



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

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: www.wsd.org.uk
President: Jennie Parry Life President: Paddy Bakker
Vice President: Steve Kennett

Association Newsletter, August 2019

Association News

Summer School 2019

School School 2019, 'A Textile Heritage', took place between the 04 - 11 August and was a roaring success!

This year's summer school hosted 194 students on 15 courses. Students represented 74 guilds with seven attendees from the Netherlands, two from the USA, two from Germany, two from Ireland and one each from Luxembourg, Belgium & Australia. For over 40% of attendees, this was their first summer school. For another attendee this was their ninth time attending summer school!

There had been 256 applications, which came from all regions

The Open Day and Trade Fair on Saturday 10 August also received a steady stream of visitors all day.

The venue, Askham Bryan College, was a compact and level site with lovely grounds, and helpful staff.

A huge thank you to our fifteen tutors, and two assistant tutors, who worked so hard all week and did such a brilliant job inspiring their students.

A thank you also to the organising committee and convenors who volunteered so much of their time to make the event such a positive week for all who attended, and such a success.

Graduate Showcase & Certificate of Achievement

We were delighted to include a Graduate Showcase at Summer School this year. In a very short time scale of three weeks, Jennie Parry, our President, arranged for four recent university graduates to exhibit their work. Lydia Forman, Amy Painter, Alice Topple and Khadija Dookanwala, all very creative and innovative weavers, created an excellent exhibition of their work. All of them attended the Open Day and were able to talk to the very many visitors about their weaving and about starting out on their professional careers.

This year there were two Certificate of Achievement students who put their work forward for assessment in spinning. Jackie Binstead and Sue Varley were both awarded a credit, congratulations to them for all their hard work.

There will be articles about both the Certificate of Achievement and the Graduate Showcase in a future issue of The Journal.

Update from the President

I was very sad that Angela Colbridge felt the need to step down as Chair at the Summer School Gala Dinner. We were all stunned.

The Summer School 2019 was a huge success. This was so apparent wherever I went when I visited on the Friday and Saturday and really showed that all that careful, thorough planning and hard work over a number of years by Angela and her able team had really borne good fruit. Everyone really appreciated all this, and has gone home excited and enthused to continue their new skills.

The Association has been most fortunate to have Angela on the GPC for the last 10 years, and is in a strong position as we move forward. She leaves a lasting legacy of forward planning for our major events, better communication channels through the setting up of the Regional Representatives, and so much more, all of it Gift Time given because she cares deeply about the Association.

Angela, we all thank you most sincerely for all this, and hope that you will now be able to recharge your batteries and get back to weaving, and to a successful house move too.

It has been a difficult time for the GPC, with Soo, such an excellent Secretary, having to resign in June before her major surgery. We are so fortunate that Mary England has come forward to take on this role recently and is picking up the ropes. Janet Crowther, as Vice Chair, has kindly agreed to be Acting Chair as well as C of A Co-ordinator until the next Annual Meeting on 18 April 2020. Every effort is being made to achieve a seamless transition, but please be patient if there are a few hiccups on the way, and remember this is all run on 'Gift Time' and takes them away from precious creative time too. Do please bear this in mind and keep your energies for our wonderful addictive skills of weaving, spinning and dyeing. It is certainly time to begin thinking about the next National Exhibition, both the selected and unselected categories - no excuses!!

Jennie Parry
President

Changes to the GPC

Secretary

Thank you again to Soo Coates, who was forced to step down as Association Secretary at short notice due to serious illness. Soo has many months of chemotherapy ahead and we are sure all guild members will be sending her their very best wishes. Many of you will have been in contact with Soo during her time as Secretary, or through her membership of Durham Guild, and will be aware how much she achieved in the role, including a revamp of the Association website & Web Information Point (WIP) and work to support compliance with GDPR, alongside the busy day-to-day work of the Secretary.

