of how things work.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the Summer School this month at Harper Adams.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

Please contact me, Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk

Focus On.....The South and South West Area with Kay Johnston

The South and South West Area is one of the largest areas, both in terms of square mileage and in the number of Guilds. It stretches from the New Forest in Hampshire, all the way down to the end of the Cornwall peninsula. At the AGM, the Area Link, Penelope Blogg, came to the end of her time on the GPC. Over the last few years this Area has developed a strong identity and good inter-guild links, thanks in no small way to Pene's hard work. I have now taken over as the new Area Link and hope I can continue to build on this strong foundation.

A medium sized group, the Liskeard Spinners meet monthly in St Martin's Church Hall in Liskeard, Cornwall every second Saturday from 10-4pm. Also on offer at the moment is a monthly Zoom session which suits those who live a little further away or who may not find the travel so easy.

The group consists mainly of spinners, but there are some weavers and they are seeing a lot of interest in rigid heddle weaving, which can be much more flexible and challenging than some people think. They also have experienced dyers and knitters and try to offer a skills session at most of their meetings.

A number of members are attending the AGWSD Summer School this year, with people taking a wide range of courses, including Nuno felting, drop spindling, botanical dyeing and lace weaving.

The Liskeard Spinners recently demonstrated at their local agricultural show where they were located between the cattle and sheep pens and fortunately, the weather was kind.

They are lucky in that there is a plentiful supply of fleeces available in Cornwall, often people are happy to donate them just to see them used. They also received a Great Wheel from a benefactor, which one member stores and another has the skills to demonstrate.

Always happy to welcome new members, so please get in touch via liskeardspinners@gmail.com

The Devon Weavers Workshop was established in 2005 to preserve the craft of hand weaving in Devon. With a range of courses from beginners to advanced, members give their time freely to run the busy Workshop. The workshop is also regularly visited by well known overseas weavers. Courses are generally popular and they try to let as many people know about them as they can. One member produces and edits a magazine called *The Shuttle*, which shows in pictures and words what the group are up to. Both Associate and Full memberships are available from www.devonweaversworkshop.org

The workshop is on a small industrial estate in the country outside Totnes in Devon. They have gradually outgrown it, often joking that it would be ideal if the carpenter in the adjoining unit moved so they could have his space as well; and lo and behold that is what has happened. After negotiations between the chair, Margaret, and the landlords, they now have a workshop twice the size. An honorary member of DWW died leaving some money which has helped to finance the changes. Rent for both spaces is paid from the income from the courses they run (beginners' in-house and advanced with guest tutors) and from members' monthly subscriptions.

The official opening of the new workshop is on Saturday, 5 August 2023 2.00 to 5.00pm. If you are in the area, do call in for drinks, cake and a chat at: 8 & 9 Coombe Park Ashprington, Totnes TQ9 7DY.

If you hope to call please RSVP to devonweaversworkshop@gmail.com

The Dorset Guild has organised a wide variety of activities over the months of June and July. In June, they had a Fleece Fair with a number of fleece sellers present, followed, in the afternoon, by "Spin Dating" where those attending could try out a number of wheels.

In July, they invited local guilds to join them on a visit to the Schumacher Dye Garden (<https://www.naturesrainbow.co.uk/tag/schumacher-college-and-dye-garden>) in Totnes, Devon, where their guide was Brian Bond (<https://badgercrafts.co.uk>) and then Sophie's Pigment Farm (<https://www.pigment.org.uk>). Having drooled at those websites, I think it looks like a fantastic day out.

Later in July, the spotlight was on the weavers with a Rigid Heddle Weaving Day and an Inkle Loom Weaving activity. They also found time to learn how to skirt a fleece and welcome Sue Jenkins to talk about Eco-printing. The Dorset Guild can be contacted at dorsetguildwsd@gmail.com.

And finally, back in Devon, the Peter Tavy Guild is celebrating 25 years of weaving, spinning and dyeing with an exhibition in the Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy, PL19 9QA, on 27th to 29th October from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free – and refreshments are available.

Summer School 2023

Summer School 2023 is nearly here. The team of volunteers are beavering away behind the scenes to make sure this biennial event is a success for everyone. We are currently setting up the Wednesday afternoon outings and making the arrangements for the traditional trade fair which will be open to Summer School students on Friday 18th August and to both students and visitors on Saturday 19th. Summer School is almost full however there are a few places left if you are interested. Any available spaces are advertised on the AGWSD website and can be found at:

<https://www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school/>

Summer School is open for visitors on Saturday 19th August from 9am to 4pm, so if you are in the area of Harper Adams University, Edgmond, near Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB come along and see what the students have achieved during the week, workrooms will be open from 12:30. There will also be exhibitions of work from the Summer School tutors, Certificate of Achievement and a Graduate Showcase.

The Summer School trade fair will also be open giving everyone the opportunity for a little retail therapy. There is a coffee shop on site (opening hours 8am to 3pm) for refreshments. Please note whilst the trade fair traders may take both cash and cards, the University campus is cashless.

How to get to Harper Adams

If you are travelling by car the postcode for your SatNav is TF10 8NB. There is free parking which will be signposted on the campus.

