Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Registered charity number: 289590

AGWSD Summer School 2027

15 to 22 August 2027

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester,

Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS



Image courtesy of the Royal Agricultural University

Weaving	Spinning	Dyeing	Mixed Crafts

Where creativity, skill and friendship come together

Bookings close Sunday 10 January 2027

Welcome to AGWSD Summer School 2027

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

It is a great pleasure to invite you to join us next August at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, in the heart of the Cotswolds.

Summer School is a week to learn, to be inspired, and to make new friends and renew old ones. Whether you are a complete beginner or an experienced maker looking to develop your practice further, there is a course here for you.

Putting this programme together has been one of the great privileges of this role. I have personally spoken with every tutor about their course, their teaching approach and what they hope students will take away. I wanted to make sure that every course in this brochure offers the best possible experience. I hope that care comes through on every page.

This year's programme brings together 18 courses across weaving, spinning, dyeing and mixed crafts, taught by outstanding tutors. Each course page is colour coded by craft, using the key below.

Alongside your course, the week includes a welcome evening, evening talks, the silent auction, a fashion show, the trade fair and the Saturday Open Day, when every class displays its work. The week culminates in our Gala Dinner. For the first time, you can also join us without taking a course through our new Social Pass.

Wednesday afternoon is free for organised excursions or for exploring Cirencester at your own pace.

We have worked hard to keep costs reasonable, and bursaries are available to eligible guild members. Full details are included in the booking information at the back of this brochure.

AGWSD Summer School exists because of volunteers. While our tutors are paid for their expertise, the Convenor and organising committee give their time freely, and planning a week like this takes well over a year of work behind the scenes. From finding tutors and arranging rooms to catering, timetables and the smallest details, it has all been done with care and for the love of our crafts. We ask that you bring patience and kindness to the week. Nothing about it happens by accident, and the people making it happen are giving up their own time to do so.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Cirencester

Ruth Filmer Robinson
AGWSD Summer School Convenor 2027
summerschool@wsd.org.uk

Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
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www.wsd.org.uk

Your week at a glance

Sunday 15 to Sunday 22 August 2027

Sunday 15 August	Arrive from 2pm for registration. Bedrooms are available from 3pm. If you arrive earlier, the bar in the Tithe Barn is a lovely place for a drink or something to eat. Dinner at 6pm, followed by our welcome evening and an introduction to your tutor.
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 16, 17 and 19 August	Courses run from 9.30am to 5pm, with lunch in the marquee. Evening talks and events.
Wednesday 18 August	Courses run from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The afternoon is free for excursions that we will put on for you to enjoy, or exploring Cirencester. More information about the excursions will be available closer to the time.
Friday 20 August	Courses run from 9.30am to 5pm, with lunch in the marquee. In the evening, the trade fair opens in Boutflour Hall.
Saturday 21 August	Courses run from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The trade fair is open all day. In the afternoon, every class displays its work at the Open Day. Teachers will have a small display of their work also in their studio, along with kits/items for sale relating to their course. In the evening, we celebrate the week with our Gala Dinner.
Sunday 22 August	Breakfast, then departure. Please leave your room by 9.30am.

Meals: breakfast is served in the dining room from 7.30am to 9am. Lunch and dinner are served in the marquee, with dinner at 6pm each evening.

Key dates

Bookings open: Sunday 1st November 2026

Bookings close: Sunday 10 January 2027

Course places confirmed by: Sunday 31 January 2027

Cancel with a full refund before: Sunday 14 February 2027

Balance due by: Wednesday 31 March 2027

FOR 2027: The Social Pass

Full board, no course

For the first time, you can join us at Summer School without enrolling on a course. Whether you are between projects, recovering from an injury, or simply want to enjoy the company of fellow makers without committing to a full course, the Social Pass is for you.

What is included

You will be fully residential from Sunday 15 August until after breakfast on Sunday 22 August, with all meals, the Gala Dinner and all evening events, including the trade fair, silent auction, fashion show and evening talks.

The social workroom

Your base for the week is your own dedicated workroom. Bring whatever you are working on, whether weaving, spinning, knitting or something else entirely. There is no tutor and no set programme, just makers making, sharing ideas and enjoying good company.

Places and booking

See booking form for further details.

£910	7
full residential week	nights, all meals and events

Good to know

Social Pass holders do not join a course, but are welcome at every meal, talk and event, and at the Saturday Open Day to see everything the classes have made.

Our courses

Eighteen courses across weaving, spinning, dyeing and mixed crafts

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AGWSD Summer School 2027

Get Weaving:

Clothing from Your Handwoven Fabric

Course code: SS-2027-01

TUTOR

Sarah Howard

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

In this exciting week-long course, students design, weave and construct a finished garment entirely from their own handwoven fabric. Working from one of Sarah's Get Weaving sewing patterns, each student will start by creating a fitted mock-up, then weave a carefully calculated length of fabric on their own rigid heddle loom, before cutting and stitching it into a piece they are proud to wear home.

The course follows the full process from first measurements to final fastenings. By the end of the week, every student will have a unique, custom-made garment that reflects their own craftsmanship and personal style.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Ability	**12**	**£30** Per person



Sarah Howard

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Create and fit a mock-up for your chosen garment, calculate exactly how much handwoven fabric your pattern requires, with minimal wastage
- Set up, warp and weave your fabric, then wash, dry and finish it ready for cutting
- Use your adjusted sewing pattern to cut and stitch a perfectly fitting finished piece
- Problem-solve and adapt, including incorporating panels of commercial fabric if needed



A finished woven top

DURING THE WEEK

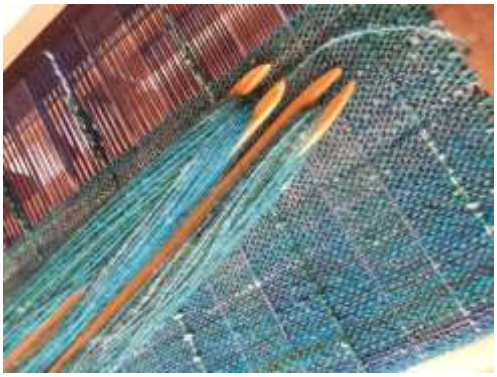
The week follows the full sequence from first measurements through to the finished garment. Sarah works with each student individually, helping them calculate their fabric requirements, manage their weaving and tackle the cutting and sewing stages with confidence. There is a warm, collaborative atmosphere as students work alongside each other, sharing discoveries and problem-solving together. On the final day everyone will be wearing something they made themselves from fabric they wove — which is a moment worth looking forward to.

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- A finished garment made from your own handwoven fabric
- A fitted calico mock-up you can use again for future makes
- A Get Weaving sewing pattern to keep and reuse
- Ideas for using any remaining fabric to make smaller items

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for weavers of all levels who also have basic sewing skills. Students should be comfortable setting up their own rigid heddle loom and using a sewing machine and sewing pattern before arriving.



Weaving in progress

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £30 per student, payable to Sarah on arrival. This covers warp and weft yarns, interfacing, lining fabrics, fastenings, calico for mock-ups and washing liquid.



Get Weaving, co-authored by Sarah

WHAT TO BRING

- Your own rigid heddle loom 100cm or minimum 50cm/20” with a selection of yarns suitable for warp and weft (approximately 400g to 500g). A warping frame would be useful
- A threading kit and instructions for your loom, warping pegs & clamps
- A basic sewing kit: scissors for paper and fabric, pins, needles and a selection of threads
- A notebook and pencils or coloured pens, plus a camera or phone camera, calculator

SARAH WILL PROVIDE

- Get Weaving sewing patterns and calico for mock-ups
- Warp and weft yarns and interfacing
- Sewing machines, overlockers, irons and ironing mats
- Lining fabrics, fastenings and washing liquid

ABOUT SARAH HOWARD

Sarah is an experienced weaver and teacher with over 40 years in the craft, including long-standing guild membership and regular exhibiting at craft shows. She is co-author of three books on weaving, with a strong focus on practical skills and creative development, and designs and sells sewing patterns for handwoven fabric through her Etsy shop. Her clear, encouraging teaching style makes her equally accessible to those stretching their skills and those approaching new territory.

FIND SARAH ONLINE
facebook.com/GetWeaving
instagram.com/getweavingwithsarah
youtube.com/@getweaving8459
getweaving.etsy.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Exploring Huck and Bronson

Structures for Lace and Texture

Course code: SS-2027-03

TUTOR

Charlotte Grierson

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course explores the rich possibilities of Huck weave, Spot Bronson and Atwater Bronson — three related structures that open up a world of lace, texture and colour effects on the loom.

