



## NEWS October 2025

### News from The Chair

Dear Guild Members

The AGWSD is now getting ready to move into the action phase for our 2026 Conference. Being held in Loughborough in summer 2026, this will be an opportunity to gather and hear about textile history and practice.

We have a small team of volunteers already on board willing to handle the practical details, but we can't proceed to securing speakers and opening booking unless we have a leader for that team - usually known as the Convenor. We can't move ahead without that key person to make the event possible.

As a volunteer you will be supported and helped by the GPC, and the team for you to work with is already in place. Please do contact me at [chair@wsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@wsd.org.uk) or Sue Collins at [events@wsd.org.uk](mailto:events@wsd.org.uk) if you might be able to help by taking on this role.

Our other 2026 activity, the National Exhibition, has a team of organisers already in place to produce our exhibition on the theme of 'A Festival of Fauna and Flora' - with its open category of bunting picking up the exhibition themes. We'll soon have details of how to enter ready to share.

It's only November, but we're already looking forward to a creative weaving, spinning and dyeing new year!

Andrea Easey

Chair (Acting), AGWSD

Congratulations' go to two guild members who achieved their Foundation Certificate in Spinning this September; Diane Caswell from the Central East Scotland Guild and Liz Berry of the Bedfordshire Guild. Well done to you both.

**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.

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](https://www.hedgehog-equipment.com)

**November 15th  
10 AM - 4PM**  
Stretton Sugwas  
Village Hall  
HR4 7PT  
**Tea, Coffee and  
Cake Provided**  
Bring a packed lunch

**Exhibition** **FREE ENTRY**  
**Renewal & Reinvention**

**New textiles by the London Guild  
of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers**  
**75th Anniversary**  
**11-22 November 2025**

**75th Anniversary**  
**11-22 November 2025**

**Morley Gallery**  
61 Westminster Bridge Rd,  
London SE1 7HT  
Monday-Friday 12.00-17.00  
Saturday 13.00-17.00  
**MORLEY GALLERY**  
[londonguildofweavers.org.uk](https://londonguildofweavers.org.uk) [morleygallery.com](https://morleygallery.com)

**WOVEN WORLDS**  
**Taking Tapestry  
into the  
FUTURE**

**at the  
BARBICAN  
LIBRARY,  
Barbican Centre,  
Silk Street,  
EC2Y 8DS**

**with the  
LONDON  
BRITISH  
TAPESTRY**  
Celebrating 20 years  
of the  
BTG

**Wednesday 5th  
- Saturday 29th  
November**  
Opening times:  
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat:  
9.30am - 5.30pm  
Tues, Thurs:  
9.30am - 7.30pm

**"MEET THE MAKERS"**  
ON  
THURS 13TH NOVEMBER  
5-7.30PM



[www.barbican.org.uk/yourvisit/duringyourvisit/library](https://www.barbican.org.uk/yourvisit/duringyourvisit/library)

## Journal News

If all goes to plan and the postal service delivers as it should, your Winter copy of The Journal WSD will arrive with you around the end of next month (November). We've had lots of lovely compliments about The Cotton Issue that came out at the start of the Autumn (number 295) and it's good to feel that our efforts are appreciated. Our thanks to all those who took the trouble to contact us.

Our 300th issue is now coming up over the horizon and the JEC has started planning for this, together with another themed issue that will appear in due course. Themed issues take quite a bit of planning so they only appear at intervals long enough for us to source enough material on a particular theme.

In the meantime, we're busy guiding the Winter 2025 issue through its final production stages whilst compiling the content for the Spring publication. Both of those issues will have Summer School class reports if you have been wondering when yours will appear.

On a sadder note I have to report the recent death of Sue Dwyer. She was a founder member of the Devon Weavers' Workshop, JEC Chair and also convened the 2007 Summer School (the last two at the same time, which must have been very hard work!). Our condolences are offered to her friends and family

Lesley Fidler  
JEC Chair

## Meet the GPC and JEC

A chance to get to know our volunteers.

The AGWSD has two main committees, the GPC or General Purposes Committee who oversee the smooth running of all Association activities and the JEC or Journal Editorial Committee who do everything necessary to the publication of the Journal WSD. All the members of these committees are volunteers who work hard to ensure that the AGWSD continues to offer it's wide range of support to the wider Guild membership.

### Sally Topsom - JEC Treasurer and GPC committee member.

I clearly remember my first piece of weaving, it was yellow, red and orange - well, it was the 1970s! I can't imagine what I would be weaving now if I'd have carried on from that point but alas life, and work, got in the way.

Some 50 years later I bought a loom and I have been happily weaving ever since. I couldn't believe my luck when I found the AGWSD website as clearly it was right up my street. I joined the Hampshire guild 3 years ago and became the secretary and a year later went to the Association AGM.

As a retired accountant the vacancy for the Journal Treasurer seemed like my chance to get involved at a national level. I didn't need much persuading as I had worked in publishing before and I knew I'd enjoy being a part of the Journal Editorial Committee.

As a bonus! I automatically joined the GPC and it's been a joy to meet everybody and to understand the inner workings of this fabulous Association.



## Speakers List Update

### Guild Challenge

As we approach the end of the year I am issuing a challenge, to all the Guilds, to send me a very short sentence or two about what their members agree was the most successful meeting during 2025. What was done during the meeting to make it such a success? If it involved an outside speaker, who was it? Was it a planned event or did it happen spontaneously? I am really looking forward to reading your responses! My email address is below.

#### New Speaker



This month we welcome yet another new speaker to the list: Gavin Baldwin.

Gavin is a textile artist who makes two- and three-dimensional work using tapestry frames and structures made from found materials, mostly twigs. These are largely abstract landscapes that sometimes use organic material from the place he is representing and are often in three dimensions. Gavin likes to collect wool as he travels, and his works include yarn from

Australia, Portugal, Finland and Shetland amongst others. He also experiments with plastic scavenged from the sea, repurposed watercolour sketches and organic material. Gavin is inspired by his travels, literature (particularly the Romantic Poets), and music. He enjoys solving the problems that arise as the weavings develop with unorthodox methods.

Gavin comes highly recommended by Lea Valley Guild and is based in London.

The online Speaker's List is 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](mailto:speakerslist@wsd.org.uk)

#### Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please send to: [newsletter@wsd.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:library@wsd.org.uk)