



NEWS September 2025

News from The Chair

We know a lot of members of your Guilds have been out and about demonstrating our crafts at events over the summer, which often gives us the chance to encourage visitors to join a Guild. This can be a great way to increase membership or hear from producers of fleece and fibre in your area. However, do have a look at your Guild's listing on the Association website - are your details up to date? Is your meeting venue correct and the days when you meet? One of the advantages of being part of the Association is having this 'shop window' for the world with a free listing that you can update as often as you like with your programme, schedule and other information.

It's also where Guilds look to make contact with each other - so having accurate information there is key if you want to work on a project together or share a speaker's travel expenses to your locality. Guild Secretaries should have the password for your Guild's entry so you can update your information without needing to ask anyone from the Association to do this for you. If this has been lost in changing personnel, the Association can help you with a new password to keep safely. So check your details today!

Andrea Easey
Acting Chair AGWSD
chair@wsd.org.uk



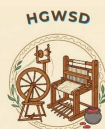
AVON GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS AND DYERS:
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE GUILD

TEXTILE EXHIBITION

31st October - 2nd November **SPARKS**, Bristol Broadmead
31st Oct and 1st Nov 11am - 6pm, 2nd Nov 11am - 5pm



Herefordshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers: Friendship Day



We would like to
invite you to join us
for our November
meeting

Bring along a project you're working on—whether it's spinning, weaving or anything to do with yarn. Enjoy a relaxed space to share ideas, tips, and laughs. And if you don't have a project, just bring yourself and soak in the inspiration.



November 15th
10 AM - 4PM
Stretton Sugwas
Village Hall
HR4 7PT



Tea, Coffee and
Cake Provided
Bring a packed lunch

Don't forget to bring your purse, Wonky Weaver and Hedgehog Equipment will be bringing a selection of goodies for you to purchase

<https://wonkyweaver.com> -- www.hedgehog-equipment.com

Focus on.....

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Other Guilds

Earlier this year, the West of Scotland Guild staged a very successful triennial exhibition, *Liminal Spaces/ Transitions* at the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch.

Once the theme was settled, they had several interesting, fruitful group discussions about the meaning of “liminal” which helped them discover just how expansive the topic might be creatively. Even though there are three years between exhibitions to contemplate the creative process, then finish and present the actual pieces, it always seems to mean a bit of intense concentration in the months immediately preceding the due date!



Katherine Cowtan, woven scarf

West of Scotland is lucky to have an experienced and determined exhibition coordinator, who insisted deadlines be met, gathered up all the different pieces and kept track of them as well as their inspiration pages, which were collated and beautifully presented in a folder for the visitors. Inspired by the un-juried rings which featured in a previous Association exhibition, all members were given a 6-inch embroidery hoop with instructions to fill it in any way that took their fancy. The hope was to encourage a broader participation from members who had not exhibited in the past. The results, which ranged from imitation mosaics to cyanotype dyeing to paper weaving were far from disappointing, although it did not seem to inspire new members in the way the Guild had hoped. All the pieces were expertly hung by the staff at the Auld Kirk Museum. The Guild was also delighted that architect Gordon Harrison opened the exhibition. Altogether, it was an exhibition that successfully showcased the imagination and broad range of members' skills, and visitors were impressed by the quality in every area on show.

The West of Scotland Guild is based around the greater Glasgow area, meeting on the second Saturday of the month, September to May, in Milngavie. They are on Instagram: @westofscotlandguild and www.weave-spin-dye-glasgow.org.uk and are always delighted to welcome visitors.

Focus on... continued

This year's highlight for the Highland Guild was their exhibition *From Tradition to Modern Concepts* that ran for a week in August. 400 visitors were welcomed to the Inverness venue, and comments in the visitor book were a reminder of the skills and talents that members often modestly take for granted. This was the Guild's first exhibition in over 10 years and was led by one of their very creative members, Michelle, with several committee members stepping forward to help with logistical arrangements, and Ruth who designed the print work.

The Guild also had the pleasure of being invited to take part in some new shows across the Highland region this summer and the time given by members to representing the Guild at these events is always highly appreciated. Being a very widely dispersed Guild, they have been pleased with the response to taking their open meetings "on the road". The usual monthly meeting location is Strathpeffer, but this year they have been north to Dornoch, west to Poolewe and south to Glen Morriston... if there's a cafe, they will come!

The Online Guild usually starts the year with a UFO workshop – Un-Finished Objects. A new start can bring a new view to unfinished objects lurking in cupboards and drawers. Members get together online to put forward ideas on how an unloved project could turn into a joyous project that they would then like to see finished.

Since then they have had workshops that covered all the core skills of weaving, spinning and dyeing. Members could learn how to dye self-stripping yarn for use in sock knitting from a workshop offered by Ann Allen. They had two very interesting workshops on weaving. One covered weaving software options and design software for weaving. This detailed research was presented by Margo-Amee Smallwood. Following on from weaving software, Susan Foulkes presented a wonderful workshop on Sami and Inkle band weaving. The next challenge on offer was a spinning workshop by Barbara Scott which gave an opportunity to learn many different spinning techniques



Currently, they are making use of their extensive archive of workshops by revisiting tapestry weaving techniques - there is something for everyone, from the complete beginner to advanced weaving techniques.