Mary England has kindly volunteered to take on the role of Secretary, and has already been in touch with many of you. Mary has provided a short introduction:



“As the recently co-opted secretary I should introduce myself. I have been a keen ‘fibreholic’ since the age of 5 when I learnt to knit. I ventured into the magical world of spinning, weaving and dyeing 12 years ago when I joined the Stafford Knot spinners in order to learn how to spin. Since then I’ve learnt more than I thought possible about spinning and dyeing and this year have been getting to grips with weaving. I’ve been the secretary and am currently the Chair of the Stafford Knot spinners. Until fairly recently I had to be a bit more in the background as far as the AGWSD goes due to working full time but now that I’ve retired I thought I could give something back by supporting the wonderful work of the Association. Please bear with me whilst I learn about what needs to be done, Soo is a hard act to follow.”

Chair

The GPC would like to thank Angela Colbridge for all her years of very hard work on behalf of the members of the AGWSD. Angela's resignation as Chair, at the Gala Dinner, came as a great shock to all.

Angela has sent her thanks to all those have been in touch with their best wishes and thanks, both guilds and individuals, since her resignation as chair.

Angela has shared the following message about deciding to step down:

“During my time on the GPC these last ten years, there have been many bumps in the road, as well as, twists & turns. Some have been delightful experiences, some not so and some really awful but I want to remember the good times and what I have achieved during my time.

I have been involved to a greater or lesser degree with the last five National Exhibitions starting in 2010 in Mansfield, then in 2012 Weald & Downland, 2014 Norwich, (where I booked both the Cathedral & Norwich School) 2016 down in Devon at Killerton, 2018 in Glasgow. It has been so lovely being part of these events, getting to know members all over the UK and being able to handle and display such wonderful work before putting up the ‘please don’t touch signs’.

I drew up the regional plan and wrote the regional calendar from 2011-2030 and delighted to say thus far, it has worked well with every region taking on the event assigned to them.

Twin Spin with The Campaign for Wool: I have passed over 300 enquiries to Guilds

In 2012 I instigated the unselected section for our National Exhibitions, as I am passionate that we are inclusive, not exclusive, that we are encouraging, not discouraging. I hoped that if members exhibited in the unselected, it might give them the courage and or inspiration to submit to the selected.

I wrote the multiple choice quiz, Not Quite Fifty Shades, which was sent out to all guilds to try and explode some of the myths that have grown up around what the Association/GPC, is or more importantly what it isn’t, as some on social media would have us all believe.

I set up The Association Facebook, which I believe now has approx. 2500 followers around the World.

The regional reps were my idea, as I felt it was a huge task for the Association Secretary to try and engage with all our guilds and if we had reps, whose face and name became familiar, then this would help communication between the Association and the Guilds and maybe form regional networks. Some regions have really embraced this and some are still working on it.

The bookmarks were again my idea, as I had, had something similar when I was working as an event's organiser and knew they worked. We have just ordered another 10,000.

Taking on the role of Chair, I knew would be hard work and I am not afraid of hard work, just not very good at taking personal, unfounded attacks and there have been many sadly.

I reached a landmark birthday in March this year and thought at 70, I really don't need to or have to take this flack, particularly as a volunteer who puts in 20-30hrs a week (and over the past few months more like 30-40hrs a week) and now that I have finished as co-coordinator of the 2019 Summer School, I feel it is the right time to step down, as I don't feel I have any more to give and time for someone else to take the reins. I have been so very fortunate to have met so many lovely, lovely members around the UK and will miss that part of the work but now looking forward to returning to my weaving, which I just have had no time for in the last few years and is the reason I joined my guild for in the first place."

Angela Colbridge

Mini Summer School at Clayton, East Sussex August 2019

Val Conway from the East Sussex Guild of weavers set up an untutored mini Summer School in Clayton village hall. Eighteen people signed up for this and four guilds were represented, London, Wealden Guild, East Grinstead spinners and East Sussex Guild.

There was a mix of activities - spinning alpaca and Wensleydale wool.

There were several weavers busy weaving scarves for the Guild's exhibition in October this year, a rigid heddle loom and a rug being woven on a peg loom. There was also bag making and sewing.

Val ensured we were well looked after with tea, coffee and biscuits. Even though there was no official tutor Val and other expert weavers were generous with their time and helped others. This was an excellent venture and it is great to see guilds coming together to share their knowledge and encourage people in our crafts. I hope this will spread to other guilds across the United Kingdom.

