



# THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: [www.wsd.org.uk](http://www.wsd.org.uk)  
President: Jenny Balfour Paul Life President: Paddy Bakker  
Vice Presidents: Peter Penneck, Jenifer Midgley

## Association Newsletter, September 2017

### Association News

#### Course Changes at Bradford School of Art

Bradford School of Art are currently recruiting for the last ever cohort of the current course (officially titled HNC Fashion & Textiles but known locally as HNC Contemporary Constructed Textiles) as the validating body Pearsons have changed the course structure, making it unsuitable for matching to the needs of Bradford's hand weaving course. The last enrolment will take place in December 2017. <https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/study/university-centre/schools/arts-media>

#### LGWSD Exhibition 2017: The Thames and Southwark: Threads of London Life

New work by members of London Guild on the theme of The Thames and Southwark: Threads of London Life, is on show at Southwark Cathedral between 23 - 30 November 2017 <https://www.londonguildofweavers.org.uk/lgwsd-exhibition-2017-the-thames-and-southwark-threads-of-london-life-23-to-30-november-southwark-cathedral>

#### AGWSD Conference 2018: "Then and Now"

Taking place 11 - 13 May 2018 (Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Milton Keynes), the Association's 2018 Conference, organised by the Guilds in Region G (London and Northern Home Counties), will be on the theme of "Then and Now". It will look at the origins of craft and artisan production in Britain, tracing forwards through revivals to the latest resurgence of interest, and how past practice affects the present.

The Association AGM will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 12 May 2018. Further details and booking information will be available on the Association website shortly.

There will be five speakers:

1. Dr Susanna Harris, Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow and Dr Mark Knight, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge: The Bronze Age Fabrics of Must Farm

The settlement of Must Farm provides a remarkable window into the fabrics people made in Bronze Age Britain, around 900 BC. The speakers will present the site and current research into the rich evidence for plant fibre fabrics made by weaving and twining.

2. Dr Dinah Eastop, textile conservator: The Board of Trade Design Register, 1839-1991.

This talk will introduce the Board of Trade Design Register which includes nearly 3 million designs registered for copyright protection between 1839 and 1991. Many classes of textile design were registered. The records include samples of dyed yarn, knitting, straw-work, woven cloth and printed cloth, as well as complete artefacts.

### 3. Anna Buruma, Head Archivist at Liberty's: The Art of Liberty

This talk will cover the origins of Liberty's textile design archive and its uses up to the present day.

### 4. Isabella Whitworth, Dye researcher: Seen through Purple

Isabella's ten years' research into a 19th Century archive has led in unexpected directions: from Leeds to Lima, from Sudbury to 6th Century Syria. A journey traced through three purple dyes.

### 5. John Miners, textile consultant: Horsehair Tales - The History of John Boyd Textiles

A story of continued innovation by the only remaining haircloth weavers in the UK, established in 1837 and still very much in business today, using looms from the mid-19th century

## **Foundation Certificate in Spinning: Call for Potential Tutors**

After a successful pilot programme, seven candidates have been awarded the Foundation Certificate in the past year, and there are currently 30 candidates at different stages of working towards completion.

We are building a database of potential tutors for this Foundation Certificate. Students work independently and, when no local support is available, they come together in small groups (sometimes across Guilds) for practical tuition/workshops on a syllabus with four modules:

- Module 1 Spinning Technology
- Module 2 The Nature of Fibres
- Module 3 Spinning in Practice – English Longdraw
- Module 4 Spinning in Practice – Worsted

Students make arrangements for tuition and workshops directly with tutors with guidance from the Foundation Certificate Coordinator or their Regional Mentor. If you are an experienced tutor in the above topics and wish to be listed on the database, please let me know. We have a list already and need more tutors in all parts of the UK and Ireland to meet future demand.

Please contact: Janet Maher, Foundation Certificate Coordinator on [foundationspin@wsd.org.uk](mailto:foundationspin@wsd.org.uk)

## **Paddy Bakker Retrospective**

Many members know Paddy Bakker as Life President of the Association. Paddy is holding a retrospective of her weaving career. The exhibition runs from 23 – 28 October 2017 at the Friends Meeting House, Bath Place, Taunton, Somerset.

