



NEWS June 2025

Note from the Editor

As many of you will be aware, there were no nominations for Chair at the recent AGM. The next General Purposes Committee meeting will be in July where we will confirm an acting chair who will be ratified at next year's AGM.

Meet the President, Mr Andrew Johnson

Hello all, I was asked to be the President last year and when I had picked myself off the floor I said 'yes'.

My textile journey started over 60 years ago. First learning to knit, then crochet, closely followed by learning a little about lacemaking before weaving and spinning came along. I joined the Kent Guild at the age of 11 and have not looked back since.

Between my O and A level courses I spent the long summer vacation working in a weaving workshop in Northern Ireland weaving tweeds and rugs, and my degree course at West Surrey College of Art and Design allowed me to study weaving and lace. On leaving College I lectured on the embroideries in the Rachael Kay-Shuttleworth Textile collection at Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham, Lancashire. I then got involved in adult education, teaching weaving, lace, knotting and also the City and Guild Textile course.

I later went out as Handicraft Advisor to St Helena in the South Atlantic, where they were making lace, embroidery and soft basketry along with other crafts. Unfortunately I found it hard to find an off island market for their produce. The island could only produce a small quantity of any item which was not enough to supply the normal marketing systems. On my return to the UK two ecclesiastical commissions followed and I then moved to live in Northern Ireland which led to setting up an interior design business hand making curtains for large houses, drops of over three meters, interlined and hand sewn. I had the business up and running when I answered the call to serve in the church. I was ordained to the Church in Wales serving in Penarth on the outskirts of Cardiff. After finishing my curacy we moved to West Wales where we have been ever since.

I have never stopped being a member of a Guild, I have served on the Journal Editorial Committee ending up in the chair, and the GPC as a Summer School coordinator and have taught at several Summer Schools. My own practice is as a weaver, spinner, dyer, lacemaker and embroiderer. I have specialised in ecclesiastical textiles but not exclusively. I love using the Theo Moorman Technique but have used a lot of different techniques over the years. I find that weaving is very 'Mindful' and much of my praying time is spent in beating out fabric.

My loom herd now includes an electronic Dobby and a draw loom, as well as several other floor and table looms, a couple of Marudai and a Takadai. My wife lets me admit to a dozen spinning wheels and I dare not count up the number of spindles dotted around the house!



Andrew

Summer School 2025

Summer School is almost upon us – we are looking forward to an exciting week in Musselborough in August. The evenings will be filled with speakers, the Silent Auction and the Fashion Show – more details and forms for you to print will be sent out to those attending, nearer the time – but it's not too early to be thinking what you might show off or sell. And make sure you save up for the Trade Fair which is filling up with traders – some familiar and some new (to me anyway).

Be sure to check that you have everything you need to provide for your course and prepare any materials you will be taking.

Looking forward to meeting you all in August.

Sue Collins

Joint Summer School Coordinator

National Conference 2026

We are starting the planning for our conference and would love to have more of you involved in the process. The first task is to find suitable speakers in order to put together an inspiring programme for the weekend. This does not need you to be local to Loughborough – although we would prefer speakers who will not have to travel too far! Please contact me at events@wsd.org.uk if you think you could help – there will be admin jobs to do at a later stage as well.

Many thanks

Sue Collins

AGWSD Events Coordinator

AGWSD Certificate of Achievement

The next CoA assessments will be at Summer School QMU, Musselburgh, for those who have registered for assessment this year, who are now probably wishing they hadn't as the nerves take over. The, 'will it do? will it be good enough' syndrome. They will emerge with a smile as they know they have done their best and that the assessment has been very fair. The students also receive a report on their work put forward for assessment with pointers on how to take their ideas further.

The Assessment Exhibition will be open to the public on Saturday 9th August as part of the Summer School Open Day. I will be talking about the CoA and answering questions at 2:30 in the afternoon in the Conference Suite or nearby.

The CoA is self-directed learning, in other words on registration and payment of the £40 registration fee, the student receives support and encouragement from the co-ordinator as well as access to the knowledge of the coordinator. This is free advice, the co-ordinator is a volunteer.

It is a way of having a structured approach to extending your learning without the pressures and costs of a formal 'course'.

The CoA Handbook 2025, syllabi and registration forms are on the wsd.org.uk under 'certificates'.