Students will weave multiple versions of each structure side by side, building a genuine comparative understanding of how and why these threadings work, and the different qualities each one can produce.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Advanced	**15**	**£5** Per person

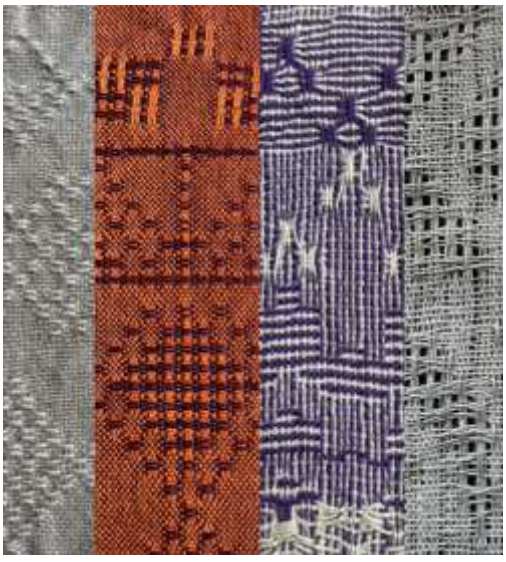


Charlotte Grierson in her studio

DURING THE WEEK

Charlotte teaches through a combination of structured sessions and hands-on weaving time. Students work on a round-robin basis across three warp structures Huck, Spot Bronson and Atwater Bronson weaving several versions of each to build a genuine comparison. By the end of the week students will have woven nine or more samples in total. There is regular time for group discussion and observation as the different results emerge across the warps. On the final day, all samples are taken off the loom and displayed in the end-of-week exhibition before being distributed to take home.

Round robin means everyone has the chance to weave on every loom, each with a different warp structure.



Lace weave samples

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

The differences between Huck, Spot Bronson and Atwater Bronson weave structures and the effects each one creates

How to read and use profile drafts to plan and adapt your own designs

How different threadings and sett choices produce textural, lace and colour variation

How to compare structures analytically, developing a deeper understanding of how weave structure determines cloth character

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE HOME

- A set of woven samples covering all three structures, finished and distributed after the end-of-week exhibition
- A detailed course handout relating to each warp and the patterns woven
- A confident understanding of when and how to use each structure in your own weaving

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This is an advanced course. Students must be able to make their own warp, thread the loom according to a threading plan, and follow a table of lifts. It is ideal for experienced weavers who want to deepen their technical knowledge of weave structure.



Workshop in progress

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £5 per student, payable to Charlotte on arrival. This covers the printed course handouts for each structure.



WHAT TO BRING

An 8-shaft loom pre-warped to Charlotte's specification (details will be provided in advance)

Shuttles and weft yarn as specified in the pre-course information

CHARLOTTE WILL PROVIDE

- Detailed student handouts and books for reference
- Her own collection of samples for students to examine and compare
- Flip chart for teaching sessions

ABOUT CHARLOTTE GRIERSON

Charlotte has been weaving for 30 years and has a studio in London designing scarves for small-scale production in the UK. With her hand weaving she experiments with structure and materials, creating artwork that explores themes of landscape, geography and geology. She has 20 years of teaching experience, running workshops and regular classes for weavers of all levels.

FIND CHARLOTTE ONLINE

@griersoncharlotte

www.charlottegrierson.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Expressive Landscape Weaving:

Creative Weaving on the Frame Loom

Course code: SS-2027-09

TUTOR

Debbie Rudolph

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Transform your favourite landscape into a striking, simplified study of texture and colour. You will paint your own design, spin bespoke art yarns from local fleece, and master traditional techniques including tabby, rya, soumak, and meet and separate to create a deeply personal tapestry that captures the true essence of the land.

This is a complete creative journey from first sketch to finished piece, combining painting, spinning and weaving into one unforgettable week.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Beginner & All Abilities	**15**	**£40** Per person



Debbie Rudolph at her loom

DURING THE WEEK

Days 1 and 2 focus on landscape design and preparation: students develop their painted design, translate it into a full-size tapestry cartoon, warp their large frame loom, and spin bespoke art yarns from raw local fleece and alpaca on Ashford or Louet spinning wheels. Day 3 sees the weaving begin in earnest, with tabby and rya stitches establishing the surface. Day 4 builds depth and complexity, introducing soumak knotting and colour transition techniques. Day 5 completes the tapestry, with students learning to cut their work from the loom, tie off warp ends and finish the piece to a professional standard. Debbie will have her own completed samples on display throughout the week.



Tapestry in progress

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to strip a landscape back to its essential shapes and translate it into a painted design and full-size tapestry cartoon
- How to warp a large frame loom and maintain correct warp tension throughout the weaving process
- How to use a heritage spinning wheel to produce bespoke art yarns from raw fleece and fibre
- Traditional tapestry techniques including tabby, rya, soumak, meet and separate, interlocking and slits
- How to cut the finished tapestry from the loom and apply professional finishing techniques

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Your own large-scale handwoven tapestry as a unique personal response to your chosen landscape
- Any remaining bespoke art yarns spun during the week
- A comprehensive toolkit of heritage skills covering design, spinning, weaving and finishing

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is designed for everyone, from absolute beginners to experienced textile makers. No previous weaving, spinning or painting experience is required. The most important things to bring are creative curiosity and a willingness to experiment. Students who would like to check suitability in advance are welcome to contact Debbie before booking.



Finished frame loom weaving

PLEASE NOTE

The course involves sustained hand and wrist work, periods of standing or sitting at the loom, light lifting when setting up the frame, and repetitive treadling on the spinning wheel. Debbie encourages regular breaks and variation of tasks throughout the day. Students who have any concerns about the physical demands are welcome to contact Debbie before booking.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £40 per student, payable to Debbie on arrival. This covers the large frame loom, all fleece and fibre, deadstock rug yarn and warp thread provided for the week.

WHAT TO BRING

- Several photographs, sketches or printed images of your chosen landscape for inspiration
- A notebook or sketchbook, pen, pencil and eraser
- Your own spinning wheel if you have one (optional but welcome)
- Any yarn that holds personal meaning or memories to include in your weaving (optional)
- Gloves to handle raw fleece if chosen



DEBBIE WILL PROVIDE

- Large frame looms for all students
- Ashford or Louet spinning wheels
- Raw local fleece and fibre, deadstock rug yarn and warp thread

ABOUT DEBBIE RUDOLPH

Debbie Rudolph is a heritage weaver and designer-maker based in Cornwall, with a background as a qualified Art and Textile teacher. She specialises in hand-spun fibres and tapestries, bridging the gap between ancient skills and contemporary expression. Her work is defined by a commitment to sustainability, often using raw fleece from local rare-breed sheep and alpaca alongside deadstock surplus yarns. Through her brand Make Me Looms, she designs and manufactures weaving equipment, keeping heritage crafts alive for modern makers. Her practice is an intuitive response to the Cornish coastline, translating the movement of light and tide into hand-spun textile art.

FIND DEBBIE ONLINE
@debbierudolph_weaving
Make Me Looms on Facebook
www.debbierudolph.co.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Tapestry Weaving: Texture and Translation

Course code: SS-2027-12

TUTOR

William Jefferies

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course is about using textures to bring a new energy to a chosen design or image. Beginning with a run through of textural techniques, students will translate them into woven tapestry through discussion and experimental samplers.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Intermediate / Advanced	**12**	**£20** Per person



William Jefferies, tutor

DURING THE WEEK

- Warping up and knotting on. Sumack and whipping
- Rug pile and knotting
- Floating and contrasts of scale in weaving
- Discussion on the potential of texture for your woven project
- Sample making, with individual and group discussion of your project
- Sample making and show and tell sessions



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to handle a range of textural techniques
- Confidence in using a variety of fibres in a tapestry context
- Insights into your own chosen project, based on samplers and sensitive translation

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE HOME

You will come away with a greater range of techniques and skills with which to tackle a tapestry project of your choice, along with several woven samplers to take home for study and inspiration.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Intermediate to advanced. Students should have some experience of tapestry weaving, and perhaps have attended a specialist course at Morley College, West Dean, or a similar teaching institution. Involves sustained hand or wrist work; suitable glasses for close work are recommended.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £20 per student, payable to William on arrival.

WHAT TO BRING

- Tapestry frame, approximately 50 x 36cm, with G clamps to fix the frame to a table
- Yarns you would like to use
- A range of tapestry bobbins
- Some designs or images you might like to translate into a textured tapestry

WILLIAM WILL PROVIDE

- A range of suitable warps
- Some yarns of various fibres and materials
- Samplers to study



Work in progress

ABOUT WILLIAM JEFFERIES

During the 1970s William studied tapestry at Edinburgh College of Art under Archie Brennan and Maureen Hodge, then worked briefly at the Edinburgh Tapestry Company (Dovecot Studios) before completing an MA at the Royal College of Art. He has since woven and taught in London, working with a variety of fibres and producing tapestries based on his drawn and collaged designs. In 2026 he had a successful one man show at the Morley Gallery.

