



NEWS February 2025

News from The Chair

One of the greatest pleasures of being involved with the AGWSD is meeting the members of the guilds. The Area Link zoom meetings have been taking place over the last couple of weeks. I consider these to be a huge success as the numbers of guilds attending have grown, the discussions and sharing of information is amazing. If your guild has not yet attended, please ensure they do as your guild will be missing out on a great opportunity.

One of the topics discussed was the Public Liability Insurance provided to the affiliated guilds as part of the affiliation fee. In a nut shell, public liability insurance covers visitors, as in the public visiting your guild meetings, it also covers members of the public when you are out demonstrating. It does not cover your members or their equipment. To ensure that your guild has taken all preventive measures it is imperative that you have a designated risk assessment member who undertakes to keep the risk assessments up to date for all meetings, workshops and outside events. The risk assessment information must be brought to the attention of your guild members and to the attention of any visitors. There is advice on the AGWSD website wsd.org.uk in the GIH (Guild Information Hub).

I am a great believer in networking and visited the Farnham Unravel event the other Sunday. I had hardly arrived before I bumped into Nicky, a great attender of the Area Link zoom meetings, and Pene one time Area Link and winner of the Countryfile Children in Need bobble hat competition, who had come with a coachload of other yarn enthusiasts from Dorset.

It was a great pleasure to meet Hayden and Chris of the Wonky Weavers who will be traders at Summer School this year. Hayden appeared on S4C on 'Fermio', the Welsh equivalent of Countryfile, on Monday 17th Feb. I also had a chat with Sara of the Threshing Barn. It was their last show as they are closing the business, which is so very sad but understandable. They will be missed.

I am currently working on booking Traders for the Summer School, if you know of any one who may be interested in booking a 'table space', please let me know at convenor@wsd.org.uk and I will contact them.

And finally, on behalf of you all, I would like to wish AGWSD Life President, Paddy Bakker a Happy 90th Birthday on Sunday 9th March.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

Textile Treats with Merseyside Guild of Weavers
at the Engine Room, Southport.
These activities are for enthusiastic adults wishing to start or develop new skills
in textile arts and crafts.

We are delighted to offer two workshops in 2025



Saturday, March 8th, 1- 4pm

Produce a small square panel suitable for a small cushion or wall panel using **Rag Rug** techniques. A great repurposing project please bring an old T shirt that you like the colour/s of, and are prepared to cut up into strips!



Saturday, June 7th 1- 4pm

Create a spherical objet d'art decorated by **needlefelting!** This can have wildly colourful arabesques or flower forms or animal figures on it.

Participants will be provided with the equipment and materials needed to start & complete their project at home. You may wish to bring your own equipment too.

As numbers are limited to a maximum of 10 participants per workshop, to secure and pay for your place book go to <https://www.arcade-project.com> asap.

Cost £10. (refunds will only be provided if a replacement participant is found.)

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

Journal News

The Spring Journals have been dispatched. If your subscription is part of a Guild bulk order, your copy will be delivered to the address on the order, but if you chose to spend £2 a year extra for your four copies, it will be delivered to your door. You still get the discount for being a Guild member. Many Guilds choose the calendar year for their annual subscription, but this is not essential. Anyone can take out a subscription at any time: just go to wsd.org.uk/the-journal or check page 3 of the latest copy.

If you miss a mailing date when you subscribe or renew, you can buy the missed issue as a back copy from <https://www.wsd.org.uk/shop/>. We do this because of the number of copies of The Journal WSD that we deal with, together with the way the copies are enveloped and mailed using an automatic process by our printer. Can you imagine the time it would take every quarter if we had to get hundreds and hundreds of A4 journals into envelopes and take them to a Post Office? Sometimes machines are a Good Thing! Once the printer has despatched the paper copies (and emailed the link to the digital version for those who choose), all the spares go to the Store Manager. She then deals with any other orders for that issue. We refer to it as a back copy even though it's the latest one.

PS If you fancy providing yourself with hours of interesting reading for yet another grey, rainy day, ordering some of the oldest back copies at discounted rates might be the answer

Lesley Fidler
JEC Chair

Events from the Guilds

"Past and Present" is an exhibition of work by members of the Bradford Guild in response to the Bradford College Textile Archive.

The exhibition will be in the Dye house Gallery, Lister Building, Bradford College. BD7 1AY and opens weekdays and some Saturdays from March 21st - April 16th then April 23rd - May 9th.

Some days are by appointment only, please check our website for more details

www.bradfordguildwsd.org.uk

Edna Barker, Bradford Guild

"50 Years, and still going strong" Ceredigion Guild celebrate their anniversary with a touring exhibition.

'We are proud to be one of the first Guilds formed in Wales and historically we have links with all the planned exhibition venues, which makes them quite poignant.'