Roberto Campana

Journal News

Autumn Issue

Coming in your Autumn issue of the Journal.....

- Spinning with Kevlar by Jean Thorn
- Woven Shibori with Natural Dyes by Catherine Ellis
- Theo Moorman Trust for Weavers Grants 2018/2019 by Jacy Wall
- Fibre Choices for Today: Semi-Synthetics by Carol Leonard
- Weaving Origami and Abstract Doubleweave: an interview with Susie Taylor by Stacey Harvey-Brown
- New Threads: Uncovering Stories of England's Past Weaving Industry by Hanne Dahl
- Woven Gold in Kyoto by Carolyn Griffiths

- Coal, Cotton, Canals: National Exhibition 2020 by Liz Carrington
- All the regular favourites: Notebook, Guild Highlights, Readers Showcase, Exhibition and Book Reviews and Diary

Published 23 August 2019

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Journal Diary

Check the diary on the Journal website. It is updated frequently and includes items which are received too late to go in the Journal. As in the Journal, it is arranged in two sections: Current Events & Future Events, so check both sections. The Diary is searchable by event type, date and region.

Remember to let the Journal know if you are planning an event (diary@journalwsd.org.uk). If it is too late to go in the published Journal it can be added to the website diary.

www.journalwsd.org.uk

News from Guilds

- East Sussex Guild are presenting an exhibition, 'Captivating Colour', at the Town Hall Lewes (Fisher Street entrance) on Friday 25 October (10:00-17:00) and Sunday 26 October (10:00-16:00). Admissions is £4 (free for students & accompanied children). The exhibition will include trade stands, demonstrations, a raffle, sales & refreshments.
- The West Essex and East Herts Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers has changed its name to the Lea Valley Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

Elsewhere on the Web

- [Newtown Textile Museum](#) are offering taster sessions in spinning, weaving and dyeing. They have also employed a recent graduate to get one of their looms into full working order and weave a project.
- Whitchurch Silk Mill is [looking for a Trainee Weaver](#) who is keen to learn how to make silk on its Victorian machinery. During this one year training post the trainee will learn how to wind, warp and weave and work in this working museum in the heart of the Hampshire countryside.
- The Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster is hosting [a number of workshops](#), including weaving workshops with Jan Bowman;
- ['Bizarre and Curious Silks' Textiles by Hannah Robson](#) takes place 05 July - 21 September 2019 at Rochester Art Gallery and The Huguenot Museum. Full details on the exhibition & associated workshops in the PDF below:



Bizarre and Curious
Silks.pdf

- Theo Wright's latest project [Out of Synch](#) will be shown at the Handweavers Studio & Gallery, London, 19 August - 28 September;
- [World Textile Days](#) for 2019 have been announced:
 - East (near Thetford, Norfolk) on Sat September 7th
 - North (Frodsham, Cheshire) on Sat September 28th
 - West (Saltford near Bristol) on Sat October 5th

- [The 2019 West Country Quilt and Textile Show](#) will be held for the fifth consecutive year at the University of the West of England Exhibition Centre, Bristol, BS34 8QZ, 29th - 31st August. Guilds can pre-book at a reduced rate (of £10) and get 1 free ticket with every 10 paid for, by purchasing online at www.westcountryquiltshow.co.uk/tickets using the code GUILD when prompted or by phone on 0117 907 1000;
- [Hand In Hand: The Artistic and Spiritual Life of Dame Werburg Welch](#) opens at Ushaw College, Durham on April 6 and runs until September 2019. A collection of textiles and other artworks by a Benedictine nun, whose talent was hidden behind the walls of a secluded convent a century ago, is to go on display for the first time. At the heart of the exhibition will be a display of 18 vestments designed and embroidered by Dame Werberg and other members of the Order;
- Chiltern Open Air Museum will be holding their [Wild about Wool](#) event on the 12 - 13 October 2019.