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Spacing and Cramming:

Exploring Colour and Texture on the Table Loom

Course code: SS-2027-13

TUTOR

Alice Noble

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Spacing and cramming is a beautifully expressive weaving technique that transforms colour and texture through the precise control of warp density. Over the week, you will explore its possibilities through a series of experimental weaves, building knowledge and confidence before designing and weaving your own final piece of fabric, which you will take home ready to make into a cushion cover.

Inspired by space imagery and informed by over ten years of working with this technique, Alice will guide you through a process of genuine discovery.



Alice Noble at the loom

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Intermediate & Advanced	**15**	**£5** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

Day 1 begins with an introduction to Alice's practice and a demonstration of spacing and cramming, followed by creating several reed plans and winding yarn from your own inspiration to inform the weft. The week then progresses through various rounds of warping, threading, weaving and evaluating, each building on the discoveries of the last. Each day students weave experiments from their weft plans, evaluate the results, and revisit their planning if needed. Day 5 is devoted to weaving the final cushion cover fabric, with students leaving having completed a number of sample fabrics and a finalised piece of fabric to make into a cushion cover at home.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- The principles of spacing and cramming and pattern and texture.
- How to design, plan and thread a range of reed set-ups.
- A range of weft patterns that highlight the technique.
- How to evaluate your experimental weaves and use what you discover to inform your final design.
- How to plan and weave a final piece of fabric with intention and confidence.

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Several small lengths of experimental fabric from across the week

- A final piece of handwoven fabric ready to make into a cushion cover at home
- Planning and evaluation worksheets to use in your future weaving.

Cramming and spacing in progress



A finished cushion cover

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for intermediate and advanced weavers. Students must own a table loom and be able to set it up independently. The course involves some standing and repeated actions, and those with lower back issues may wish to plan for regular breaks.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

A fee of £5 for worksheets and mountboards.

Students will need to purchase their own warp and weft yarn before attending. Alice will provide full details of yarn requirements once places are confirmed.

WHAT TO BRING

- Your own table loom
- Weaving equipment
- Warp and weft yarn: 2/17Nm lambswool/merino (full details will be emailed in advance)
- Bobbins and shuttles, fabric scissors, notebook and pen
- Images or objects for inspiration. Weaving equipment.



ALICE WILL PROVIDE

- her own loom for demonstration
- yarn winding examples
- worksheets for planning and evaluating
- Mountboard for yarn windings
- double-sided tape
- weft pattern sheets.

ABOUT ALICE NOBLE

Alice Noble is a weaver and textile designer whose practice centres on the spacing and cramming technique, which she has been developing and refining for over ten years. Her work is inspired by the colours and patterns of space imagery, with each colourway taking its name from the images that shaped it. She produces a range of woven products using her fabrics and teaches weaving and sewing classes at her studio in Sandbach, Cheshire. Where she runs regular classes and workshops. In July 2026 Alice taught a two-day spacing and cramming workshop at the Devon Weavers Workshop.

FIND ALICE ONLINE

@alicejoanwoven
www.alicejoanwoven.co.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Introduction to Table Loom Weaving

Course code: SS-2027-17

TUTOR

Pamela Print

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

On this creative hand weaving course you will learn how to design your own cloth, plan a warp, set up a table loom, and weave a variety of classic and contemporary fabrics. This is an in depth, intensive course and you will come away with the technical knowledge required to start weaving your own cloth independently.



Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Beginners	**12**	**£30** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

Days 1 to 2

- Design your cloth and calculate a warp using colours of your choice, working with a 2/17nm merino wool suitable for apparel and soft furnishing fabric weights at a minimum width of 10 inches
- Step by step guidance on setting up the loom, from using a warping mill to threading the heddles, working in pairs for ease
- By the end of day 2 your loom will be set up and ready to start weaving

Days 3 to 5

- Learn how to read a lifting plan and weave drafts, with an introduction to classic weave structures and more complex, contemporary designs
- Experiment with colour and weave to create your own unique designs
- Weaving technique, how to achieve good selvedges, and finishing techniques



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to design and plan a warp
- How to calculate your fabric sett
- How to read a lifting plan and a basic understanding of drafts
- Step by step process to set up a table loom
- Intro to classic weave structures and how a design can be developed using colour and weave techniques
- Intro to contemporary woven structures
- Weaving technique, including how to achieve neat selvedges
- Finishing techniques



WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

A selection of samples, a sample length, or a completed piece of fabric to display or use to make a functional item.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Suitable for complete beginners or students requiring an in depth refresher. Involves sustained, but gentle, arm, hand and wrist work.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

£30 each student, payable at beginning of course.

WHAT TO BRING

- Small table loom, preferably 8 shaft to get the most from the course, with at least 200 heddles (25 on each shaft), along with raddle, warp and cross sticks, and paper
- 10s reed (preferably 10, but can work with 8)
- Warping equipment
- Threading and reed hook
- Two shuttles, boat or roller, to hold card bobbins
- Notebook, pen and pencil
- Ruler and tape measure
- String

PAMELA WILL PROVIDE

- Weaving yarn, 2/17 merino wool in a broad choice of colours, also available to purchase to take away
- 8 shaft (40cm width) table looms for up to 6 students to loan with accessories, on a first come, first served basis. Pamela sells Ashford looms and accessories, so you can also purchase in advance and your loom will be built and ready for you at the course, or try a new loom on the course before deciding to purchase
- Bobbin winder
- A limited selection of warping mills, frames, shuttles and bobbins to loan if you do not have your own
- Books for inspiration and techniques
- A comprehensive guide to keep

ABOUT PAMELA

Pamela Print is a weaver, textile artist and natural dyer based near Chelmsford, specialising in handwoven, plant dyed artworks and functional interior pieces. She established her weave studio in 2018, following a 14 year career as a woven textile designer in London and Brussels.

She now collaborates with interior designers internationally and regularly exhibits her work. Concurrent to her practice, Pamela is a lecturer in woven textiles, teaching courses and workshops at West Dean College and from her own studio. She is a recipient of the Theo Moorman Trust for Weavers award and a member of Design Nation and the Crafts Council UK.

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester | 15 to 22 August 2027 | www.wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Off the Loom and into the Wild

Course code: SS-2027-07

TUTOR

Ellie Fisher

Weaving

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Off-loom weaving is an intuitive and expressive form of textile making, no specialist equipment, no complicated set up, just yarn, fibre, and found objects to weave on. Suitable for all abilities, this course takes students from the very foundations of the craft through to an ambitious final piece, exploring pattern, texture, colour, and a wide range of materials and found objects. Students will leave with a collection of samples, a resolved final piece, and a practice they can take straight back home.

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Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Abilities	**15**	**£35** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

- Sunday evening: tutor introduction, overview of the week, and a look at examples of finished off-loom work. Selecting yarns for the material packs
- Monday: the basics, weaving on cardboard to explore pattern, colour, and how design translates into woven material, then first found objects such as stones and driftwood planks
- Tuesday: moving on to branches and more complex three dimensional and irregular structures, with tuition adapting to each student's chosen direction
- Wednesday morning: students are encouraged to be adventurous in their choices and begin to consider the direction of their final piece
- Thursday: reviewing samples, planning the final piece, and guided discussion on scaling up, colour selection and composition
- Friday: completing and resolving final pieces, guided finishing, and informal group discussion and crit
- Saturday morning: room tidy, labelling, and display preparation



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to develop a sampling practice and use it to inform larger, more ambitious work
- Pattern fundamentals, how to read patterns, create them, and translate them into woven material
- How to select and prepare found objects as looms, and how shape and structure influence the weaving
- Techniques for weaving on a range of surfaces and objects, from flat and linear to three-dimensional forms
- How to work with different yarns, fibres and colour to build texture and depth
- Different approaches to displaying and presenting finished off-loom work

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

Each student will take home a collection of samples built across the week, one finished final piece, and a clear printed handout of notes to support them throughout the week and for their continued practice at home.



WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Mixed ability. No prior weaving experience is required. Students with a textile background will find much that is familiar, but off-loom weaving is sufficiently different from loom based work that experienced weavers and complete beginners can start from the same point. Involves sustained hand and wrist work throughout the day, and handling found objects of varying sizes and weights. Students should be comfortable sitting at a worktable for extended periods.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

Material pack of yarns and fibres for the week. (£35)

WHAT TO BRING

Students are encouraged to bring any found objects they would like to weave onto, branches, stones, driftwood, roots, or anything else that appeals. These do not need to be prepared in advance. Students who do not bring found objects will be provided with a selection. They are also welcome to bring any yarn or fibre they would like to experiment with.

