



Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Registered charity number: 289590

National Exhibition 1st to 29th October 2026

‘Festival of Flora and Fauna’

**Rose Paterson Gallery
Weston Park
Weston-under-Lizard
Shifnal
TF11 8LE**

Information Pack for Guilds for all sections of the exhibition

Introduction

Timeline for submissions and hanging
General submission information

Section One, selected items

The items put forward for selection, to go through the selection process

Section Two, open section items

Theme, ‘Festival of Flora and Fauna’, items open to any guild member

AGWSD National Exhibition 2026

Rose Paterson Gallery, Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal TF11 8LE
'Festival of Flora and Fauna'

Dear Guild member,

The AGWSD is looking forward to welcoming you to the National Exhibition 2026. We have been very fortunate to secure exhibition space for guild members' work at Rose Paterson Gallery, Weston Park, Shropshire.

Weston Park is a remarkable House set in 1,000 acres of Capability Brown parkland. Originally built in 1767, the Rose Paterson Art Gallery has been sympathetically restored, thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Now set beneath a splendidly characterful old, beamed roof, the Rose Paterson Art Gallery is in a building that also houses the Granary Brasserie. They host monthly selling exhibitions by acclaimed artists from the UK and beyond, along with displaying items on loan to the gallery from private collections.

It is a great exhibition space, a mix of modern and original. The gallery is on the first floor. There is access by lift or stairs. While there is disabled parking and access available, if you would like to check your access please contact the Rose Paterson Art Gallery directly.

The focus of the National Exhibition is to showcase the range of skills we have in guilds, based on spinning, weaving and dyeing.

There are two parts to the exhibition.

The first part is for items that are put forward for the selection process. These items may be your own ideas or may be based on this year's theme.

The second part, the open section, is open to any guild member. This year we ask that a bunting flag is created to the theme of 'Festival of Flora and Fauna'.

Items for all parts of the exhibition must include spinning, or weaving, or dyeing or a combination of these. Other textile techniques may be used as part of the item, though spinning, weaving, dyeing must be the predominant techniques.

The Lylie Smart Award, for those with fewer than three years' experience, has been extended to spinning and dyeing as well as weaving. The public attending the exhibition vote for their favourite piece from those put forward for this award. See [Lylie Smart Trophy](#) for more information.

There will be a catalogue available to view in situ at the exhibition. This will also be available by QR code onsite.

Rose Paterson Gallery has offered to handle items for sale through their shop. Items must be marked clearly with a price or with NFS (not for sale). The Gallery has a commission rate of 30% (+VAT) payable by the seller.

Sales income will be distributed by the end of November 2026.

The AGWSD Exhibition Committee 2026

Contact email: Exhibition@wsd.org.uk

National Exhibition 2026

Timeline for Submissions and Hanging

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| End of November 2025: | Guild Secretaries receive information about entry and dates |
| Before 18th July 2026: | Members create item, photographs, sample pieces and complete Form 1 Guilds collect forms, photographs and sample pieces for Selection process Guilds collate entries for posting and complete Form 2 Guilds pay selection fees by bank transfer |
| Between 20 th – 24th July 2026: | Entries for selection process arrive at the address on Form 2 Note: Late deliveries will not be accepted |
| Between 27 th July -7 th August 2026: | Selection process |
| By 14th August 2026: | Guild Secretaries notified of items selected for the exhibition. Non-selected photos and samples returned in SAE's if provided. |
| By 1st September 2026: | Guilds collect selected items for posting and complete Form 3 Guilds collect and create bunting for posting and complete Form 4 Guilds pay hanging fees by bank transfer and send Form 5 to the Exhibition committee by email. |
| Between 11th -18 th September 2026: | Selected items to arrive at address on Form 3 Note: Late deliveries will not be displayed |
| Between 11th -18 th September 2026: | Open items (bunting) to arrive at address on Form 4 Note: Late deliveries will not be displayed |
| 1st October 2026: | National Exhibition opens |
| 29 th October 2026: | National Exhibition closes |
| End of November 2026: | All items from National Exhibition returned to Guild Secretaries. |

National Exhibition 2026

General Submission Information

Entry Criteria

Submissions must be the work of members of an affiliate or associate guild of the AGWSD.

All items must include weaving or spinning or dyeing. Other textile techniques may be used as part of the item.

There is a limit of three items from one maker for the selected section.

There is no limit to the number of bunting flags from one maker for the open section.

Entry dates

See the submission timeline on the previous page for dates.

Late deliveries will not be accepted.

Items for sale

Items must be clearly marked with the price or NFS.

Rose Paterson Gallery charges 30% (+VAT) commission. Take this into account when pricing items.

Rose Paterson Gallery makes the sales through their shop.

Open section items will not be for sale.

Items not sold, or not for sale, will be returned to guild secretaries after the exhibition.

Insurance cover

If required by each maker, insurance cover must be organised by the maker themselves, to cover all aspects of the exhibition, in transit, during the exhibition, storage before and after the exhibition

Packaging of all items

Send all the photographs with attached sample pieces for the selection process, in one package to the address on Form 2.

Send all the selected items in one package to the address on Form 3.

Guilds to send all their bunting for the open category in one package, to the address on Form 4.

The packaging should consist of three layers. The item wrapped in tissue paper, the middle layer of bubble wrap with an outer layer as suitable for the package to be posted.

All layers of packaging to be clearly marked with the guild name and maker's name.

Items such as scarves, lengths of fabric, that are best rolled, should be rolled on a card tube labelled with the maker's guild and maker's name.

