



NEWS February 2024

News from The Chair

The National Exhibition 2024, 'Borders, Battles, Books'

I was back at Hay Castle a few days ago meeting the National Exhibition committee, having a discussion over a cup of tea and meeting Sara our contact at Hay Castle.

The exhibition spaces, in the plural, were even more impressive than I remembered them. The National Exhibition Information Pack has been emailed to your guild secretary. Please read with care and follow the instructions for all parts. The information is on the website wsd.org.uk, but not the forms. Your Guild secretary has them. If you have not started your piece for the National Exhibition 'Borders, Battles, Books', please start now, even if it is just playing with ideas. I hope the Information Pack is clear, but if you have any queries the email to contact is exhibition@wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2025, is to be held at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, late afternoon Sunday, 3rd August to after breakfast Sunday 10th August.

The campus is modern, very compact and has the facilities we require for a summer school. I visited last week with Sue Collins, who will be co-opted to the GPC as Event Co-ordinator. As part of the role, Sue will be collating the statistics from the previous three main events, Conference, Summer School and National Exhibition, so that we have one record of those important numbers, costs and all that goes with organising an event, being ever mindful of the GDPR regulations. Some while ago Hazel and Nick Miles created a data base for our events, at last it will be used as intended.

The GPC will be looking for volunteers to help in the organising of the summer school 2025, please contact me if you are interested.

Personally I would be delighted if the summer school had a flavour of Scotland in the courses run. No promises, but your ideas would be welcome. There are some up my sleeve already.

The AGWSD AGM will be held in Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London on Saturday 8th June. The first mailing of information was sent to your guild secretary in November. It will be followed by the March mailing with details of the business parts of the meeting. As has been the way of life since Covid, the AGM will be a hybrid meeting giving a chance for your delegate and observer to attend by Zoom but, if you can, attendance in person would be much appreciated.

We are hoping that after lunch (not provided but there is a lovely café in the square) there will be time to give you an overview of the Association, its different roles and why they have come about.

Talking of the AGWSD, please remember that members of the GPC are always willing to come and talk to your guild. Meeting guild members is such a great pleasure, we are always made welcome and meet such lovely people. Visiting Herefordshire Guild recently, was one of those wonderful occasions. And remember that the costs are covered by the AGWSD.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Chair

Please feel free to contact me about any of the above, Janet Crowther, AGWSD Chair
chair@wsd.org.uk

Recent changes to the GPC

Due to family commitments, Cath Snape, Area link for Wales & Central and deputy co-ordinator for the Foundation Certificate, has resigned. I would like to extend grateful thanks, on behalf of the AGWSD, to Cath for all her hard work and the involvement she has had with our various activities.

Janette Mathews, has been efficiently taking the GPC minutes for a few years now but has been nominated for election at the AGM to take on the role of Graduate Showcase coordinator.

There is now an opportunity for a guild member to volunteer to become GPC minute taker. If you have time to attend GPC meetings and the AGM to take the minutes, please let me know. This is a role for anyone who is interested in the AGWSD and how it works as a charity. Who is good at taking notes (meetings are recorded as a backup) and who is able to complete and submit the minutes within a couple of weeks. This is quite an urgent requirement so please contact me, Janet Crowther chair@wsd.org.uk for more information if you feel that you can help us in this way.

Area Links meetings

We have just completed another round of Area Link Zoom meetings. Thank you to all that attend, we have a wonderful group of those that are regular attenders and each time we welcome new.

The discussions show how guilds have much in common and how they differ in some ways. The recent discussions were about how guilds manage their equipment and library. Storage is difficult for some guilds, but loan lists and names of those 'looking after' the equipment seems to work well. Taking a deposit using a cheque that is not cashed, unless the equipment doesn't come back, was a solution to the worry that sometimes equipment may not be returned when expected.

The next Area Link meetings are planned to take place at the beginning of April before the GPC meeting at the end of April. The GPC consider that the Area Link meetings along with the AGWSD News, are vital parts of our communication with the guilds and the guilds with each other.

The AGWSD News goes from strength to strength as more guilds email their information to Lorna, newsletter compiler. newsletter@wsd.org.uk

Janet Crowther

An Invitation

Crickhowell Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers invite everyone to a Friendship Day on March 21st, 2024, at Llangynidr Village Hall, Crickhowell. NP8 1LS.

You are welcome to drop in anytime between 11 am and 4 pm for tea, coffee and cake and to have a chat about what we are doing.

We will have yarn from Weaving Yarn Limited and from Helen Brotherton (formerly My Fine Weaving Yarn) as well as equipment from Hedgehog Equipment, with Sarah Stacey, who is one of our members. We also have 2 spinning wheels for sale (see our Facebook page)

We share lunch at 12.30, so do bring your own and join us.

There is plenty of parking immediately opposite the Hall, and we will pay for parking.