ELLIE WILL PROVIDE

- A selection of found objects for students who do not bring their own, including stones, branches, driftwood, and more complex three-dimensional forms
- A selection of recycled cotton yarn for initial weaving samples
- All tools required for use during the week
- Squared paper, pens and colouring pencils
- A clear handout of notes including step by step photo instructions and a resources section
- Additional yarn and fibre available to purchase during the week



ABOUT ELLIE FISHER

Ellie Fisher is a textile designer and weaver with a foundation in Textiles from Winchester School of Art, a BA in Textile Design specialising in Woven Textiles, and an MA in Design for Textile Futures, both from Central Saint Martins. Formally trained in technical weaving, she has found her way back to off-loom weaving, the craft in its most simple form, and it is largely through teaching, and witnessing the profound effect that making has on people, that she has come to believe weaving is as much about the process as the outcome. This led her to write her first book, Weaving as Art Therapy for Beginners. She is the founder of Elka Textiles, a weaving and natural dye studio based in Hampshire, where she teaches workshops and online courses alongside her mother, Claudia Gosse, who leads the natural dyeing side of the business.

FIND ELLIE ONLINE

Instagram @elka_textiles
Facebook @elkatextiles

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester | 15 to 22 August 2027 | www.wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Flax / Linen:

Seed to Cloth

Course code: SS-2027-02

TUTOR

Simon & Ann Cooper

Flax Spinning

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Flaxland offer this course to teach all aspects of flax: history, processing, spinning and weaving, working with both longline and tow fibres. A serious but relaxed approach to one of the world's oldest textile traditions.

Students will experience the complete journey from raw straw to a woven sample piece, and all levels are welcome. Processing from straw is physical work and not for everyone, so those who prefer to watch are equally welcome as plenty of prepared fibre will be available throughout.



Simon and Ann at Flaxland



Harvesting flax in the field

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
All Abilities	**15**	**£25** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

The week moves through each stage of the process in sequence, from breaking and scutching the straw through to spinning and weaving, with Simon and Ann teaching and demonstrating at every step. There is plenty of time for questions and informal discussion as the group works together, and the highlight of the week is Wednesday's exclusive minibus trip to Flaxland's own farm. On the final day students will wind off their woven samples and rope, and the group will reflect on everything the week has covered.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Traditional and modern techniques for processing flax, including breaking, scutching and combing
- How to dress a distaff and spin long-line flax fibre on both drop spindle and spinning wheel
- Spinning with short tow fibres and working with a range of fibre grades, from garden twine and rope to fine linen thread
- Plain weave sampling on a pre-warped 4-inch loom to consolidate learning and create a lasting record of progress
- On Wednesday, a minibus will take you exclusively to Flaxland's own farm to see flax growing in the field, from delicate blue flowers to ripened stalks ready for harvest, a rare and beautiful sight that brings the whole seed-to-cloth story to life

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- A woven sample piece produced on the prepared loom
- Garden twine and rope made during the week
- A thorough practical understanding of the full seed-to-cloth process

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for all levels and abilities, from complete beginners to experienced spinners. No prior experience with flax is required, though students should bring their own spinning wheel.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of approximately £25 per student, payable to Simon and Ann on arrival. This covers all fibre and materials provided for the week.

WHAT TO BRING

- Spinning wheel
- Scissors
- Apron and gardening gloves
- Dust mask (HSE basic masks will be provided, or bring your own)

SIMON AND ANN WILL PROVIDE

- Flax fibre in different stages of preparation
- Drop spindles for those who need them
- Sample looms pre-warped and ready to use

ABOUT FLAXLAND

Flax is one of the most useful plant fibres, making the finest linen to the strongest of ropes. Simon and Ann Cooper founded Flaxland in 2008, building on a passion for traditional boat building and ancient fishing methods using timber, woven hazel and willow, and flax, against a background of farming as Simon's lifelong occupation. In their quest to grow and make their own sails, cords, nets and rope, they have shared knowledge gained through hands-on practice, research from old and new books, and most importantly from those who have kept the crafts alive, many of whom are Guild members.

FIND FLAXLAND ONLINE
@flaxlanduk
www.flaxland.co.uk



Flax fibre and handwoven textile

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester | 15 to 22 August 2027 | www.wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Spinning for Colour

with Blended Tops

Course code: SS-2027-08

TUTOR

Becks of Tiny Fibre Studio

Spinning

ABOUT THIS COURSE

While blended tops are celebrated for their beautiful colour stripes, those colours can easily get lost or muddied during spinning. In this course you will learn to use a range of spinning techniques to achieve the exact colour effects you want, from fully blended through to semi-solids, self-striping, fractals and gradients, all without the need for any fibre prep tools.

By the end of the week you will have a wide selection of swatches, a full reference card set, and the confidence to plan and spin a whole project in the colour effects of your choosing.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Ability	**15**	**£15 to £20** Per person



Becks of Tiny Fibre Studio

DURING THE WEEK

The week moves from the most blended colour effects through to those where each individual colour is clearly visible. Throughout the week you will knit, crochet or weave a series of swatches. Sunday evening begins with introductions and an overview of how blended tops are made. Monday and Tuesday focus on assessing colour and short draw techniques. Wednesday introduces supported long draw from the fold. Thursday covers chain plying in multiple styles. Friday brings everything together with colour splitting, gradients and fractals. Saturday is dedicated to the end-of-week display, where the full variety of the group's results will be laid out to compare.



Aubergine blended top and handspun yarn

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Assessing colour and blend when using tops.
- Short draws – singles to 3 ply
- Spinning thicker and thinner than your default.
- From the fold, short forward and short backward.
- From the fold, supported longdraw
- Chain plying using multiple styles.
- Colour splitting, gradients and fractals.
- Swatching



Borage swatches showing colour effects

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Sample cards wrapped with every yarn made during the week, as a lasting colour reference
- Knitted, crocheted or woven swatches, prioritising the four yarns showing the greatest difference in colour effect
- The skills and confidence to plan and spin for colour in your own projects

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Students must be able to spin a reasonably consistent single independently, and be able to knit, crochet or weave their own swatches. This is not an absolute beginner course. Students who are unsure whether the course is right for them are welcome to contact Becks in advance.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £15 to £20 per student, payable to Becks on arrival. This covers fibre, sample cards and binding rings, labels, and a course handout.

WHAT TO BRING

- A spinning wheel or e-spinner in good working order, with at least 4 bobbins, a 3-bobbin lazy kate (preferably tensioned), oil and spares
- A sample niddy-noddy and WPI gauge if you have them
- Pen and notebook
- Knitters and crocheters: a selection of needles or hooks suitable for a range of yarn weights
- Weavers: a selection of pin, frame or cardboard looms, or a small rigid heddle loom pre-warped with neutral yarn,at a sett appropriate for your default handspun 3-ply, plus a shuttle

BECKS WILL PROVIDE

Fibre, sample cards and binding rings, labels, scales and a course handout

ABOUT BECKS OF TINY FIBRE STUDIO

Becks began spinning in 2011 and quickly fell in love with the process of creating yarn. While blended tops played a large part in her craft, for a long time she spun them the same way, often with unpredictable results. Eventually, a moment of curiosity turned into an intensive experiment to discover how many different colour effects she could achieve from a single blend. This course is the direct result of those discoveries. Becks combines her professional background in television and education with her love of fibre arts through her YouTube channel, Tiny Fibre Studio, where she shares projects and instructional content for spinners.

FIND BECKS ONLINE
instagram.com/tinyfibrestudio
facebook.com/Tiny Fibre Studio
tinyfibrestudio.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

From Fleece to Yarn:

A Pure Breed Spinning Masterclass

Course code: SS-2027-18

TUTOR

Sue Macniven

Spinning

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This course takes you on a journey through four different British and rare breed fleeces, working with a completely new breed each day from raw fibre to spun yarn. Each day begins with a whole raw fleece: you will learn to skirt it, identify the best staple, and scour it before moving through preparation and spinning. Working this way across five breeds gives you a deep, hands on understanding of fibre character and how to adjust your technique to get the very best from each one.

By the end of the week you will have spun across a remarkable range of fibre types, from short dense downs to long lustrous wools, and built real confidence in reading a fleece and knowing exactly how to handle it.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
All Abilities	**15**	**£40** Per person



Sue Macniven

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to skirt, assess and scour a raw fleece
- How to read the character of a fleece and choose the right preparation method
- How to adjust your spinning technique to suit short, dense downs, long lustrous wools, medium fleeces and rare breeds
- The history and character of some of Britain's most important and rare sheep breeds
- How to get the best from every fleece you work with long after the course ends



DURING THE WEEK

Each day begins with a new raw fleece. The morning is spent skirting, assessing staple, scouring and preparing the fibre before spinning begins in the afternoon. Each breed introduces a new set of challenges and rewards.

