



**THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND
DYERS**

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: www.wsd.org.uk

President: Jenny Balfour Paul Life President: Paddy Bakker

Vice President: Steve Kennett

Association Newsletter, January 2019

Association News

Association President

Unfortunately, our current president Jenny Balfour-Paul will be stepping down this year, as under the terms of the Association's constitution we cannot extend her presidency. The Association would like to express sincere thanks to Jenny for her brilliant tenure as president and her support of the Association.

The Association is also delighted to announce that Jennie Parry, who many of you will already know, has accepted our invitation to take on the role of President from April 2019, following the Association AGM. Jennie is well known as an embroiderer and braid maker, and founder member of the Braid Society of which she was president from 1996 – 2001.

Summer School 2019 – Unprecedented Applications

The Summer School 2019 Committee and the GPC have been delighted and overwhelmed by the number of applications but also all feel very sad and disappointed that we won't be able to accommodate everyone who has applied. This is totally unprecedented and completely unexpected for all concerned.

It is becoming increasingly difficult, year on year, to find suitable, affordable venues, which have the facilities and accommodation a Summer School requires. So many Universities/Colleges have gone down the conference route, as they can demand a commercial delegate rate, which then becomes prohibitively expensive for us to host a Summer School but equally because they have carpeted the rooms and have soft furnishings/computers suites etc., they do not want the 'muck and mess' we generate with fleece, fibres and water, etc.

Agricultural Colleges have always been very welcoming to us but many quite simply do not have the accommodation, as many of their students are 16+ and attend daily and from the local area.

This means we are always severely restricted by space, accommodation and by price, especially as we do try and move these events around the Country.

This however is clearly of no comfort to the sixty applicants, who we have sadly advised they do not have a place for Summer School 2019 and hope this will not deter anyone from applying again for 2021 because we already have a venue for this and will be working hard to put together an exciting programme of courses, events and activities.

The venue is Greshams School, Holt in Norfolk and we had already agreed with them to have eighteen courses, instead of the fifteen we have for 2019 because they have the accommodation and the classrooms. Since the end of December, when it became apparent just how many people were going to be disappointed, we have been in discussions with them about increasing the number of courses we can offer to accommodate the increasing demand for places.

The GPC are also very aware that the period allowed for applications should now be reviewed. Historically four months was given, when we relied on snail mail and information in The Journal. This meant many members would be disadvantaged, as guilds meet at different times and Journals, at that time, were distributed by the Guilds but technology has moved on. Clearly from our experiences this time round, the website, emails, social media have all enabled us to reach members far quicker and from a much wider area. There were eighteen overseas applications this time too.

This will now be discussed at GPC meetings to see if we can improve the system, without disadvantaging anyone, as far as it is humanly possible.

Best wishes

Angela Colbridge
Chair for The Association of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

Peter Pennock

Sadly, Peter Pennock passed away on Saturday 05th January.

Peter was 72 years old and had been married to his wife Judith for 46 years.

Peter's funeral was held on 24th January at Lincoln Crematorium and afterwards at Wragby Methodist Church.

Both Peter and Judith have had a long association with the Association. Peter was involved with the GPC for 18 years, was convener for 2004 and 2016 Conferences, and supported Judith in the organisation of an Association Summer School.

Summer School Handbook

A draft version of the Summer School 2019 Handbook is available [online](#). The handbook is subject to change and will be updated regularly in advance of Summer School 2019. Students will receive a printed, final version in their Summer School Welcome Pack when they arrive at the Venue.

National Association AGM 2019

The National Association AGM will be held on Saturday 06 April 2019 at Conway Hall, London. Nominations, Proposals and Points for Discussion were submitted by Guilds for a 12th January deadline.

Updated Speakers List

An updated version of the Speakers List for 2019 is available on the [WIP, Section 8](#).

Call for Mentors for the Foundation Certificates

All disciplines of the Foundation Certificate are looking for mentors, but particularly the new Foundation Certificate in Natural Dyeing. Mentors can be based anywhere in the country. Please contact Janet Maher, Foundation Certificate Coordinator, if you are able to help or would like more information, using foundationspin@wsd.org.uk or foundationdye@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

Journal Vacancy: Exhibition Reviews Editor

A vacancy has arisen to organise and edit our exhibition reviews. The role will include identifying suitable exhibitions and reviewers, editing copy and obtaining images, as well as becoming involved in the general production of the Journal as part of the JEC. You will need to be organised & computer literate for this interesting role. Training will be given and all out of pocket expenses, including travel costs to the quarterly meetings held in Central London (Saturdays, 11am-4pm) will be reimbursed. If you would like to find out more please contact Christina Chisholm on chair@journalwsd.org.uk who will be delighted to hear from you!

Current Issue of the Journal, Colour Continues!