Members will be stewarding and demonstrating through these events and they have produced a body of work that celebrates our "golden" anniversary as well as other items that display their skills in spinning, weaving, dyeing, felting, knitting and crocheting.

Venues are Wonderwool, The Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells in April; The National Wool Museum, Drefach Velindre in May; National Trust Llanerchaeron, Aberaeron in June to coincide with their sheep shearing; the Visitor Centre, Strata Florida in July (dates tbc) and lastly the Welsh Quilt Centre, Lampeter from mid August to the end of September at which members work will also be for sale. If you are in the area we would love to meet and talk with you.

Full details are on our website www.wsdceredigion.org.uk

Michelle Williams, Ceredigion Guild

Textile Mechatronics Challenge

Members of the Ulster and Irish Guilds participated in an interesting event recently which saw hand spinning pitched against new ways of mechanising the process of spinning flax. The event was a collaboration between Mallon Linen of Cookstown, Northern Ireland with the Fantasy Fibre Mill from Scotland and sought to explore the use of flax in terms of small scale production.

“We didn’t quite know what was going to happen when we sat in our wee shed last year with Rosie Bristow and Tiernan Stuart and joked about setting up some kind of robot wars event. It was just an idea that if we could get a group of people with different skills together, we might be able to sort out some of the flax processing challenges. Then The Gaia Foundation set up The Clean Blue of Linen exhibition by Yvette Monahan, and the amazing people at Belfast Exposed said we could use their space, and it happened to coincide with the NI Science Festival.

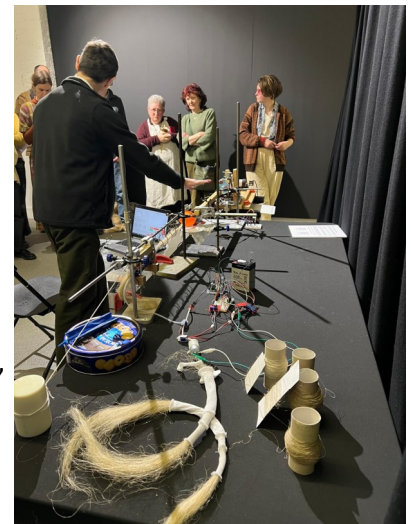
Things seemed to just fall into place thanks to a lot of people who said yes when we asked for help. The Ulster Guild of Spinners Weavers and Dyers brought their wheels and the Irish Guild their spindles and spent hours patiently showing the rest of us how fibres turn into yarn. Then we got stuck into developing the two different automated spinning machines. The idea is that these machines will allow farmers and small scale processors to get to yarn stage. It will be a low cost way for many more people to get involved in flax production. What Rosie, Nick and Tiernan are doing is really important and the way they are approaching it, offering open source designs, working collaboratively and with purpose is the sort of radical shift we need.

We are completely overwhelmed by the response to this event. People travelled long distances, gave us their time, energy, and wisdom, missed the rugby and important meetings. Fibreshed Ireland brought folk from all over the country. Hares Corner Cooperative brought their bio mimicry insights. The Agriculture Minister Andrew Muir called in and spent time talking about the role that fibre crops might play in the future of farming. The Climate Co Centre supported the event, highlighting the importance of diverse and low input farming systems for climate resilience, biodiversity and water quality. We keep getting asked “How do you scale?”...maybe the answer is through community.”

Helen Keys from Mallon Linen

(hold Control and Click to view the reel)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel>



Speakers List Update

Two new speakers have been added to the list:

Jayne Delarre has been recommended by both Cambridge Guild and Bedfordshire Guild. Delving into the history of the warp weighted loom in the Viking Age, the importance of women weavers and the textiles produced by them is what really excites her. With the support of her husband, she offers a range of fascinating talks, all in authentic costume and with a wealth of equipment and samples.

Jim Holmes is a professional photographer with an interest in textiles and traditional cultures. He has spent his career working on projects for charities amongst communities worldwide where woven textile traditions provide the fabric that rural society is built upon. Jim presents a talk exploring traditional hand-woven textile techniques, products and their value to society in Laos, Nepal, Mongolia, enhanced by a collection of samples from makers. He comes recommended by West of Scotland Guild and Cheshire Guild.

Highlight of the month: Anna Crutchley



Anna Crutchley produces bespoke passementerie – tassels, cords, braids and fringes. She works mainly on short runs of individually designed and made pieces for specific interiors or pieces of furniture, specialising in research into historical design and techniques of production. She also designs and makes contemporary pieces for modern interiors. Anna delivers both face-to-face workshops and talks, in person or online.

If you have booked a speaker or workshop tutor from the Speaker's List, do share your feedback which can be added to the speaker's entry, to help other Guilds make their choices.

You can access the web-based Speaker's 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 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