Monday A down breed. Learning to prepare and spin something short, dense and bouncy. Understanding crimp, elasticity and how a down fleece behaves differently from anything else in the spinner's toolkit.

Tuesday A longwool. Working with lustre, length and the characteristic drape of breeds such as Wensleydale or Bluefaced Leicester. Learning how to showcase these qualities in the finished yarn.

Wednesday A medium wool. A versatile and approachable breed as a bridge between the two extremes, exploring how technique shifts with a more forgiving fibre.

Thursday A rare breed, led by the Castlemilk Moorit. Ruth Filmer Robinson (Summer School Convenor and leading authority on the Castlemilk Moorit) will join the class to give a short talk on the history and character of this extraordinary Scottish sheep and share her range of Castlemilk Moorit dyed yarns.

Friday Students choose their favourite breed from the week and spin it in their own way, bringing everything together and demonstrating how much their understanding of fibre has grown.

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Four handspun skeins, one from each breed worked during the week
- A lasting personal reference of fibre notes and observations from each day
- The knowledge and confidence to approach any new fleece independently

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for all abilities, from beginners who have some basic spinning experience to confident spinners who want to deepen their understanding of raw fibre. Students should be comfortable spinning an independent single before attending, but no experience of raw fleece processing is needed.

WHAT TO BRING

- Your own spinning wheel in good working order
- At least four bobbins and a lazy kate
- Flicker, hand carders or combs if you have them (not essential)
- An apron or old clothes, notebook and pen
- Three old towels
- Box of disposable gloves

SUE WILL PROVIDE

- Four raw fleeces, representing a down breed, a longwool, a medium wool and rare breeds
- Fleece preparation equipment and scouring supplies
- Course handouts and fibre notes for each breed

ABOUT SUE

Sue Macniven is a textile tutor and handspinner based in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, with over 30 years of experience. She comes from a family of textile and art teachers and has spent decades exploring spinning, dyeing, knitting, weaving and feltmaking. Her greatest passion is for the technicalities of spinning: understanding the character of fibre and adjusting technique accordingly. She holds two world records for the longest thread, a super fine 2 ply yarn, and has taught at over 50 guilds and international venues across the UK, Australia and New Zealand. She has written spinning articles for multiple magazines and has been featured in books on craft and spinning.



Handspun yarn from raw fleece

FIND SUE ONLINE

Website: www.handspun-exotics.co.uk
Video links: handspun-exotics.co.uk/video-links

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AGWSD Summer School 2027

Turkish Spindle:

Getting to Know Your Favourite Fibre Travel Companion

Course code: SS-2027-14

TUTOR

Bregje Verhoef

Spinning

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Working with a Turkish spindle is the most portable and efficient way to spin, at home and on the go, and it offers advantages over other forms of spindling that you really have to experience for yourself. This course takes you from your very first tentative steps all the way to gorgeous, usable finished yarn.

Along the way you will discover just how versatile this little tool is, from traditional spinning and plying to more advanced methods such as long draw and clever tricks like plying on the fly.

Level	Max Students	Additional
Beginner	**15**	**£50** Per person



Bregje Verhoef



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to spin on a Turkish spindle, from your very first steps to building a neat cop
- How fibre characteristics such as staple length, crimp and micron affect your spinning, and how to prepare both commercial and self prepared fibres
- How to ply from a centre pull ball, make 2 ply, 3 ply and chain plied yarns, and ply on the fly
- How to manage and blend colour, and how your spinning method changes the way colour appears in your yarn
- How to finish a balanced yarn with a professional look, plus advanced techniques such as long draw and art yarn
- Good ergonomics and posture, and how to choose the right Turkish spindle for your needs

DURING THE WEEK

Each morning opens with a recap of the previous day and a short question and answer session, and students can submit questions at the end of each session so nothing goes unanswered.

Monday Getting to know your spindle, different fibres and preparations, the basic theory of spinning, building your first cop and judging how much twist is enough. In the afternoon, stripping down commercial top, rejoining after a break, ergonomics, and storing your cop as a turtle.

Tuesday Plying from a centre pull ball, winding and binding a skein on a niddy noddy, and working around physical limitations or tricky materials. In the afternoon, choosing the right spindle, more spinning and your first wet finished yarns.

Wednesday Bringing colour to your yarn: how dyeing methods affect the result, choosing fibres and colours, and blending colour visually or by combing and carding. The afternoon is free.

Thursday Spinning striped top and how stripping it down, spinning from the edge or making fauxlags changes the colour. Plying from two or three turtles, chain plying, ply on the fly, finishing, and fixing yarns that bleed.

Friday Tips for a professional finish, checking twist and ply angle, carding and combing, and when to wet finish or steam. In the afternoon, long draw, art yarn and supported spindling, and plying with sewing thread, locks and beads.

Saturday A final question and answer session, finishing your projects and preparing the room for the Open Day, when the class displays its work.

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- Several samples of finished handspun yarn, made with different techniques and materials
- A 3D printed Turkish spindle and your fibre sample pack
- The skills and confidence to spin with a Turkish spindle at home and on the go

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is ideal for beginners and no previous spinning experience is needed. Turkish spindling can be done sitting or standing, and you are welcome to alternate between the two. Please be mindful of any physical limitations or susceptibility to repetitive movements.

WHAT TO BRING

- Any fibres you have been curious about spinning, or have struggled with in the past
- A notebook and pen for jotting down ideas, tips and discoveries
- Knitting needles, crochet hooks or a small weaving loom if you would like to experiment with your handspun yarn in your free time (optional)

BREGJE WILL PROVIDE

- All spindles and materials needed for the course
- A fibre sample pack and a 3D printed Turkish spindle

ABOUT BREGJE

Bregje Verhoef is the maker behind Studio Spintol, a Dutch business dedicated to handmade Turkish spindles and the joy of spinning. What started as a personal passion grew into a workshop where she designs and makes her own spindles, always exploring how different shapes, weights and materials affect the spinning experience. She loves sharing that knowledge, helping beginners find their confidence and experienced spinners discover new possibilities. Her teaching is practical, encouraging and full of curiosity. Bregje believes that anyone can learn to spin, and treasures how something as simple as a spindle can bring a little calm to even the most difficult days.

FIND BREGJE ONLINE



Handspun yarn on a Turkish spindle

Website: www.spintol.nl
Instagram: @studiospintol

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Taking Control of Colour:

An Introduction to Controlled Dyeing

Course code: SS-2027-04

TUTOR

Jennifer Taylor

Dyeing

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Discover how just seven dyes can unlock an almost infinite world of colour. Working with warm and cool primaries and a single black, you will learn to mix with precision and intention, building a personal colour library that you can return to and recreate again and again.

This course will transform the way you think about colour, giving you the knowledge and confidence to take complete control of your dyeing.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Ability	**15**	**Cupro £50 / Silk £60** Per person



Jennifer Taylor

DURING THE WEEK

Each day builds on the last, taking you from the fundamentals of dye properties through to mixing your own repeatable colour blends. Jen teaches through a combination of structured sessions and hands-on dyeing time, with plenty of space to ask questions and explore your results. By the end of the week you will have built a complete personal colour reference library and have everything you need to carry on working at home.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Understand the properties of warm and cool primary dyes and how they interact
- Mix dye formulas to create a full colour wheel, secondary colours and grey scales
- Control tints, tones and shades through precise dye strength variations
- Create your own repeatable colour blends for use in your own projects
- Build a personal colour reference library you can return to and recreate with accuracy



Dyed thread samples

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- A full set of dyed threads covering your colour wheel, secondaries, tints, tones and personal blends
- Your remaining skeins and stock solutions to continue exploring at home

- A personal colour reference record of your formulas and results
- The knowledge and confidence to mix and recreate colours accurately in your own dyeing practice

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for all levels. No prior dyeing experience is needed. It is ideal for spinners, weavers and knitters who want to take control of the colour in their practice.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

The materials cost is £50 per student for cupro, or £60 for silk. Your choice of fibre must be made and paid for in advance so that skeins can be ordered and prepared before the course begins. Jen will be in touch with booking details once your place is confirmed.

