



NEWS December 2025

From The Chair

Dear Guild members

As the year turns, it's an appropriate time for us to think back over the past year and particularly the impressive number of Guilds who were celebrating the 70th, 75th or 80th anniversary of being founded. So much has changed in those periods of years and for Guilds with archives of past newsletters, committee papers and records of displays and exhibitions it can be fascinating to look back.

As an Association of Guilds we can also look back on our past year with its Summer School and other chances to learn together as we developed a new certificate in natural dyeing that is accepting its first students.

Looking forward to 2026, no doubt there will be more significant anniversaries to celebrate around the country and I look forward to hearing about those in the coming months.

We will also have our Conference in July, when we can be inspired by speakers, and our National Exhibition in October when we can be inspired by each other's work in our crafts.

I look forward to another year of hearing about the achievements of all our member Guilds either directly by email, through the Newsletter, The Journal or via the Area Links' meetings.

With best wishes for the New Year - Andrea

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

Meet the JEC

I officially became the Dye Editor for *The Journal* at the AGM in 2025.



I started spinning and dyeing for knitting as a teenager with my Mum in Norfolk in the 1970s. When I retired in 2013 from a career in bird conservation, I returned to my love of textiles and undertook the Handweavers Diploma at The Handweavers Studio & Gallery in London (2015-2017), followed by the Certificate of Achievement in Natural Dyeing (2017-2023).

My aim is to link my dyeing, spinning and weaving whilst drawing inspiration from birds, but I still have a way to go!

I was approached to become the Dye Editor by the Chair of the JEC, Lesley Fidler (we were in the same workshop at SS23). She was very persuasive, and it felt like it could be the right moment for me to take on a new challenge.

I have really enjoyed finding out how the AGWSD works behind the scenes and being part of such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic team. As I find my feet, I am also enjoying commissioning articles and working with authors on their pieces.

Alison Stattersfield, Dye Editor JEC

I am a weaver and was a member of the Online Guild before joining the Cheshire Guild where I am now also Treasurer. I run my weaving business, Studio Cynefin, from a converted silk mill on the banks of the Macclesfield Canal, an area rooted in textile history. I joined the Journal Editorial Committee (JEC) in September 2024, with no previous editing experience. I was keen to volunteer in a way that would utilise my weaving and business knowledge, to be part of a creative team and to gain experience in writing and the publication process and I'm now on my fourth issue.

The induction and handover process was very thorough and the team extremely supportive of new members. Detailed copy guidelines were given and the role has exposed me to a variety of interesting news stories and exhibitions that I might otherwise have missed.

Volunteering for the JEC is rewarding and fun and I would highly recommend it to anyone wishing to contribute to the AGWSD in a creative and interesting way and in doing so broaden their own knowledge and networks.



Jackie Stephens, Notebook and Exhibitions Editor JEC

Speakers List Update

Guild Challenge

I haven't heard from any more Guilds about a stand-out meeting in the past year. Maybe there haven't been any, but I am sure that can't be true. Do please drop me an email with just a few lines about a good meeting you have had this year – was it a talk or a workshop, was it member-led or led by an invited speaker or tutor, what made it successful? Do please let me know.

Biennial Speaker's List Review

This is a final 'heads-up' that I will be undertaking the Speaker's List review in a couple of weeks' time and will be contacting Guild Secretaries for details of any speakers or workshop tutors they have used over the past two years. Please keep an eye on your Guild email.

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

Foundation Certificate News

Congratulations go to three guild members who achieved their Foundation Certificate in Spinning in November.

Aine Dunne of the Irish Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers

Clare Bennett and Sharon Fisher both from the Worstead Guild in Norfolk

Well done to you all.

Chris Knowles

Foundation Certificate Coordinator

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