The current issue of The Journal, Winter 2018, includes articles on the following:

- The Practical Application of Colour Theory to Textile Craft by Sarah Pape;
- Interview with Naomi Robertson, Tapestry Studio Manager and Master Weaver, Dovecot Studios by Jill Riley;
- Art Yarn: How to Make a Bubble-Wrapped Core-Spun Yarn by Leonor Calaca;
- Discovering Textile Techniques for Baluchistan by Rosalind Lobb;
- Dyeing with Knitted Blanks by Debbie Tomkies;
- Spinning Space Dyed Tops by Amanda Hannaford;
- Different Approaches to Designing with Colour by Kate Horner, Jane Deane and Norah Ball;
- A Handspun Swagger Coat by Patricia Dyson;
-along with Certificate of Achievement Reports, Guild Highlights, Book and Exhibition Reviews Lots to immerse yourself in on dark winter evenings!

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Coming in your Spring Journal

- Cornish Camels - Spin Local! by Amanda Hannaford;
- What is Jacquard Weaving? by Belinda Rose;
- Textile Art Marbling by Aprina Murwanti;
- A Weave Glossary by Jill Riley;
- The Silk Weaving Industry in Coventry by Rosalind Lobb;
- Record Keeping for Spinners by Christina Chisholm;
- More personal approaches to Designing with Colour in the second of our short series;
- All the regular favourites: Notebook, Guild Highlights, Reader's Showcase, Exhibition & Book Reviews, Diary

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GPC Member Profile

In each newsletter we'll be including a profile of one member of the Association GPC, who will be sharing more about their role and themselves, starting with Christina Chisholm.



Christina Chisholm – Journal Editorial Committee Chair / Journal Representative on the GPC

As the current Journal Editorial Committee Chair, I'm automatically a member of the GPC. As well as reporting the editorial development progress and financial health of the Journal to each GPC meeting, I am also able to provide input for the running of the Association and its regular events such as the National Exhibition and Summer School.

I am a Spinner, Weaver and Dyer (both Natural and Synthetic), and find combining all three in a single project particularly rewarding, as the disciplines naturally enhance one another. Spinning and dyeing my own yarns for woven textiles enables me to use exactly the yarn I want in the exact colours I require. Often these combinations of yarns and colours are not available commercially. I prefer using natural dyes where possible, both for personal satisfaction and for their soft, blending colours, but sometimes resort to synthetic dyes as more convenient for exact colour matching some of the more difficult hues (i.e. blues and turquoises). Likewise, spinning my own yarns gives me the exact fibre, thickness and twist I need.

My other interests include hillwalking and music; the former in particular gives me plenty of inspiration for textile design as I enjoy the landscapes of the Scottish Highlands & Islands, where I live.

Elsewhere on the Web

- Chiltern Open Air Museum will be holding their [Wild about Wool](#) event on the 12 - 13 October 2019;
- Wingham Wool Weekend will take place 09 – 10 March 2019 at Snells Hall, Oxfordshire.OX12 8LA. Spend a day spinning, carding, wool combing, weaving, chatting, felting, catching up with friends & having fun;
- [Textile workshops in Dorset](#), including A Weekend of Eco Textile Workshops with Nikola Orpen M.A. on 23rd and 24th March (covering Indigo and Shibori and Eco Printing using flowers and leaves);
- [Yarn-based visualisation of climate change data](#);
- The [Weavers' Trail, Bhutan](#) 18-day trip takes place this Autumn with leader Sue Lawty;
- [Four weavers](#) featured in a Guardian article;
- [The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles](#) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a range of events including an exhibition at the Festival of Quilts, and a Block of the Month inspired by a heritage quilt from The Quilters' Guild Collection. Full press release below.



40th Anniversary
Press Release final.p

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Visit [The Journal's Diary](#) pages for detailed event listings.

Anni Albers, until 27 January 2019 at Tate Modern, London
The first major exhibition of Albers' work in the UK.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/anni-albers>

Fashioned from Nature, until 27 January 2019 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London
The first UK exhibition to explore the complex relationship between fashion and nature from 1600 to the present day.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/fashioned-from-nature>

National Association AGM , Saturday 06 April 2019 at Conway Hall, London

Ctrl/Shift: New Directions in Textile Art, 02 Feb – 22 Apr 2019 at National Centre for Craft & Design, Lincolnshire

The 62 Group is an artist-led organisation which aims to incorporate and challenge the boundaries of textile practice through an ambitious and innovative annual programme of exhibitions and events. Since its establishment in 1962 some of the most highly regarded British & international textile artists have been members of the group.

<http://nccd.org.uk/exhibitions/ctrl-shift>

AGWSD Summer School 2019: A Textile Heritage , 04 – 11 August 2019 at Askham Bryan College, York

<https://wsdss19.wordpress.com/>

Other Newsletters

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

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Sign up to receive the newsletter direct: buff.ly/2qUtXUQ

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent to:
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

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Association Website: <https://www.wsd.org.uk/>

Web Information Point (WIP): <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/>

Association Photo Archive: Instruction on the [WIP, Section 18](#)