



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, November 2019

Association News

National Exhibition 05-20 September 2020, Leigh Spinners Mill

The Exhibition Committee (comprising representatives from northwest guilds) began looking for a venue for the 2020 National Exhibition in 2017. After making 26 enquiries, Leigh Spinners Mill was suggested as a possibility. I followed that up with a phone call to Peter Rowlinson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and after an encouraging response, three of us went to have a look. At that stage, the mill was a vast empty space with rows and rows of metal pillars, but we were really swept up with the potential of the mill and the enthusiasm of the dedicated volunteers.

The Board were keen on the idea of hosting a national Exhibition which, at that stage, would have been a first for them. None of us had any idea how the space would develop, but it's been fascinating seeing, floor by floor, how the spaces have been divided up. Originally we thought we might have a whole floor to ourselves, but as spaces have been rented out, we will now have several of their meeting rooms, free of charge. One possibility is to have themed rooms if we have enough items relating to canals/water, coal/industry and cotton. The 6 inch rings will probably be hanging one above the other in a corridor to lead into the other rooms, and there is a good sized space near the café where we hope to have demonstrations and a "Have a Go" area.

It's early days yet, but we're hoping to have other exhibitions upstairs and to liaise with a visual artist who is renting space on floor 4. The mill is wheelchair friendly with an accessible toilet in the Heritage Centre, and there is a lift. At the moment the car park is not very large, currently with one blue badge space, but work is still ongoing to extend it.

A group of us from the North West guilds went to demonstrate at the mill recently, and visitors who had a go with spindle spinning and rigid heddle weaving gave us good feedback on Facebook. There were quite a few young people going for music lessons who stopped to have a look and one lady from Herts said she felt inspired to visit her local guild. We sold a lot of craft kits in small paper carrier bags (with the combined AGWSD and LSM logo), which were very popular. We're planning to go back again on 1st December when the mill will hold its Christmas fair, and Peter commented that he thought we were developing a good working relationship.

Leigh is situated approximately 15 miles west of Manchester and is 7 miles to the east of the M6, Junction 23. For Leigh Spinners Mill, (WN7 2LB/Sat Nav WN7 2LA) from the A580, take the A574 towards Leigh for a mile, then turn right at the T junction, and Park Lane (a narrow residential road) is the third turning on the right.

Leigh Spinners Mill continues to be a working mill and is developing as a thriving Community and Heritage Centre.

Although there is no access to Leigh by train, there are regular bus links from Manchester and Warrington.

For weavers with less than three years' experience, there is a chance to be awarded the Lylie Smart trophy. More information about this can be found on the WIP.

Submission forms and information packs have now been circulated to all guild secretaries and contain lots of information on the submission and selection processes. Further details about the event will be shared as they become available.

Liz Carrington, Convenor, exhibition@wsd.org.uk

National Exhibition 2020 Timeline - Key Dates

See the National Exhibition Information Pack (available via your guild secretary) for full information, but key dates for selection and submission of work are provided below:

- 26 April: Guilds begin identifying submissions from their members (Selected Work, e.g. juried section) and check each photo(s) / feelie piece
- 23 May: Guilds submit entries for selection (juried section) to arrive no later than 8 June (form, photo and feelie piece submitted – not the items)
- 13-14 June: Selection by jury of experts
- 29 June: Guild Secretaries and successful entrants notified about Items selected for exhibition
- 06 July: Guilds send in final numbers of rings (Non-juried Work) for hanging (not the items)
- 29 July: Guilds post selected items (juried section) to arrive by 12 August
- 05 August: Guilds post rings (Non-juried Work) to arrive by 19 August
- 05 September: National Exhibition opens

Guilds Gathering: Colour - The Full Spectrum, 19 - 21 June 2020, University of Worcester

Planning for the 2020 Guilds Gathering event (which replaces the Conference) is now well underway, with five speakers confirmed for this weekend event exploring aspects of colour:

- Margo Selby, internationally renowned woven textile designer
- Dr Susan Kay-Williams, Chief Executive of Royal School of Needlework and author of *The Story of Colour in Textiles*, speaking on 'The growing Brightness of Colour: Colour Development in Textiles from Medieval Times to the 20th Century'
- Alison Daykin, textile designer, tutor and co-author of *Creative Spinning*
- Caroline Nixon, textile artist and eco-dyer
- and Daniel Harris, founder of the London Cloth Company who has recently acquired a mill near Worcester, as the after dinner speaker on Saturday

Registration forms will be made available in January 2020. More information about the event is available on the Association website: <https://www.wsd.org.uk/news-events/colour/>

Knitting and Stitching Show Alexander Palace October 2019



I would like to say a huge thank you to those involved with the AGWSD stand at Ally Pally this year, in particular Andrea Easey from the London Guild who managed the organisation.