WHAT TO BRING

- Notepad and pen
- Thread and scissors
- Rubber gloves, face mask and apron, plus old towels and a washing bowl
- Approximately 20 jam jars, 30 small pots (Gu pots or yogurt pots) and 100 small paper tag labels to identify skeins
- Measuring spoons from ¼ tsp up to 1 Tbsp

JEN WILL PROVIDE

- 85 skeins of cupro or silk (depending on your choice)
- Dyes and auxiliaries, syringes and coffee stirrers

ABOUT JENNIFER TAYLOR

Jen Taylor's journey into textiles began with an unexpected discovery, a box of fibre found in a school cupboard, and she has never looked back. After more than a decade of exploring felting, dyeing and all that the textile world has to offer, she now runs her own business supplying and dyeing wool fibre alongside a busy teaching practice. Her approach to colour is rooted in understanding rather than guesswork, and her students leave not just with beautiful threads but with the knowledge to recreate and build on what they have made. Jen brings warmth, enthusiasm and genuine expertise to everything she teaches.

FIND JEN ONLINE

jentaylorcraftsandfibres.co.uk
@jentaylorcraftsandfibres

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Beyond the Rainbow:

Natural Dyeing

Course code: SS-2027-10

TUTOR

Jules Billings

Dyeing

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Take a deep dive into the world of natural dyes to create a wide palette of colours, from rich to subtle and clear to complex: a rainbow and beyond.

Working with plants from the surrounding landscape as well as important traditional dyestuffs, students will build a palette of 50 or more shades on protein and cellulose yarns and cloth, developing a solid body of knowledge around natural dyeing practice.



Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Ability	**15**	**£35** Per person

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Scour and mordant protein and cellulose fibres correctly for maximum dye uptake.
- Identify, harvest and use local dyeplants responsibly.
- Work with a range of foundational dyebaths using local and exotic species.
- Overdye and modify shades to build a wide, complex palette of 50 or more colours.
- Develop sensitivity and confidence in making and repeating natural colour.

DURING THE WEEK

Getting started. Scouring protein and cellulose fibres, then following the proper mordanting procedures so each fibre takes up and holds the dye as fully as possible.

Into the landscape. Time outdoors identifying and harvesting useful dyeplants from the surrounding landscape, and discussing the environmental responsibilities that come with the dye process.

Building the palette. Setting up and working with numerous dyebaths, using local and exotic species to create a range of foundational shades. Duplicates are then overdyed and modified to draw multiple shades from each bath, giving plenty of time to practise the skills and develop a real sensitivity to making colour.

The final day. A joyous day using up all the remaining colour in the baths and foraged materials, with resist techniques and bundle dyeing to make pattern and colour on knitted and woven fabric.



A palette of naturally dyed mini skeins

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- 50 or more shades as mini-skeins of thread, yarn and fabric samples.
- Comprehensive notes on all processes and recipes from the week.
- A solid understanding of the fundamental steps in natural dyeing.
- Your own patterned pieces from the final day.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is perfect for complete beginners and those with some natural dyeing experience who would like to expand their knowledge and palette. All levels are welcome.

WHAT TO BRING

- Gloves and apron.
- Closed-toe shoes.
- Notebook and pen.
- A sense of colour joy!
- Optional: a special skein of yarn or piece of cloth to dye on the final day. Details will be sent after booking.

JULES WILL PROVIDE

All dyes, mordants, equipment, yarn and fabric samples. Extra materials will be available to purchase.

ABOUT JULES

Jules Billings is a craftsperson and horticulturist based in Bridgeton, Glasgow, where she runs a natural dye and textile studio producing plant-dyed yarn and threads for other makers. She facilitates workshops on dyeing, knitting, mending and other textile skills both in her studio and at events such as Shetland Wool Week.

Jules uses local plants as much as possible in her practice, actively seeking out invasive and weedy species and minimally-processed, locally-produced fibres. She frames her teaching around time-honoured skills that students can continue to develop and build on long after the workshop. She believes firmly in passing on skills for the ongoing elevation of craft.

FIND JULES ONLINE

WWW.WOOLLENFLOWER.COM

@woollenflower

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Madder, Weld and Woad

Natural Dyes and Plant-Based Inks

Course code: SS-2027-16

TUTOR

Lucy Lee & Edward Campbell

Dyeing

ABOUT THIS COURSE

In this course you will explore three of the most magnificent colour plants in the natural dyer's toolkit. Madder, weld and woad are the three primaries of the plant world, capable together of producing a full spectrum of natural colour. You will learn about their uses across time, their importance in cultural histories and the innovative ways new generations of crafters are using them today.

You will make dyes, inks and pigments, exploring colour mixing and overdyeing to achieve beautiful, rich natural colour. Students will take home a unique collection of bottled inks, dye samples, lake pigments and a hand-painted geometric colour poster, all made by their own hands.



Lucy Lee and Edward Campbell, Old Mill Arts

Level	Max Students	Additional Cos
Mixed Ability	**15**	**£30** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

Day One: Madder. Presentation on madder, making a madder dye pot and starting a madder lake pigment. Making madder inks, exploring the wide range of colours possible, and painting the first section of the geometric colour poster.

Day Two: Weld. Presentation on weld, making a weld dye pot and ink. Exploring colour mixing with madder to create secondary colours and overdyeing with madder to create a range of oranges. Painting the next sections of the poster.

Days Three and Four: Woad. Presentation on woad, making woad inks and paints and exploring its unique ability to create a plant pigment. Blending with madder and weld to complete the poster. Preparing a woad dye bath, over-dyeing with weld and madder, and creating patterns using shibori-style resist techniques.

Day Five and Saturday morning: Using all three dye pots together to explore the full possibilities of these plants. Experimenting with overdyeing and modifiers. Finishing lake pigments, bottling and labelling inks, and displaying work.



Dye materials and labelled inks from the Old Mill Arts studio

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- A wide range of dyeing techniques using all three plants with natural fabrics and yarns
- How to over-dye to create a full spectrum of natural colour, from subtle shades to vibrant tones
- How to use up dye pots by making a lake pigment (historic plant pigment)
- How to use the same plants to make colour-rich inks, and how these blend to make a full colour spectrum
- How to cultivate and grow all three plants, and their fascinating history and contemporary uses

- Colour theory using a natural colour wheel, and how to put colours together to create harmonious designs



Students exploring colour mixing with plant-based inks



Colour sample cards and dye work from the course

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- An exclusive Old Mill Arts course booklet
- A poster painted by you using plant inks onto a pre-printed geometric design, displaying the full colour spectrum from all three plants
- A comprehensive colour wheel dye chart of samples on natural fibres
- Many bottles of inks and paints made during the week, plus lake pigments

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

No experience is necessary and beginners are very welcome. A knowledge of mordanting fibres is useful but not required, as pre-mordanted fibres will be provided. This course is physically undemanding, and all work is done at table height.

WHAT TO BRING

- A notebook or sketchbook to explore the inks in
- An apron or old clothes

OLD MILL ARTS WILL PROVIDE

- Dye pots, paintbrushes, fabric and fibre samples
- Paint-making equipment and jars and tubs to take inks and paints home
- Course booklets and extra notes
- Projector and screen (if not available at the venue)
- Electric hobs, paper, table covers, and scissors including fabric scissors

ABOUT LUCY & EDWARD

Edward and Lucy of Old Mill Arts teach and work with the traditional crafts of making high quality handcrafted art materials. As practising artists with different specialisms, they bring a dynamic approach to teaching. Lucy is a natural dyer, grower, papermaker, and pigment and ink maker. Edward specialises in the historical aspects of art materials and is a painter, pigment and ink maker, and tool maker. Together they teach across the UK and from their studio in Dumfries and Galloway.

FIND OLD MILL ARTS ONLINE
instagram.com/old_mill_arts
facebook.com/oldmillartsOMA
www.oldmillarts.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Dyeing with Indigo and Shibori

Course code: SS-2027-11

TUTOR

Kate Ryan

Dyeing



Kate Ryan

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Come along and take a deep dive into indigo, this most fascinating of natural dyes. Learn how to set up a dye vat and use it to create intricately patterned fabric using Shibori resist techniques. You will leave with a wealth of ideas and samples as well as the enjoyment of making an item from the unique fabric you have created.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed Ability	**12**	**£40** Per person

DURING THE WEEK

The week opens with the history and science of indigo before moving into setting up and maintaining the dye vat, with day to day testing and dyeing procedures to achieve different shades of blue. Alongside this you will prepare fabric using a range of Shibori manipulation methods, including Ne-Maki (object bound), Arashi (pole wrapped), Itajime (folding and board clamped) and Nui (stitched) techniques, before combining approaches and planning your own design. By the end of the week you will have dyed a range of samples and fabric ready for a project of your own choosing.



