



NEWS December 2023

News from The Chair

This comes with the very best of wishes for 2024. May you all enjoy another year in the company of like minded friends.

A good way to keep in touch is to join the Area Link Zoom meetings, where ideas are shared and concerns aired. Dates for these zoom meetings are emailed to guild secretaries.

2024 brings the AGWSD Conference, 'The Riches of Wool', Bicton College, Exeter, 12th – 14th July, information on www.wsd.org.uk Bookings by 31st January please. A Graduate Showcase is planned, as well as the AGWSD Certificate of Achievement assessment exhibition.

The AGWSD National Exhibition 2024, 'Battles, Borders, Books', will be held at Hay Castle, Monday 14th – Sunday 27th October. A subcommittee is being formed from those local to the area, to help with all the administration work involved with running an exhibition.

A new year brings the enthusiasm for starting something new or advancing your skills. The AGWSD offers three levels of certificates. The Foundation Certificate in spinning, which is supported learning, the Certificate of Achievement in five disciplines, which is self directed learning and The Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies is aimed at those who relish research based on an idea around the subjects of spinning, weaving and dyeing, leading to a product of originality and excellence. Information is on the Guild Information Hub (GIH) on the website.

Plans are going ahead for the AGWSD Summer School in 2025. We are about to meet the team at the proposed venue, agree terms and deposit, as well as checking the availability of workrooms that suit our requirements.

Information about the AGWSD AGM at the Conway Hall in London on 8th June, has gone to all guild secretaries. It will be lovely to see as many guilds as possible represented in the hall or via Zoom.

It is never too late to try something new such as joining the GPC or JEC. Please think about this as, without these committees, there would be no summer schools, no conference, no exhibition, no Journal, no AGWSD News, no sharing through the Area Links, no Journal, no insurance cover. Putting yourself up for election can be scary, contact Mary England, secretary@wsd.org.uk, to find out more about the AGWSD and the ways in which all the volunteers work to keep the whole organisation running.

In 2025, the Chair, Secretary and the Vice Chair of the AGWSD are due to retire. The organisation has a structure and long term planning, keeping the aims of the constitution in mind. Come aboard now and see how it all works, if nothing else to see how we work as a team and how decisions are made in the best interests of the whole of the AGWSD.

With my very best wishes for 2024

Janet Crowther AGWSD chair

From the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions and support this year. There would be no AGWSD News without your input.

I would also say, further to Janet's comments above, joining the GPC has been a very fulfilling experience; the process was made easy by the support and encouragement of all involved. I didn't think that I had any particular skills, just a wish to be involved and to help where I could. I found my place and so will you.

Best wishes for 2024
Lorna Shannon

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

Journal News

The JEC are currently working on the Spring issue of The Journal, which has a theme of sustainability, it looks to be a great issue with articles on Zero Waste Weaving, Nettle fabric, the Wild Flaxen Heart Linen Project in Derbyshire and an article about a group of enthusiasts growing indigo in the UK amongst others.

There are about 20 volunteers that work on producing The Journal, each volunteer is limited to 5 years on the committee, so we are always looking for new people to join us. We are currently looking for someone to take on the roles of Spin Editor and Chair.

The Spin editor works with the authors to make sure their articles are clear and in language that readers will be able to read and understand. It helps if the Spin editor has good experience and knowledge of spinning, and will be working with authors across a range of topics within 'spinning'.

The Chair role is currently being covered by the secretary and the treasurer, and we'd really like someone to take on that role, it involves chairing meetings, reviewing journal content and helping ensure each copy is successfully produced. If anyone has experience of chairing meetings or managing teams then you would be ideal for the role, all volunteers are supported by the rest of the committee who have a lot of experience and are willing to help, so if you would be interested then please step forwards and volunteer.

The Journal Editorial Committee meets 4 times a year in hybrid meetings (zoom / in person), our next meeting is January 6th.

If you think you could be the next Spin Editor or Chair or are interested in volunteering to help with other aspects of producing 'The Journal', please contact me, Sue McDaid - JECSecretary@wsd.org.uk

Sue McDaid

Chair JEC

A Reminiscence of Mabel Ross

I have a good friend, one of those who used to do the spinning demonstrations at shows. The places we spun together were many, including the day the heavens opened and although we were in a marquee, it didn't stop the rising waters. We moved all our equipment to the highest piece of ground, to no avail, we were surrounded by water. The only option was to gather up as much as we could and to make a run for it to cars and escape.

This friend is now in her nineties and to keep busy she has decided to return to spinning to create yarn for her many knitting ventures; she invited me to help her get started again. In our conversation we talked about spinning techniques and our conversation went to Mabel Ross. Mabel was a spinner of great renown. I found when I couldn't spin regularly, using Mabel's techniques ensured, when I could spin, I had the same quality of yarn every time. I have her books on spinning, maybe your guild library has them, the AGWSD Stuart Groom Memorial Library does. In one of those Google search moments I found a video of Mabel talking about spinning, the film quality is of the era but the information is as good now as then. It is 'Hand Spinning- Advanced Techniques with Mabel Ross 1988-ish' and seems to be nearly two hours long <https://youtu.be/xwJITaJSTb4?si=oU3lohVYbbVW3NB0>

Well worth viewing to my mind. It is one of my great regrets that I didn't seize the chance to attend one of her workshops. To hear her talk about spinning with knowledge, passion and clarity was a joy, even if the footage was very grainy.

We all have people we know or have a reputation of being an inspiration to others. Maybe 2024 will bring many more inspirations.

Janet Crowther
chair@wsd.org.uk

Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please send to: newsletter@wsd.org.uk
All news received by 20th of each month will be considered for that month's edition.

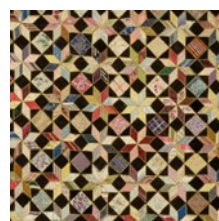
If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, check page 3 of the Journal for print deadlines and send to: jecdiary@wsd.org.uk If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.

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

Stuart Groom Memorial Library: library@wsd.org.uk

Speakers List Update

Two new entries have been added to the Speakers List this month:



Heather Audin is Curator of The Quilt Collection, owned by The Quilters' Guild and a museum professional with over 20 years' experience of looking after historic textiles. Heather offers

face-to-face or virtual talks on any aspect of British Patchwork and Quilting history.

In addition, the **Quilters Guild** has a full speakers list on their own website that Guilds can make use of.

Guidelines when contracting with a Speaker/Tutor

Accompanying the Speaker's List is a document providing Guidelines on contracting with a speaker. They can be found on the first page of the printable Speakers List and at the top of the Speakers List web page. The suggestions contained in these Guidelines will ensure that the outcome of booking a tutor or speakers is, for both Guilds and Speakers, a successful one. Guilds are strongly recommended to consult the Guidelines when booking a speaker or tutor.

Both formats of the Speakers List have been updated with these new entrants. The searchable Speakers List is 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 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