I visited on the Thursday and found the stand in the Craft Village, along with other similar organisations. There was a spinner and a weaver working away and chatting to the interested public. The display was cleverly mounted and colourful showing an excellent range of spinning, weaving and dyeing, in what was a rather small space.

The Knitting and Stitching Show organisers decide on the space, and you have to take what you are given. The space is free after all. Some years ago I was involved with a similar organisation, as well as a group that regularly exhibited at Ally Pally, and know all the pitfalls and difficulties involved, so, congratulations to all for successfully promoting the AGWSD.

Well done

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Acting Chair

Thank You to Former GPC Members



During October, Association Secretary Mary England met with former secretary Soo Coates and former chair Angela Colbridge to deliver 'retirement gifts' to thank them for their time supporting the Association.

Their messages of thanks are included below:

"I cannot tell you how much I really appreciate you coming all this way, with the gift & card from the Association and the lovely flowers. The Ivalo ash stand and dome is simply quite beautiful and I shall treasure it with fond memories of my time on the GPC. My time on the Association gave me so much more than I gave to it and I met so many lovely members on the journey from the GPC, to setting up or helping with National Exhibitions to Summer School 2019, which was as I said exhausting but given the reaction from members who attended, was well all the hard work".
Angela Colbridge

"Thank you so much for taking the time and trouble to visit me on Sunday. I love the gift".
Soo Coates

Journal News

Journal 272: Winter 2019

Coming soon in your winter issue:

- Weaving to Wear, by Lesley Willcock
- Loom-controlled 3D Shaping for Garments, by Stacey Harvey-Brown
- Longdraw Spinning for Garments, by Freyalyn Close-Hainsworth
- What a Challenge!, by Gillian Eldridge & Jane Mason
- Adapting Knitting Patterns for Handspun Yarn, by Jo Nash
- An Eighteenth Century Wardrobe, by Carolyn Griffiths
- Living Colours: Kasane - The Language of Japanese Colour Combinations, by Carolyn Griffiths
- Testing a Recipe for Norwich Red on Wool, by Marietta Richardson
- Reader's Showcase: Ringing the Changes, by Sarah Pape & Alison Castle
- A Tribute to Nancy Lee Child, by Melanie Venes
- All the regular favourites: Notebook, Guild Highlights, Exhibition and Book Reviews and Diary

The winter issue will be published on 22 November 2019

Reader's Showcase

Do you have a project you are particularly proud of and which you would like to share with other readers of the Journal? It might be something that went really well - or it might be a project that didn't go quite according to plan, but that you were able to rescue. As with the Show & Tell sessions that many Guilds hold, sharing the experience of problem-solving is very valuable to others who may be disheartened by apparent failure, when a new approach may rescue the project.

If you have a project you'd like to share, please contact: highlights@journalwdsd.org.uk

Diary Entries

Remember to let the Journal know of anything you'd like published in the diary. The last date for entries in the spring 2020 issue is 1 December 2019; and 1 March 2020 for the summer 2020 issue.

If you can't meet these deadlines, send the information to diary@journalwsd.org.uk and it should be able to go in the website diary: www.journalwsd.org.uk

Nominations to the Journal Editorial Committee

The Journal Editorial Committee is seeking new members - would you like to join the team producing a high quality publication especially for weavers, spinners and dyers? All kinds of skills and experience can contribute to the committee's work. Members attend four meetings per year, held in Central London, and most of the work is carried out using gmail and GSuite, so computer skills are essential. Expenses for travel to meetings and other essential expenditure associated with the committee are reimbursed. The committee works in a collaborative way, so all members are closely involved in the development of each issue. There is considerable satisfaction in seeing through the process from tentative ideas to the finished product.

The process of submitting nominations for election to committee posts at the next Association AGM will start soon. Please contact chair@journalwsd.org.uk if you are interested and would like more information.

News from Guilds

Janet Collins of Birmingham & District Guild has led [Crafting a Better Future Project](#), on display at Midlands Art Centre between 23 November and 01 March, working with Birmingham based homeless charities SIFA Fireside and St Basils to engage its users in craft activities and collecting scarves produced by experienced crafters to raise money for the charities.

Elsewhere on the Web

- [BBC Inside Out West Midlands](#) discussed heritage crafts as a viable career path;
- [Fabrication Crafts](#) in Yorkshire have received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to research and reinvigorate heritage crafts on Coney Street in York;
- [Wooldale Wool](#) are in the process of starting up a mini wool fibre mill in Yorkshire. Initially they will be carding clean fleeces, with a minimum of 20kg being accepted.

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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[Twitter](#)

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

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

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