Janet Crowther

Certificate of Achievement Co-ordinator

Journal WSD

SITUATION VACANT

We're keen to find a volunteer to do things like take minutes and prepare agendas four times a year and book meeting rooms twice a year. There will be lots of support to understand what we do and how we do it. The reward is a Journal subscription, optional trips to London and being part of what we hope is a friendly and productive team. No interview – apart from the look-see meetings when you decide if you like us.

And of course the Journal Editorial Committee (which sounds much more formal than I think the JEC really is) is always on the look-out for volunteers for a whole range of its roles.

If you email JECChair@wsd.org.uk we can fix a chat so I can tell you more.

Lesley Fidler

JEC Chair

THREAD THE LOOM
25 JUNE – 7 SEPTEMBER 2025
IKON GALLERY

For summer 2025, Ikon presents Thread the Loom, a group exhibition celebrating the art of weaving. An AVL Studio Dobby loom, on loan from Birmingham City University (BCU), will be activated through a series of micro-residencies with five West Midlands weavers Chantelle Folarin, Mahawa Keita, Clare Langford, Andrée Walker and Theo Wright, and international artist Seulgi Lee.

Textiles produced on the loom will be exhibited alongside work by contemporary artists Raisa Kabir, Alis Oldfield, Bharti Parmar, Dinah Prentice and Su Richardson.

Combining the tradition of hand weaving and computer-aided design, Thread the Loom invites the weavers and artists to exchange ideas, materials and structures that connect to the past in developing a sustainable future.

<https://www.ikon-gallery.org/exhibition/thread-the-loom>

INTERWOVEN: TEXTILES & ARCHITECTURE



CALL FOR ENTRIES
DEADLINE: 17TH AUGUST

Competition open to all
All textile techniques welcomed
Judging and display at Guild Open Day
on Sunday 21st Sept

Full details at buckswsd.org.uk

The original exhibition has now closed but more are planned, for more information or to get involved please contact Paula Ogum Hector

<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/tapestryofblackbritons/>

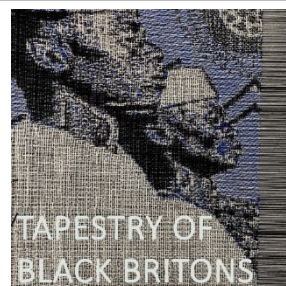
[Crowdfunding for Tapestry of Black Britons](https://www.crowdfunder.com/en/tapestryofblackbritons)

[tapestryofblackbritons.com](https://www.tapestryofblackbritons.com)

@tapestry_of_black_britons (IG)

paula@tapestryofblackbritons.com

Many Threads - One Fabric



Immerse yourself in a weekend celebration of all things natural colour!
An intimate festival dedicated entirely to natural dyes, pigments, and inks, honouring the land that provides them

<https://events.talu.earth/events/talu/1486495>

Speakers List Update

It was great to see one of our speakers, **'The Thread of Time'**, featured in the latest edition of The Journal (294 Summer 2025). In an article entitled *"A Whorl, a Metal Detector and Three Reenactors: The Rediscovery of a lost European Spinning Tradition"* the three members of this group describe how the discovery of a medieval spinning whorl led to research which enabled them to finally master a lost style of spindle spinning. Mary Cleaton, Alice Evans and Jane Hunt together make up 'The Thread of Time'. They are three of the most experienced distaff spinners, in the revived tradition, worldwide and are the only ones who currently teach in the UK. They offer Guilds both a talk and a workshop on distaff spinning, sharing all the knowledge they have accumulated through their research and practice. Find their contact details on the Speakers List (details below).



An experienced embroiderer and Temari artist, Nicola Davis enjoys stitching that blends symmetry with unexpected twists of colour. She believes embroidery is a unique medium through which to explore ancient traditions while expressing a modern experience of the world. Through The Twisted Thread, Nicola runs Temari workshops across the UK and online, to introduce people all over the world to the beautiful Japanese art of embroidered thread balls. A member of the Japanese Temari Association, Nicola has completed her Shihan-ka Nintei, or Level 3, certification, making her qualified to teach Temari. With online participants including stitchers from Mexico to Japan, Scotland to the US, and in-person workshops including the Scottish Women's Institute's 2022 Evelyn Baxter Scholarship Class, Nicola has developed an international reputation for teaching the art of Temari, maintaining a focus on traditional techniques and while creating a fun, relaxed environment. She can tailor classes to groups of different sizes and abilities, ensuring everyone is able to discover the joy of Temari.

If you have booked a speaker or workshop tutor from the Speakers List, do please 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