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

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

Contact & Social Media

Sign up to receive the newsletter direct: <http://eepurl.com/dhDYkX>

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

Follow the Association on social media:

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

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



East Sussex Guild of Weavers,
Spinners & Dyers present an
Exhibition at
The Town Hall Lewes
(Fisher Street Entrance)

Friday 25th October 10am - 5pm
Saturday 26th October 10am - 4pm

Admission £4.00 Students &
accompanied children free

CAPTIVATING COLOUR

Trade Stands - Demonstrations - Scarf Raffle - Sales - Refreshments

Exhibition at The Museum of Carpet

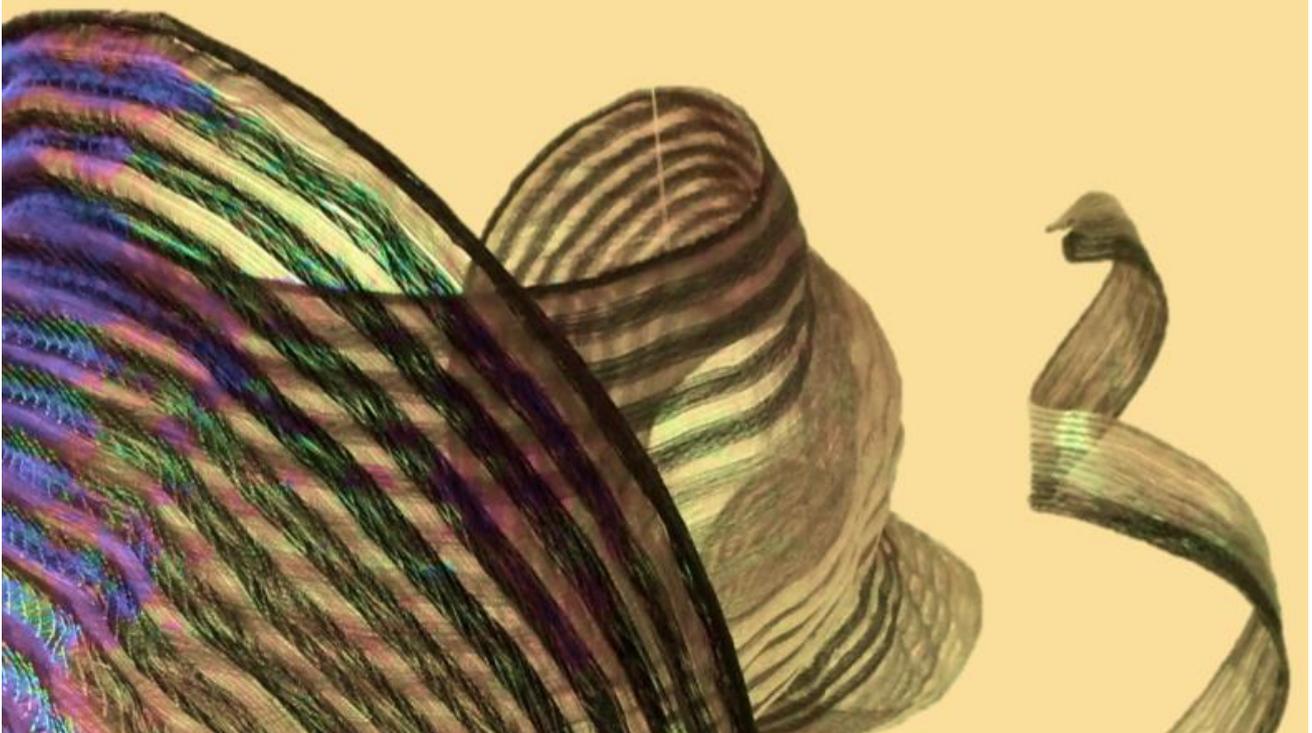
Woven Forms: Breaking the Boundaries

Contemporary and traditional woven forms.

Featuring the work of Jan Bowman

as seen at the Saatchi Gallery.

29th June - 28th September 2019





Bizarre and Curious Silks

Textiles by Hannah Robson

5 July > 21 September 2019

Rochester Art Gallery and The Huguenot Museum



Rochester
art gallery
and craft case



Medway
Serving You

Guilds Gathering



Colour - the Full Spectrum

Residential and non-residential
weekend event at the

University of Worcester

19-21 June 2020

Keynote speakers, practical
sessions demonstrations, talks
Saturday evening dinner