## **National Exhibition 2018 Submissions**

Submission details for the 2018 National Exhibition ('Textile Creations' which will take place 16 - 29 July at the University of Strathclyde) have been sent to Guild Secretaries and are also available online: [http://www.wsd.org.uk/pdfs/National\\_Exhibition\\_SUBMISSION\\_DOC.pdf](http://www.wsd.org.uk/pdfs/National_Exhibition_SUBMISSION_DOC.pdf)

Submission deadlines for Guild Secretaries (who will submit all entries on behalf of their Guild) are as follows:

- Selected Work: 21 April 2018;
- Open Section, Non-juried Work "Charles Rennie Mackintosh Jewellery": 23 June 2018.

## **Stuart Groom Memorial Library News**

The Library is now open for business, and all Guild Secretaries have been sent the membership and loan request forms.

The list of all books available from the Library will be accessible to all Guild members via the Web Information Point (WIP), which can be accessed via the 'Members' section of the [Association Website](#).

Questions can be submitted to Nik Knott, AGWSD Librarian on [library@wsd.org.uk](mailto:library@wsd.org.uk).

## **Journal News**

### **The Journal Seeks a Blog Manager**

We are preparing for the launch of our new website this autumn. It will include a 'Q&A' blog, to encourage interaction with our readers and website visitors. We will be inviting interesting textile-related queries for posting on our blog, and posting relevant answers as we receive them (or work them out ourselves!) To manage this section of the website, you'll need internet access and the ability to work within the website (training will be available) plus, of course, a lively and enquiring mind coupled with keen interest in textiles. This is a new role within our team. If you would like to find out more, please contact Christina Chisholm on [chair@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@journalwsd.org.uk)

### **Events**

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, please send to: [diary@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:diary@journalwsd.org.uk), if it is received too late for publication we will try and include it in the Diary feature on our new website, to be launched this autumn.

### **Guild Highlights Submissions**

Have you welcomed any interesting tutors or speakers to your Guild meetings recently? If so, please consider writing a short piece for the *Guild Highlights* pages of the Journal. Contributions should be up to 300 words, accompanied by a high-resolution digital image (1 MB or greater file size), and sent to our Guild Highlights and Readers Showcase Editor, Sally Firth, at [rigglands@gmail.com](mailto:rigglands@gmail.com).

Both Guild Highlights and longer article suggestions are welcomed from Guild members, with articles related to spinning or colour particularly encouraged.

### **Current Issue of the Journal**

The current issue of The Journal, Autumn 2017, includes articles on the following:

- Fascinating tales of Textile Travels to Gujarat;
- Trialling unusual mordants;
- Learn about growing, harvesting and dyeing with madder;
- Amanda Hannaford describes teaching spinning and dyeing in Tibet;
- Meet an unusual 'journey' spinning wheel;
- Jane Deane creates an innovative yarn from flax and paper.

Subscribe at [www.thejournalforwsd.org.uk](http://www.thejournalforwsd.org.uk) or through your Guild.

### **Recent News from Guilds**

**East Sussex Guild** will be moving their monthly meetings to Hillcrest Centre, Bay Vue Road, Newhaven BN9 9LH, from August until December, due to refurbishment of their usual meeting place in Lewes. For more information contact [secretary@esgwsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@esgwsd.org.uk)

**East Sussex Guild** will hold their biennial Exhibition and Sale on 27 – 28 October 2017 at Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex.

**Birmingham & District Guild** will be holding their annual exhibition and open day on 11 November at Friends Meeting House, Cotteridge, Birmingham.

### **Elsewhere on the Web**

- [In Mexico, Weavers Embrace Natural Alternatives to Toxic Dyes.](#)
- Visit [Museum Crush](#) for exhibition listings and fascinating articles.
- [Woven sea silk, harvested, dyed and embroidered by Chaira Vigo.](#)

### **Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions**

**Campaign for Wool, Wool Week**, 09 – 15 October 2017

<http://www.campaignforwool.org/>

<p><b>The Knitting and Stitching Show</b>, 11 – 15 October at Alexandra Palace, London Association stand and demonstrations taking place each day</p>
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**House Style**, 25 March - 22 October 2017 at Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire

An exhibition exploring five centuries of fashion and adornment at Chatsworth, curated by Hamish Bowles, International Editor-at-Large at American Vogue.