In addition to the workshops, they also have interesting discussions going on - soft basket weaving techniques is just one example.

There are changes ahead for the Online Guild as their convenor of 23 years, Margaret Parker is now retiring. Good wishes are extended for a happy retirement and full support is offered to her successor.

Focus on... continued

2025 is a big year for the Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, as it is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Guild by Lillias Mitchell in 1975. They are a very widespread Guild, with members meeting in 5 different local groups and they keep in touch using Zoom, Facebook, Instagram, Ravelry, their website and a monthly Newsletter. To celebrate this Anniversary year, they have focused on organising interesting events to bring groups and members together.

Their members have given some fascinating talks: Lisa gave an insight into the year-long Natural Dyeing course she completed with AppleOak FibreWorks in Co Clare. Her fabulous patchwork quilt made from all of her naturally dyed fabrics was especially admired. Gethin talked about completing the Certificate of Achievement in Weaving and showed off her beautiful woven samples whilst Áine told of her textile related trip to Nepal; including wonderful stories about the lives of the Nepalese people, as well as how they spin, dye and weave their textiles. In May, American cotton spinning expert Joan Ruane travelled the country with her daughter. Joan taught cotton and hemp spinning in 3 different venues during her fortnight's stay, for which the participants were very grateful.

The Guild has been out and about as well. They visited the museum at 14 Henrietta St, Dublin, where they met the artist in residence, Fiona Harrington, who is a lace maker. She spoke about her work responding to the house and its history through lace-making. For August Craft Month, they hosted an open day: A Big Spin, where they demonstrated our crafts and gave people a chance to try things out. They also held workshops in spindle spinning and rigid heddle weaving, while at the end of August, some members manned a stall at the Dublin Maker event and others attended the annual Textile Day at Craggaunowen, Co Clare. Finally, the guild organised an exhibition to celebrate their 50th Anniversary in the Lexicon library in Dun Laoghaire, South Dublin, ending on 19th September. To finish the exhibition on a high note, they held a Worldwide Spin in Public Day on Sat 20th September, also in the library. The exhibition will be moving on to Ballybane library in Galway from 4th to 18th November. Also in November, members will be going north to join the Ulster Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers at the Eikon Centre in Lisburn for Knit + Stitch 2025.

As an experiment last year, the Ulster Guild introduced a monthly Saturday meeting, which they thought might eventually replace their evening meetings, but it seems to have simply increased membership as people can choose what suits them best. It has also given greater flexibility over what they do and more time for workshops and other learning opportunities.

Zoom has given the Guild the chance to avail of speakers from further afield, or to link guild members into monthly meetings.

A group of around 10 are currently taking part in the Foundation Course in Spinning and Zoom has also been a great help in this. As part of their learning, they are looking forward to hosting Sue Macniven in Belfast for a weekend of spinning classes at the end of September.

Over the summer, members were busy demonstrating at various agricultural fairs and again at Spinning Yarns, an annual council-run yarn and textile festival held in a former linen mill. These provide a great opportunity to reach out to new potential members and, sure enough, at our September meeting there were several new faces. Lorna and Kay, who had both been to Summer school showed some of the work they had produced and now everybody wants to go!

Kay Johnston

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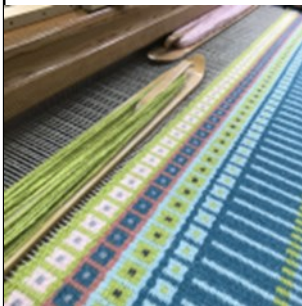
Speakers List Update

The 2025 Summer School, held at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, was a not only a great success but six of the tutors are on the Speaker's List! Dr Carey Fleiner, Cally Booker, Charlotte Grierson, Sue Macniven, Andrew Johnson and Elisabeth Viguié Culshaw all presented engaging workshops and Guilds can get some Summer School vibes by booking them, through the list, for their own members.

New Speaker

This month we welcome Florencia Campos Correa to the list. Florencia, founder of Ullvuna, is an industrial designer from Chile who has spent the past 15 years creating weaving kits, books, patterns, and giving talks and classes around the world. Her work focuses on turning simple geometric shapes, squares, triangles, rectangles, into complex, creative woven designs, embodying her motto: "Creativity from the most simple." Her main focus is on Pin Loom Weaving. Deeply inspired by Chile's landscapes, traditions, and colours, Florencia brings a unique cultural perspective to her work. She delivers workshops virtually and is open to in-person engagements, such as a potential visit to the UK, coordinated with local Guilds. Her website offers further insight into her work and collaboration opportunities – full details are on the list.

Highlight of the month: Angie Parker



Angie is a rug weaver, designer and textile artist based in Bristol. After training as a rug weaver in the early 1990's she pursued a career in costume for several years whilst continuing to weave on small-scale collections. During this time she developed the original style for which she has become known since setting up in business in 2014. She specialises in weaving the Norwegian technique of krokbragd and combines this with an instinctive and daring approach to colour. Angie is known for importing a contemporary element to this traditional weave technique.

Angie's latest book, "KROKBAGD, Contemporary Weaving With Colour", was published earlier this year and she has also recently procured the entire contents of Jason and Peter Collingwood's rug weaving workshop, including the collection of over 1000 books on weaving and textiles! One of her talks explains how this amazing feat was achieved.

Find all the contact details for Angie on the Speakers List

The online 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