This will enable, if at all possible, the return of items in the same packaging as sent.

Submission fees

All Items put forward for the selection process will incur a fee of £10 per entry. See Form 2 for details of payment.

All selected items will incur a further fee for hanging of £20 per item. See Form 5 for details of payment.

Items for the open section, bunting, will have a fee of £5 per individual flag, see Form 4.

These fees help to cover the costs of return postage, as well as the costs incurred with the exhibition.

These fees are non-refundable.

National Exhibition 2026

Section one: Selected items

Items put forward for the selection process

Items must include hand weaving, or hand spinning, or hand dyeing, or a combination of these. Other textile techniques may be used.

A wide range of items is acceptable, from skeins, 3D, lengths of fabric, dyed yarns, as well as the usual items.

Theme

Items may be to the theme 'Festival of Flora and Fauna'. This is not essential.

Submission will be by photograph of the finished piece and a sample piece.

See Form 1 for further information.

Photographs

Good quality photographs are essential.

Photographs must show the whole item, front and back, including edges without any cropping to hide the edges.

Indicate which way up the item is to be displayed.

Photographs must not include any identifiable features of the maker, such as face.

Non-adherence to these guidelines will render the submission invalid.

Sample pieces

Inclusion of a sample piece is essential.

The size of a sample piece should be about 10cm square, small 5m lengths of spun or dyed yarns.

The sample piece must be representative of the completed item, including finishing processes.

See Form 1 for further information.

Non-adherence to these guidelines will render the submission invalid.

Submission forms

Submission Forms 1 and 2 must be completed fully.

Incorrect submission forms will render the submission invalid.

Selection process

The selectors are professionals or semi-professionals in their given field.

The process is anonymous; all references to the maker are removed.

Selectors will be looking for the maker's regard to technique, design, colour and finishing.

Outcome of selection

Guild secretaries will be notified of the items that have been selected about the 14th August 2026.

Guild secretaries notify their guild members of items that have or have not been selected.

Return of photographs and sample pieces

Photographs and sample pieces of items not selected will be returned to the maker if a stamped large letter self-addressed envelope has been included with Form 1.

Photographs and sample pieces for selected items will be returned after the exhibition closes. These sample pieces are used for the exhibition for the public to handle.

For items that have been selected

Items that have been selected must be sent to arrive between 11th and 18th September 2026, see Form 3, payment details on Form 5, at the address as given on the form.

Identification of selected items

All selected items must have an identification luggage type label securely attached by using the label string to tie the label to the piece.

The label information to include exhibition number (as sent to Guild Secretary), maker's name, guild.

Hanging devices

Wall hung items must have a minimum of two loops available to hang on hooks. Loops must be a minimum diameter of 1cm. Loops must preferably be made of wood, metal or plastic. Rose Paterson Gallery will have bulldog clips available to use where this has not been prepared on an item.

Framed items must have a hanging wire attached.

See additional document for more detail if required.

Exhibition forms

Accurate completion of the forms is essential.

Read with care and complete fully.

Read with care and send as instructed.

Hanging fees

Information on Form 5.

Fees must be paid in full for the items to be included in the exhibition.

See general submission for further information on packaging, selling.

The AGWSD and Rose Paterson Gallery reserve the right not to hang a selected item.

All items are submitted at the owner's risk. The AGWSD and Rose Paterson Gallery take no responsibility for damage or loss of an item so, if you so wish, make sure your item is fully insured for all stages of the exhibition.

National Exhibition 2026

Section Two: Open Section Items

Open Section items - Bunting

Theme - 'Festival of Flora and Fauna'

Bunting to be submitted

Bunting flags to be connected together by the guild in lengths of **up to** 3 metres each
3 metres length must include 15cm at each end which is clear of flags (for hanging)

'Up to 3 metres length of bunting' is a guidance for up to 10 flags, for smaller numbers of flags please send a shorter length of bunting

Multiple lengths of bunting can be submitted by each guild

Bunting flags must be spaced evenly throughout the length of bunting (this will depend on the number of flags). Suggested spacing of up to 10cm between flags.

The connecting element for the bunting can be handmade or purchased (e.g., ribbon, binding, string).

Bunting flag information

Bunting flag to have a footprint not larger than A5, including hanging elements (148mm x 210mm / 5.8 x 8.3inches).

Bunting flag to hang portrait with the hanging edge no wider than 148mm or 5.8inches.

Shape of bunting flag to be chosen by the maker.

Hanging bits, e.g., fringing is welcome.

Bunting flag must include weaving or spinning or dyeing or a combination of these.

Other textile techniques may be used.

Dates for submission for bunting

1st September 2026 - date by which guilds collect items from their guild members for packaging and completion of paperwork.

Lengths of bunting must be sent to arrive between 11th and 18th September 2026 to the address on Form 4.

Hanging fee

£5 per individual bunting flag.

Payment details are on Form 5.

Bunting which has not been paid for by 18th September 2026 will not be hung.

Identification

Each length of bunting must have a tie-on label with guild name and number of bunting (e.g., 'Stafford Knot Spinners: 1 of 3').

Items without identification, appropriate completed paperwork or payment of hanging fee will not be hung.

See general submission for further information on packaging advice.

The AGWSD and Rose Paterson Gallery reserve the right not to display any item.

All items are submitted at the owner's risk. The AGWSD and Rose Paterson Gallery take no responsibility for damage or loss of an item so if you so wish, make sure your item is fully insured for all stages of the exhibition.