<https://www.chatsworth.org/events/house-style/>

**Paddy Bakker Retrospective**, 23 – 28 October 2017 at the Friends Meeting House, Taunton, Somerset.

Many members know Paddy Bakker as Life President of the Association. Paddy is holding a retrospective of her weaving career.

<p><b>East Sussex Guild Biennial Exhibition and Sale</b>, 27 – 28 October 2017 at Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex.</p>
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**Wovember**, November 2017

<http://www.wovember.com/>

**Indigo Sutra**, 09 - 11 November 2017 at Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata

The three day event will comprise of seminar, workshops on indigo dyeing, demonstrations, exhibitions, films and Grand bazaar. There will be optional textile tours.

<http://sutrertextilestudies.com/upcomingevent.html>

**Made in the Middle**, until 25 November 2017 at various venues

Touring exhibition which showcases and sells some of the best contemporary craft and applied art from across the Midlands.

<http://craftspace.co.uk/made-in-the-middle-2016/>

<p><b>The Knitting and Stitching Show</b>, 23 – 26 November at Harrogate International Centre Association stand and demonstrations taking place each day</p>
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**LGWSD Exhibition 2017: The Thames and Southwark: Threads of London Life, 23 - 30**

November at Southwark Cathedral

new work by members of the Guild in all of the Guild crafts on the theme of The Thames and Southwark: Threads of London Life.

<https://www.londonguildofweavers.org.uk/lgwsd-exhibition-2017-the-thames-and-southwark-threads-of-london-life-23-to-30-november-southwark-cathedral>

**Katagami – the Craft of the Japanese Stencil**, 11 April – 07 December 2017 at ULITA (Archive of International Textiles), The University of Leeds

This exhibition celebrates one of the archives major collections – ‘katagami’, Japanese resist dyeing stencils.

<http://ulita.leeds.ac.uk/events/katagami-the-craft-of-the-japanese-stencil/>

**Wallace Sewell: 25 Years of British Textile Design**, 20 October 2017 – 21 January 2018 at The Fashion and Textile Museum, London

This display highlights the 25th anniversary of a textile success story, founded by graduates of the Royal College of Art whose global success is rooted in British design education and UK manufacturing.

<http://www.ftmlondon.org/ftm-exhibitions/wallace-sewell/>

**May Morris Art and Life**, until 28 January 2018 at William Morris Gallery, London

This landmark exhibition explores the life and work of May Morris, one of the most significant artists of the British Arts and Crafts movement.

<http://www.wmgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions-43/may-morris>

**Balenciaga: Shaping Fashion**, until 18 February 2018 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London  
Examines the work and legacy of influential Spanish couturier Cristóbal Balenciaga, with over 100 pieces crafted by ‘the master’ of couture, his protégées and contemporary fashion designers working in the same innovative tradition.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/balenciaga-shaping-fashion>

**Sampled Lives: Samplers from the Fitzwilliam Museum**, 6 May 2017 – 08 April 2018 at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Over 100 samplers from the Museum’s collection of beautifully embroidered and stitched samplers illuminating the lives of girls and women, from the mid-17th to early 20th century.

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/calendar/whatson/sampled-lives-samplers-fitzwilliam-museum>

**AGWSD Conference 2018: “Then and Now”**, 11 - 13 May 2018 at Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Milton Keynes

The Association’s 2018 Conference, organised by the Guilds in Region G (London and Northern Home Counties), will be on the theme of “Then and Now”. It will look at the origins of craft and artisan production in Britain, tracing forwards through revivals to the latest resurgence of interest, and how past practice affects the present.

**AGWSD National Exhibition 2018, Textile Creations**, 16 - 29 July 2018 at the University of Strathclyde

Submissions being accepted until the dates specified in the submission document:

[http://www.wsd.org.uk/pdfs/National\\_Exhibition\\_SUBMISSION\\_DOC.pdf](http://www.wsd.org.uk/pdfs/National_Exhibition_SUBMISSION_DOC.pdf)

### **Other Newsletters**

- [Crafts Council Newsletter](#)
- [Voluntary Arts Newsletter](#)
- [Craft & Design Newsletter](#)

- [Craft Industry Alliance Newsletter](#)

### **Contact & Social Media**

Sign up to receive the newsletter direct: [buff.ly/2qUtXUQ](http://buff.ly/2qUtXUQ)

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

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, please send (at least four months in advance) to: [diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk](mailto:diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk)

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