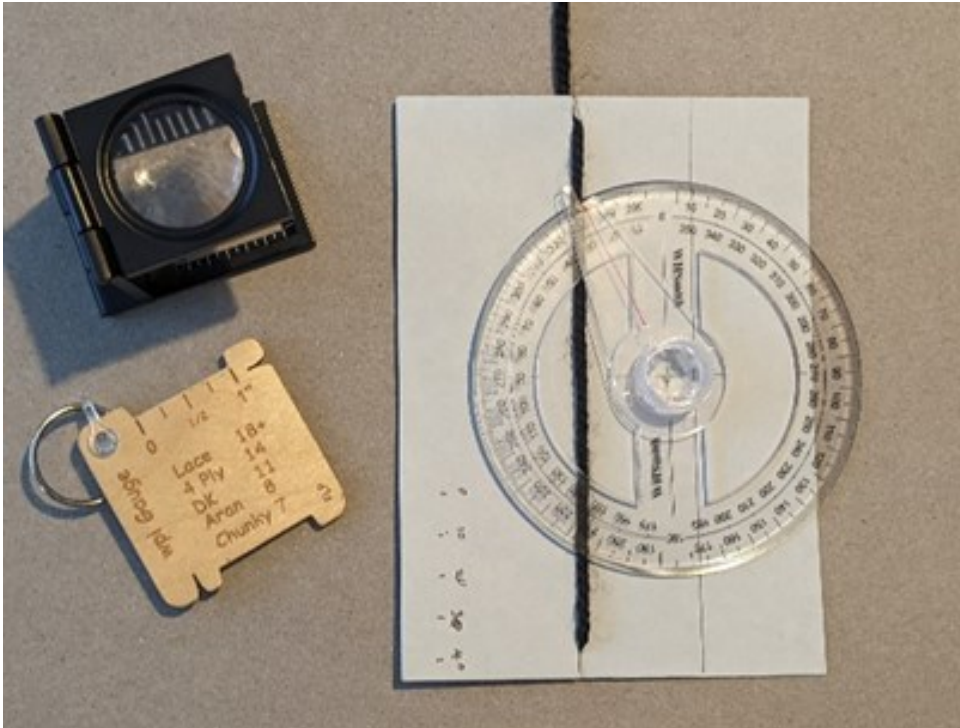
While there is no charge for this event, donations towards the cost of refreshments will be welcome.

We look forward to meeting you.

Sue Ballantine, Secretary

Favourite Equipment by Chris Knowles

When asked to describe my favourite piece of equipment I had to have a long think. I have a favourite spinning wheel and a favourite niddy-noddy but my go to piece of equipment, if you can describe it as that, is a collection of small items and some card that help me understand the yarn I am producing.



The card is index card size but could be smaller or larger than that. I have drawn a line parallel to the long edge about 1" in. A further inch from that I have made two cuts in the card parallel to the line (obscured in the photo by a sample piece of yarn). The card also has some numbers in one of the corners 10cm in from the short edge with the first number 0% followed by 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% (I am ever hopeful!).

Let me explain my collection. The wrap per inch gauge is probably self-explanatory and works on its own so that I can measure the diameter of any spun thread by wrapping a sample of yarn around the gauge and counting how many turns are in one inch. With the rest of the tools and the card I can measure angle of twist, twist per inch and amount of stretch.

How does it work? I place a length of the yarn I want to assess in the two cuts careful not to stretch the yarn but also making sure the yarn sits parallel to the drawn line. The full circle protractor I use has a line drawn between 0 and 180°. I line this up on the drawn line and move the centre pointer to line up with the twist on my sample. I can then read off the angle of the twist. I devised this use of the card first and this has improved the accuracy of my measurement.

Whilst the yarn is in situ I found it easier to use the linen tester (magnifying glass and inch measure). Placed over the yarn sample it is easier to count the twist per inch and gives a more accurate measure. And the final addition to the card was the % stretch. Tired of mislaying my measuring tape I added a 10cm measuring point on the card with additional points at 1 cm intervals for 10% etc stretch. I hold a yarn sample at the corner of the card up to the 0% point making sure it is relaxed but not loose. I then see where the furthest point I can reach when I stretch the sample. I've managed 30% and am hopeful that I might make it to 40% some time.

Of all the equipment I have invested in for fibre preparation and spinning this is probably the lowest cost and one of the most useful.

Speakers List Update

The biennial Speakers List Review is now well under way. Most of those on the list have either reviewed or refreshed their entries. There is also updated information on which Guilds have recently hosted Speakers.

New entries continue to be added – this month we once again welcome a new organisation and a new individual.



Tanya Bentham works entirely with medieval images, materials, and techniques, but she likes to add a modern twist. It's usually the humour of medieval art that appeals to her most, and that's clearly reflected in her work. Tanya comes to the list with a very strong recommendation from the York Guild. You can find her on the web Speakers List at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers/tanya-bentham/> and on the printable version (details below)

The International Feltmakers Association (IFA) is a not-for-profit organisation established in 1984 to promote felt in all its forms. On their website they have a list of tutors which is merely a collection of IFA members who have identified themselves as educators in their respective fields. Contact details for each tutor are shown on this list. The topics covered by these tutors include beginners felt making, flat felt, sculpture, garments, accessories, hats, bags, scarf/wrap, Nuno felt, pictorial felt, needle felt, rugs, raw fleeces, decorative finishes and book resists. You will find them on the web Speakers List at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers/international-felters-association/> and on the printable version details below)



Highlight of the Month

This is a new feature in which each month a speaker or topic from the list will be highlighted. This month the spotlight is on Rita Parnicky. During her studies at Central St Martins, she developed her own weaving technique in order to explore the warp threads. Similar to X-rays revealing bone structures her 'X-Ray' series of works expose the entire warp. She further emphasises this structure in installation with light, allowing the medium to visually transform as light passes through the woven body. This aspect places the work in performance where time and space are equally observed. Intrigued? Contact Rita via the list for details of face-to-face or virtual talks and workshops.

You can check these out, and more, in the online searchable Speakers List 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 GIH 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

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: 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