Indigo dyed Shibori samples

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- An introduction to the history and science of indigo
- How to set up and use an indigo dye vat
- How to prepare fabric for dyeing using a range of techniques based on Japanese Shibori, including folding, twisting, bunching, clamping, binding and stitching cloth to resist the dye and create a variety of patterns
- How to plan and create a complex Shibori design suitable for a project of your own choice
- How to care for fabrics once they have been dyed

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- A range of fabric samples showing various Shibori techniques dyed with indigo
- Two scarves decorated with Shibori designs
- A larger piece of fabric for use in a project of your own choice, such as simple clothing, a cushion cover, tote bag or hanging
- The option to bring a limited amount of your own fibre, yarn or fabric to dye with indigo

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

Suitable for the complete beginner as well as someone with dyeing experience who wishes to develop their skills. Students need their hands to be dextrous and strong enough to manipulate fabric with stitch, elastic bands, string and clamps, and should be able to manage some standing, bending and light lifting.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

The materials cost is £40 per student.

WHAT TO BRING

- Old clothes, apron and rubber gloves
- Two washing up basins
- Plastic bags and an old towel
- Small hand sewing kit
- Fabric scissors and small sharp scissors
- Notebook and pen, water soluble marker or pencil, ruler or measuring tape
- Optional extras: fibres, yarn, a length of fabric or a garment you would like to dye with indigo, such as used clothing, a small hank of handspun yarn, or fibre for felting or spinning. It should be at least 80% natural fibre (cotton, linen, silk or wool), pale in colour, and no more than 250g in total weight

KATE WILL PROVIDE

- Heated vessel for the indigo dye vat
- Indigo dye and all associated chemicals needed for the vat
- Shibori equipment
- Fabric for Shibori and indigo dyeing samples
- Ready to dye scarves for each participant
- Approximately 0.5m of cotton fabric for each participant, suitable for a larger project
- Course booklet

ABOUT KATE RYAN

As a tutor with 30 years experience, initially teaching Textiles, Product Design and Fine Art at a grammar school in Halifax, Kate has spent the last 10 years at ArtyBird Carnforth delivering City & Guilds accredited programmes to adults in Felt, Embroidery, Dressmaking, Printing and Dyeing. She is passionate about enabling the individuals on her courses to explore their own unique creativity. The textiles Kate creates are inspired by nature and informed by the photographs she takes whilst walking. She has a keen interest in traditional textile processes and often combines these with natural dyeing to create unique clothing and wall based art.



Preparing fabric using Shibori resist techniques

CONTACT KATE

Email: kateryan1tutor@gmail.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Sprang Techniques

Course code: SS-2027-06

TUTOR

Dr Carey Fleiner

Mixed Crafts

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Sprang is one of the oldest textile techniques in the world, a form of twisted and interlaced fabric that predates knitting by thousands of years. Sometimes called warpless weaving, it produces a naturally stretchy, open-structured fabric that has been used across many cultures for bags, hairnets, bonnets, socks and more. This course is a hands-on introduction to sprang from the very beginning, tracing its remarkable history while building practical skills day by day.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Beginner	**15**	**£40** Per person



Dr Carey Fleiner

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to warp a sprang frame using a basic and figure-8 warp.
- The fundamental S and Z twists on which all sprang techniques are built.
- How to use S and Z twists to create colour effects, textured designs and lace patterns.
- How to read sprang charts and begin designing your own patterns.
- How to finish off a completed piece of sprang.
- An introduction to intertwining and colourwork, time permitting.

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

- A collection of sampler pieces showing basic stitching, colour manipulation, lace and texture techniques.
- Small finished items such as a bag or hairnet sewn from your samplers.
- Handouts for each technique, including patterns for simple hats and bags.
- Grid sheets for designing your own sprang patterns.
- Reference materials on the history of sprang



A sprang bonnet

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is open to complete beginners and to anyone who would like to explore sprang. No previous experience is necessary. If you have tried sprang before and would like to develop further, there is plenty to keep you engaged throughout the week.

WHAT TO BRING

- A sprang frame if possible. Patterns and suggestions for sourcing or making a frame will be sent in advance. Carey has frames available to loan if needed.
- Scissors and tapestry needles.
- At least two colours of yarn, approximately 50g each. Cotton DK or Aran weight is recommended for beginners. You may also bring other fibres to sample with.
- Wooden chopsticks (the inexpensive wooden kind, still joined together).
- A tapestry fork or 5 to 6mm knitting needles to help pack the warp.
- Notebook, coloured pencils and graph paper.



Sprang lace in progress

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Carey will provide sprang frames on loan, extra yarn for practice, handouts, grid sheets, pattern books and reference materials on the history of sprang

ABOUT CAREY

Carey is Senior Lecturer in Classical (Roman) History at the University of Winchester and has been learning and practising textile techniques for nearly 50 years, including spinning, weaving, nalbinding and sprang. She is on the AGWSD and Arts Society speakers lists and a member of Heritage Crafts. She has given workshops throughout the UK and in Germany, and has demonstrated period textile craft at sites including Butser Ancient Farm, the Weald and Downland Museum and the Campus Galli in Germany. Her talks include Roman Women, Wool and Spinning and In the Loop: A Cultural History of Knitting.



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FIND CAREY ONLINE

instagram.com/AugustaAtrox
facebook.com/AugustaAtrox
cdfleiner.com

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Coiled Basketry

Fibre & Fabric

Course code: SS-2027-05

TUTOR

Dee Sayce

Mixed Crafts

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Coiled basketry is one of the oldest and most universal of crafts, with traditions rooted in every corner of the world. In this course we begin with the fundamentals before exploring a rich range of stitches, techniques and materials from across those global traditions, using raffia, yarn, fabric strips and rope to create baskets, mats, jewellery and sculpture.

Each day introduces a new technique and a new piece, building your skills and confidence as the week progresses. By Friday you will have made at least four items and have everything you need to carry on making at home.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Mixed	**15**	**£20** Per person



Dee Sayce

DURING THE WEEK

The week is structured day by day, with each session introducing a new material, stitch family or technique. Monday focuses on plant fibre using raffia, Tuesday moves into textile basketry using fabric strips and yarn, Wednesday is devoted to coiled jewellery, Thursday to patterned work, and Friday brings everything together in a free and experimental sculptural piece. There is plenty of time to ask questions and explore your own ideas within each session, and Dee will provide handouts to support each day's learning so you have a reference to take home.



Coiled basketry in progress

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How to work with a wide range of core and binding materials including raffia, fabric strips, yarn, rope and cordage
- A broad range of stitches including Plain, Apache, Figure of Eight, Lazy, Lace, Stab, Mattress, V, Split, Fern and Wheat
- How to add lengths, shape your work, change colour, make handles and lids, and finish your pieces
- How to design and plan a patterned basketry item
- How to bring materials and stitches together experimentally to create sculptural coiled work



A finished coiled basketry piece

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

At least four coiled basketry items, which may include a raffia-based basket, a textile-based piece, jewellery, a patterned item and a creative sculptural piece. Some items may not be fully finished during the week, but Dee will provide enough materials for you to complete them at home. You will also leave with a full set of course handouts and the skills and confidence to continue making independently.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is suitable for all abilities. No prior experience of coiled basketry is needed. Please note that the course involves sustained hand and wrist work throughout the week.



ADDITIONAL COSTS TO STUDENTS

There is an additional materials cost of £20 per student, payable to Dee on arrival. This covers all core materials provided for the week.

WHAT TO BRING

Notebook, pen and scissors

Any supplementary materials you would like to incorporate into your projects, for example fabric, yarn, hand-dyed or hand-spun yarn, basketry fibres, beads or other decorative items

DEE WILL PROVIDE

Core materials including cord, rope and raffia

Mixed fibre fabric, extra strong thread, and cotton, linen and woollen yarn

Needles, clips and items for decoration

Handouts for each day of the course

ABOUT DEE SAYCE

Dee is an enthusiastic and experienced textile artist and tutor based in Derbyshire, who has been running her own textile workshop business since 2012. She delivers workshops, demonstrations and talks across Derbyshire and also works part-time as a textile tutor for her local education authority. Dee enjoys making coiled basketry items using her own hand-spun and naturally dyed yarn, and takes particular pleasure in encouraging creativity and helping students discover what they can make.

FIND DEE ONLINE

instagram.com/dee_sayce_textiles
facebook.com/Dee Sayce - Textile Artist and Tutor
www.deesayce.co.uk

AGWSD Summer School 2027

Machine Knitting Textures

Course code: SS-2027-15

TUTOR

Amber Hards

Mixed Crafts

ABOUT THIS COURSE

Spend the week exploring texture, colour, and structure on the knitting machine in a playful, experimental workshop designed for curiosity and creative freedom. Using the knitting machine and ribber attachment, you will create a rich collection of swatches while trying out a wide range of techniques, yarns, and unexpected combinations, with no pressure to produce a finished piece. This is a space for play, sampling, experimenting and enjoying the process of making, whether your experiments remain as studies or become the starting point for something larger.

