



NEWS May 2026

From The Chair

Dear Guilds - as the weather changes from spring to summer, I hope you're all thinking about the events we can look forward to together.

By 20 June, guilds need to register their intentions for the AGM on 11 July as part of the National Conference. Please make use of one of these options: register an in-person delegate to represent your guild in Loughborough, register for a Zoom delegate or send in a postal vote. Please also note our point for discussion, and come with ideas or experience from your guild to share.

It's also time to look out for the next batch of National Exhibition forms which are the ones to accompany exhibits. These will be arriving with guild secretaries in June.

No doubt, discussions are well underway about bunting flag designs to make an eye-catching string to represent your guild. As ever - all details are in the pack already sent to Secretaries to make sure your contribution - whether in the juried or open section - meets the requirements and will have the chance to shine. Best wishes - Andrea

Andrea Easey
Acting Chair AGWSD

AGWSD National Exhibition 2026

-A Festival of Flora and Fauna
1st and 29th October 2026
Rose Patterson Gallery
Weston Park
Weston-under-Lizard
Shifnal TF11 8LE

A reminder about entries for the juried section of the exhibition

We are looking forward to seeing your entries for the exhibition selection. We understand it can be quite confusing with lots of forms to complete so just a reminder:

- For selected item entry please complete form 1 and give this to your guild secretary with photos and sample
- Guild secretaries please complete form 2 and send all forms and items to the address on form 2
- If you would like to be considered for the Lylie Smart Trophy please complete the 'yes/no' section at the bottom of form 1

We will remind you of forms 3-5 in June

Happy making!
Exhibition Team

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

Enamel Association badges will be for sale at the Conference, £5 each. If your guild would like to order badges to collect at the Conference please email jecspin@wsd.org.uk with the number required and pay on collection.

A selection of back issues of *The Journal* will also be for sale.



A weekend of natural colour and pigment making in the beautiful glens of Antrim.

<http://festivalofcolour.co> for more information.

Save the Date

AGWSD Summer School 2027 will take place at the Royal Agricultural University, on the outskirts of Cirencester

Dates have been confirmed as
15th - 22nd August 2027

The team are working hard to put together another stunning selection of courses, of which, more information nearer the time but...Get your time off booked in now!

Gwynedd Guild WSD
Friendship Day & 50th Anniversary

Saturday 13 June 2026
10:00 – 16:00

Memorial Hall, Bethel
Caernarfon, Gwynedd.LL55 1YE

Entry fee £3.00 to include
Light refreshments
Craft Traders
A display of items woven, spun and dyed by our members

We look forward to a great day
meeting up with friends old and new

Speakers List Update



Another new speaker has been added to the list.

Claire O'Sullivan can provide Guilds with a trip through the history of hemp textile, from ancient China to the Waveney Valley and the contemporary revival of the craft. Claire is a studio jeweller with a master's degree in Entrepreneurship for Creative Practice.

In 2021, along with textile artist and weaver Kitty Wilson Brown she founded Contemporary Hempery, a project with three aims – to revive the growing of hemp for fine textiles, to revive the production of colourful beautiful woven hemp and to work in the community in this endeavour. They are growing and processing the crop at Wakelyns, in north Suffolk, once the centre of the historic industry.

This sense of place and the heritage of the region is part of the inspiration for their work. You can find details of the talks and workshops Claire is offering, on the Speakers List (access details below).

Highlight of the Month: Brigitte Kaltenbacher

Brigitte is a member of the London Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers and completed her MA in Textiles at the UCA Farnham as a mature student in 2018. Her book "Wild Nettles – From Foraging to Fibre", will be published in July 2026 by Crowood Press.

Brigitte can give talks, demos and workshops on nettle, flax and fibre processing, including flax tow spinning. She does face to face and virtual talks, and workshops on Nettle's and Flax's history, folklore, their use in contemporary textiles and potential as future sustainable fibres and yarns. Brigitte always brings along her handwoven fabrics as examples of stylish, contemporary yet sustainable textiles with minimal environmental impact.

Details of both speakers can be found in the online or PDF versions of the Speakers List. 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> (note this document is now 42 pages long). 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