



**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 President: Steve Kennett

**Association Newsletter, February/March 2019**

**Association News**

**A Reminder to Guilds from the Chair**

I am sure most Guilds will appreciate that all Guilds are autonomous and therefore the Association is unable to side with, adjudicate, advise or arbitrate in internal disputes between members. It is recommended that you consult your own constitution or seek independent legal advice.

The Association does not distribute mobiles to GPC members, they use their own personal phones. A member may well give you their number but they are not for general distribution.

Under GDPR legislation, copying in a GPC member on email, to give credence or backing to your side of an internal dispute, without first seeking their permission, is not allowed under this new law.

We now all live in an instant world of emails and text messages and the GPC are always happy to try and answer general questions but we would be extremely grateful if you can please remember, they are all unpaid volunteers and are not available 24hrs a day, seven days a week, even though for you, an immediate response may feel very necessary.

Many thanks for your understanding,

Angela Colbridge  
Chair

**Association Badges – For Sale at AGM**

Association badges will be for sale at the AGM on Saturday 06 April at £5 each.

If any Guilds would like to order a number of badges for collection at the AGM, please contact Hilary Miller in advance at [hilary\\_miller@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary_miller@btinternet.com)

**Raw Fleece**

The note in the last newsletter about revisions to the policy on handling raw fleece seems to have caused some confusion. There is no instruction that raw fleece is not be used by Guild members. The policy on the WIP outlines the precautions that are advised when handling raw fleece to minimise any risks to members. The policy is very detailed, however, so we have drawn up a short one-page summary to support Guilds. This can be found on the WIP under the same section heading as the full policy.

**New Foundation Certificate in Natural Dyeing**

We are delighted to launch the new Foundation Certificate in Natural Dyeing. Applications for a pilot programme are invited from 18th March 2019. There will be a limit of 12 places on the pilot programme. If we receive more than 12 applications, names will be drawn from a hat.

Once the pilot has been evaluated and any revisions made, the Foundation Certificate will become an on-going programme of study like the Foundation Certificate in Spinning. The work is self-directed with mentor support. Students can work independently or as part of a group from the same Guild or Region. The expected time to complete this Foundation Certificate is 10 – 12 months.

Cost for the pilot programme will be £35 (subsidised during evaluation)

Usual cost is £55

For more information contact Janet Maher, Foundation Certificate Coordinator on [foundationdye@wsd.org.uk](mailto:foundationdye@wsd.org.uk)

## **Journal News**

### **Has your Guild reached its 70th birthday this year?**

We're aware that Somerset, Kent and Birmingham and District have all reached this milestone; if your Guild is celebrating too then do write and tell us, in up to 500 words, how your Guild was founded; we hope to publish interesting histories later this year.

Please contact [chair@journalwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@journalwsd.org.uk) for more information.

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

The current issue of The Journal, Spring 2019, includes articles on the following:

- Textile Art Marbling with Plants and Kitchen Waste, Aprina Murwanti
- Cornish Camels - Spin Local!, Amanda Hannaford
- What is Jacquard Weaving?, Belinda Rose
- The Silk Ribbon Weaving Industry in Coventry, Rosalind Lobb
- A Weave Glossary - Commonly used terms : Looms, Parts and Equipment, Jill Riley
- Colour and Contrast, Theo Wright
- Teaching Colour, Isabella Whitworth
- Colour and Landscape, Christina Chisholm
- Reader's Showcase : The Story of my Taatit Marriage Rug, Jessie McCaffery

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## **News from Guilds**

### **Somerset Guild 70th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Guild was founded in 1949 by two ladies, the Quantock Weavers, who made their living selling their hand crafted items, teaching the three core crafts and selling their own bottled fruit to Fortum and Mason. The Somerset Guild is marking this special year with a series of events, two of which may interest other Guilds:

- 15 June 2019: Fleece Fair and Open Day 9.30 – 4.00

Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall, Taunton TA3 6AG

There will be 14 different types of fleece available including three rare breeds on the RBST at risk list as well as John Arbon textiles, Manadacrafts and My Fine Weaving Yarns. Helen from My Fine Weaving Yarns will also have Ashford equipment available. She will take special orders for the day.

Barbeque, other snacks and drinks available all day.

- 1 – 5 August 2019: Guild Exhibition of Work 10.00 – 5.00 daily

Red Brick Building, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9FT

We are anticipating around 100 exhibits for the 5 days. There is a Café serving excellent food on the exhibition site.

For more information go to [www.somersetguildwsd.org.uk](http://www.somersetguildwsd.org.uk)

### **Loom Renovation Project**

Myself and fellow guild member Yvonne Wood (Peter Tavy Guild, Devon), have found ourselves in the enjoyable and exciting position of renovating a replica of a 14th century cottage loom.

The loom was constructed in Moretonhampstead, one of the Dartmoor villages by a local engineer and was designed to be an exhibit in a local museum. It now resides in the historical village of Morwellham Quay, Devon.

Eventually if all goes well, we would like to try and reproduce cloth similar to that of the Devon kersey, which played a role in the wealth creation of Devon during the Middle Age

As part of our research, we are trying to ascertain whether other examples of such a loom, either an original or a replica, exists in working order within the UK. Due to the wide distribution of guilds across Britain, I wondered whether it would be possible to circulate a message through the newsletter, asking members to contact me if they have knowledge of either the existence of similar historical looms or of the kersey cloth which originated in the village of Kersey in Suffolk.

As a former temporary member of the GPC (Convener of Manchester Conference 2014), I would like to extend warm wishes to you all.

Anne Young (former member of the North Cheshire Guild) [anne.young@virgin.net](mailto:anne.young@virgin.net)

### **Birmingham & District Open Day**

Birmingham Guild will be holding their Annual Open Day on Saturday 13 April, 11:00-15:30 at Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House, B30 1JB. Free entry, with demonstrations, sale table, tea, coffee, cake, and more.

### **Elsewhere on the Web**

- The Braid Society will be holding a 'Try It Day' on Sunday 17th March 10:00-16:00 at Aldridge Community Centre, WS9 8AN. Activities included will be ply-split braiding and cord-making, kumihimo, Inkle weaving and tablet weaving, and Julie Hedges, Chair of the Braid Society will be attending;
- Cottenham Village College will be holding a [Summer School](#) between 22 – 26 July, with options including a 5 day workshop with Anna Crutchley on Weaving on a 4 Shaft Table Loom;

- [#GetCreativeFestival](#) will be taking place 11-19 May 2019. Last year over 1,400 events took place across the UK;
- 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.

<b>National Association AGM, Saturday 06 April 2019 at Conway Hall, London</b>
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**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>

<b>AGWSD Summer School 2019: A Textile Heritage</b> , 04 – 11 August 2019 at Askham Bryan College, York
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<https://wsdss19.wordpress.com/>

### **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: <http://eepurl.com/dhDYkX>

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)

Follow the Association on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

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

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

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



**Birmingham & District Guild  
of Weavers Spinners & Dyers**

# **OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 13 April**

**11.00am – 3.30pm**

**Come Along and Have a Go  
Demonstrations**

**A variety of crafts to try out  
Sale of handcrafted gifts & cards  
Tea, coffee, & cakes  
Free entry**



**VENUE:**

**Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House, 23A Watford Road, B30 1JB**

**Buses 11, 38, 18, 19, 45, 47, 48, 49, 84**

**Kings Norton Station**

**Facebook: BirminghamWSD**

**Website: <http://www.wsdbermingham.weebly.com/>**

**Email: BirminghamWSD@hotmail.com**