Level	Max Students	Additional Cost
Intermediate	**15**	**£20** Per person



Amber Hards

DURING THE WEEK

- Single bed techniques. Looking at swatches, watching demos and knitting swatches.
- Single bed techniques continued. Further swatches, demos and knitting.
- Morning: ribber bed techniques, swatches and demos. Afternoon: self-directed time.
- Ribber techniques and combining techniques. Swatches, demos and knitting.
- Combining techniques and/or knitting a final piece. Swatches, demos and knitting.
- Morning: finishing swatches and/or final pieces, prepare the end of week display.

Work in progress



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- Single bed techniques: stripes, lifted stitches, partial knitting, weaving, gathering, punch cards, beading and incorporating fabrics into the knit
- Ribber techniques: plating, stitch transfers, circular knitting, racking, pleating, and inlay
- Working with a broad mix of materials: elastic, wool, non-felting fibres, fine yarns, chunky textures, hand knitting and weaving yarns, and unexpected materials
- Embroidery and combining techniques in intuitive, experimental ways
- Using Amber's extensive swatch library for inspiration and design development
- Knit maths, textured fabrics, draping, and developing experimental samples into finished pieces

- Amber's own design process and approaches to sampling

WHAT YOU TAKE HOME

A large variety of swatches to add to your own swatch library, and a small, finished piece if you wish. Projects could develop into a wall hanging, simple top, cushion cover, bag, or other textile piece.

WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

Students must have completed a beginner machine knitting course either with myself or elsewhere or have equivalent experience. Basic knowledge of the ribber attachment is also advised.

Sustained time at the knitting machine is essential. Students should bring whatever setup suits them in terms of table height. There will also be time seated at a table looking at swatches.

WHAT TO BRING

- Your own knitting machine and ribber attachment
- A variety of yarns including hand knitting and weaving yarns such as: Elastane, wools, cottons, viscose, lurex, mohair, alpaca, nylon monofilament

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

- One extra knitting machine with ribber attachment
- A selection of yarns from Amber's own collection



A selection of finished work

ABOUT AMBER

Amber is a Newport-based knitwear designer, textile artist, machine knitting teacher, and author of Texture and 3D Effects. With 20 years of experience using knitting machines and teaching since 2016, her work focuses on texture, structure, and experimental knitted surfaces. Alongside teaching online and in person, Amber previously designed luxury wool knitwear for her own label. Her workshops encourage playful experimentation, helping students build confidence while exploring a wide range of techniques, textures, and materials. Drawing on an extensive archive of samples and garments, she shares both technical knowledge and creative processes, inspiring students to discover the many creative possibilities of machine knitting.

FIND AMBER ONLINE
www.amberhards.co.uk
Instagram: @amberhards
TikTok: @amberhards
Pinterest: @amberhards

Practical information

Everything you need to know before you book

The Royal Agricultural University sits on the edge of Cirencester, about a mile from the town centre, in the heart of the Cotswolds. Our teaching rooms, dining room, marquee and bedrooms are all on one campus.

1. Prices and what is included

Option	What is included	Total	Deposit	Balance
Residential with course	Your course, single room, full board begins with dinner on Sunday 15 August and ends after breakfast on Sunday 22 August, and includes the Gala Dinner	**£1,130**	£350	£780
Day delegate	Your course, lunch and dinner each day, all evening events and the Gala Dinner. No accommodation or breakfast	**£680**	£200	£480
Social Pass	Single room, full board for 7 nights, your own workroom, all evening events and the Gala Dinner. No course	**£910**	£300	£610
Companion	Single room, full board for 7 nights, all evening events and the Gala Dinner	**£870**	£250	£620

Non guild members pay an extra £100, payable with the deposit. This does not apply to companions.

2. Accommodation

Nearly all bedrooms are single en suite rooms in the university's halls of residence. Bedrooms are available from 3pm on Sunday 15 August, and must be vacated by 9.30am on Sunday 22 August.

Access needs. There are ground floor rooms close to the dining areas. Please tell us about any access needs on your booking form, and we will do our very best to help.

Extra nights. There are no extra nights available before or after Summer School, so please plan to arrive on Sunday 15 August.

Camping. There is no camping at the university, but there is a camp site along the same road Cirencester Park Club Campsite, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1UT

3. Getting to the RAU

Address. Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS.

By car. For sat nav, use GL7 6JS.
From the M4, leave at junction 15 and take the A419 to Cirencester. Exit at Cirencester Industrial Area and follow the signs to the University. From the M5, leave at junction 11A and take the A417, exit at Stratton, and follow Gloucester Road towards Cirencester town centre. The University is clearly signposted from there.
Parking. There are three entrances, each with parking:
Stroud Road Entrance: the main and most accessible entrance, closest to the Bathurst Wing and the main

buildings.
Tetbury Road Entrance and Woodland Entrance:

By train. There are frequent trains from London Paddington to Kemble, via Swindon, and regular trains from Gloucester and Cheltenham. Kemble station is about three miles from the university, and taxis run from the station.

By coach. National Express runs regular coaches from London Victoria and Heathrow to Cirencester, taking about two hours.

By air. The nearest airports are Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff and London Heathrow, all with rail or coach connections.

4. Meals and refreshments

Full board includes breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Breakfast is served in the dining room, and lunch and dinner in the marquee. Day delegates have lunch and dinner each day. On Saturday evening we celebrate the week with our Gala Dinner. It would be wonderful if everyone could join us for this celebration of the week.

Mid morning tea and coffee are included.

Please tell us about any dietary needs or allergies on your booking form. The bar is open in the evenings and takes card payments only. The university does not allow food or drink to be brought in for use on campus without its agreement.

5. Choosing your course

Please read each course description carefully and make sure you have the experience and equipment it asks for. On your booking form, list three course choices in order of preference.

Places are drawn at random after bookings close, and you will be given a place on the highest choice available. Everyone will hear by Sunday 31 January 2027.

6. Equipment and materials

Each course page lists what to bring and any additional materials cost, which is paid to your tutor on the first day. Your tutor may contact you before Summer School with more details.

7. Wednesday afternoon

There is no teaching on Wednesday afternoon. You can join one of our organised excursions, which you can choose closer to the time. Or take the thirty minute walk into Cirencester, where New Brewery Arts, Gloucestershire's hub of craft and creativity, and the Corinium Museum are both well worth a visit. Details of the excursions will be available closer to the time.

8. Payment

Please pay by bank transfer (BACS). Full details are on the booking form. Your deposit is due with your booking form, by Sunday 10 January 2027 at the latest. The balance is due by Wednesday 31 March 2027. If you cannot pay by bank transfer, please contact us at bookings@wsd.org.uk

9. Cancellation

If you cancel before 14 February 2027, your deposit and any other payments will be refunded in full.

If you cancel on or after 14 February 2027, your deposit cannot be refunded. If you have paid your balance, it will only be refunded in exceptional circumstances.

If your place can be filled from our waiting list, we will refund everything you have paid, less an administration fee of £25.

We strongly advise you to take out your own insurance, as you would for any holiday. If Summer School is cancelled by the AGWSD or the Royal Agricultural University, all payments will be refunded in full.

10. Bursaries

As part of its charitable aims, the AGWSD offers bursaries to guild members who would find it difficult to afford Summer School 2027 without help. Bursaries are for those who will use what they learn to develop their own practice and share it with others.

Who can apply
Applications will only be considered from individuals who have been a member of an AGWSD affiliated or associate guild for a minimum of two years. You cannot apply if you received an AGWSD bursary for either of the last two Summer Schools.

How to apply
Complete the online bursary application form You will also need two referees who know you well, each completing their own referee form. Referees do not need to be guild members but must not be family.

AGWSD Bursaries for Summer School 2027: Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester – Fill in form

Referee Form for AGWSD Bursaries for Summer School 2027: Royal Agricultural University – Fill in form

Key dates
Applications close: 5th December 2026
Decisions sent: by 18th December 2026, before Summer School bookings close

How bursaries are awarded
The AGWSD General Purposes Committee decides awards based on the evidence from you and your referees. A bursary covers part of the course fee. Successful applicants will receive a code to enter on their Summer School booking form, which adjusts the amount payable. A bursary does not guarantee a place.

Your data
All information is treated in confidence, stored securely in line with GDPR, and shared only with those assessing your application. By submitting the form you accept these conditions.

11. Booking forms

To book, please full out the booking form using the

AGWSD Summer School 2027 (2) – Fill in form

> Questions? We are always happy to help. Email summerschool@wsd.org.uk.