For those travelling by train, although Telford Central is the closest train station to Harper Adams, you may find more direct trains to Stafford or Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury has a bus service that stops at the campus, or you will be able to get a taxi from any of these stations.

[Telford Central](#) (10 miles approx. 17mins by taxi)

[Stafford](#) (15 miles)

[Shrewsbury](#) (16 miles)

And by bus

[Arriva 519](#) from Newport to Shrewsbury (stops at Shrewsbury train station and the campus in Edgmond)

[Arriva 5,5A](#) from Stafford to Newport to Telford (*note you will need to change at Newport to get a bus or taxi to the campus*)

We are looking forward to seeing you.
Chris Knowles



All Wales Event for Spinners Weavers and Dyers
A biennial gathering of the Welsh Guilds

30th September 2023 at Llanbrynmair Community Centre, Machynlleth
Tickets £3

Trade Fair, Displays of Work, Lecture, Raffle, Sales table, Tea & coffee

For more information www.allwalesevent.wordpress.com

News from the JEC

Issue 287: Autumn 2023

The next issue will be published in late August. Look forward to articles about a simple method of dyeing purple with dye stuffs from the kitchen. Stacey Harvey-Brown completes her series on understanding weave drafts by looking at tie-ups for floor looms and Karen Garwood-Young describes traditional Finnish Ryijy weaving. And it's time to get ready for Wovember - an international campaign promoting awareness of wool. Also, six weavers who were awarded a Theo Moorman Trust grant in 2022 write about their projects. All the regular sections: book reviews, Guild highlights, showcase, exhibition reviews and notebook are there as well.

Subscriptions - PayPal

If you subscribe to the Journal online and have previously paid by PayPal, you will need to use your new Journal account on the AGWSD website to pay for your subscription when it is due to renew. Sadly we have not been able to transfer your automatic payment to our new system. Close to the date of renewal you will get a reminder that your subscription is due to renew, a message from PayPal indicating that your automatic payment has been cancelled and the invoice for your new subscription.

You can find the link to the 'my account' log in on the Journal page of the AGWSD website; <https://www.wsd.org.uk/the-journal/> When you log in for the first time, you need to click on 'lost your password' in order to reset it.

If your subscription is due for renewal and you have not received an email, please check your spam folder.

JEC Vacancies

JEC is looking to recruit new members for both editorial and administrative roles. The Weave Editor post will fall vacant next year and it would be helpful if a replacement was in place to shadow Stacey for a few months. We are also looking for people to take over the Notebook and Exhibition Reviews sections. There is also a vacancy for either Secretary or Treasurer to release one of the current post-holders to take on the role of JEC Chair.

For details of any of these posts and for further information about working with JEC, in the first instance please contact info@wsd.org.uk

Wanted urgently

As usual, graduates leaving college are seeking 8 shaft table looms in order to keep being able to sample and keep weaving. Guild members have been very helpful in recent years and it has been so appreciated.

Please contact me, Jennie Parry, President AGWSD, parry.jennie@gmail.com or 07754 748898.

Thank you so much



Speakers List Update

For many Guilds, this month will be the last before a summer break. It might also be a time when Programme Secretaries are beginning to think ahead to the next year of meetings and to be looking for a speaker or a workshop tutor. With concerns over the costs involved in using external speakers and tutors – especially if they come with high travel costs – it might be worth considering having just one externally led event and then building a number of Guild-led activities around it. The value of an external speaker or tutor could be further extended by opening up the event to local textile or art groups as well as other Guilds in your area.

Whenever you do have a speaker or workshop tutor from the Speaker's List, please send me a short email letting me know how the session went; it is so helpful to other Guilds if there is some feedback on the list.

The searchable Speakers List is 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 Guild Information Hub (GIH) at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

If you have any problems or would like to share details of a new speaker, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Matty Smith

speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

The Ulster Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers will be working in collaboration with Mallon Linen and the Linen Biennale NI to present this free to visit experience in August.

Visitors will have a guided walk through the flax field, see the retting dams and be taken through the scutching and hackling processes by Helen and Charlie Mallon. Charlie recently restored the scutch mill himself and the pair are passionate about bringing Irish grown linen back into production. They even offered a flax harvesting experience this year as part of the recent successful crowd funding initiative led by Mourne Textiles which will see the renovation of vintage spinning equipment.

Guild members will be spinning the Mallon's scutched flax from last years harvest and the linen yarn will be taken from the wheels and woven into fabric on site. It promises to be a wonderful weekend and if you are in the Cookstown area please sign up through the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/field-to-fabric-tickets-671607434917>

Herefordshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers 40th Anniversary Exhibitions

8th & 9th September: All Saints Church, High Street, Hereford HR4 9AA 10am-4pm

15th September: Leominster Library foyer, 8 The Buttercross, Leominster HR6 8BN 10am - 4pm

22nd September: Ross Labels foyer, Ross Park, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7US 10am - 4pm

These exhibitions will focus on demonstrations of skills and examples of members' work, including actual and pictorial representations. Members will be demonstrating spinning, weaving and needle-felting each day.

Contact

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, check page 3 of the Journal for print deadlines and send to: diary@journalwsd.org.uk If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.

Association Website: <https://www.wsd.org.uk/>

Web Information Point (WIP): <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/>