



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

AGWSD News, November/December 2020

Association News

Update from the Chair



The very best of season's greetings to all our guild members across the world. May 2021 bring a return to how we used to be, allowing for changes that occur as time passes.

This year has proved the strength of an organisation like ours. We have so many heart-warming messages of guilds finding a way through, keeping in contact, working together, to ensure that, by the time we return to face-to-face meetings, the guilds will thrive as before.

The GPC continue to meet by zoom, with smaller working parties who are currently reviewing our policies. These can be found on the Webb Information Point (WIP) in the member's area of the AGWSD website. As a charity, the AGWSD has to have certain policies in place. You may wish to look at these as, these days, and particularly if your guild has charitable status, there should be certain policies in place, such as an Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy (EDI). As the guilds are autonomous, your guild committee will look to including policies as they think appropriate. In my days of working in school, we had policies for policies. Looking back, they were of great importance as reading them gave all the information on how the school worked together as a unit. At the time, it became a matter of, when in doubt, write a policy! We even had a policy on how to write policies. I don't wish to make light of things as they are so important in setting out the parameters of how an organisation works together for the benefit of all.

I have mentioned the WIP on the AGWSD website, wsd.org.uk. In the new year, the GPC will look constructively at the information gathered there, updating it as appropriate, and making it more user friendly.

The date for applying for Summer School 2021 is fast approaching and I still have to make up my mind which courses to put on my form. My spinning could do with a boost. I probably know the theory better than the practice, and I could do with input into spinning a wide variety of fibres, maybe Spinning Exotic Fibres would be a good one to try. Another course that interests me is Anna Crutchley's Passementerie, something I have never tried, or Ply-Split Braiding, another new to me technique. I have attended a good number of summer schools and have always used the learning to enhance my own work, probably with a twist to the end results. There is that saying, learn the rules to know how to break them.

Don't miss out; the 31st December is the cut off date, after which the draw will be made. Christina Chisholm says that the forms are arriving thick and fast. Though, should there be places still available you will be able to apply, but only for the courses that have spaces.

Enjoy the coming festive season as best you can. Some of us will have more time to enjoy our crafts as family are not visiting, that is until they can, which, hopefully will be Easter.

With very best wishes and Seasons Greetings

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Chair

Meet the GPC: Janet Maher, Vice-Chair and Foundation Certificate Coordinator



My passion for all things textile started when I was about 10 years old and I learned to sew on my grandmother's beautiful old Jones sewing machine. My mother taught me to knit and I learned crochet from a book. As a teenager, it was great to be able to 'knock up' something for weekend nights out with friends. I even made a simple box loom from a book and wove fabric for a bag. A busy career got in the way of committing the time I would have liked, although I kept my interest in Fair Isle and Aran knitting.

With a background in clinical psychologist and management, I was recruited to join a business psychology consultancy where I specialised in management/trade union relationships and was involved in resolving some high profile disputes. I took early retirement to look after my mother and I was then able to rekindle my textiles interest. I joined the Somerset Guild and was Convenor for the 2016 National Exhibition. I joined the GPC in 2017.

In any role I am motivated by working to enable people to develop and grow. This is the same motivation for being on the GPC – working to create a national environment where we can support Guilds to prosper whilst respecting their autonomy. The Foundation Certificates are part of this with the FC Spinning thriving, a pilot completed for Natural Dyeing and I am working on an early first draft for the FC Weaving.

Away from the Association, I live in rural Somerset and enjoy walking my three dogs. I have an organic garden where I grow vegetables and dye plants. Organic vegetables are important to my vegan diet. I get brain exercise by playing Bridge at a local club.

Nominations for the GPC and the JEC

Do you have organisational skills, which could be put to good use by the GPC or the JEC? Nominations forms for both committees will be sent out to guilds in the new year. Whilst an interest and involvement in spinning, weaving and dyeing are at the core of our organisation, skills that involve communication, organisation and use of IT are of importance to keep the AGWSD running. Both committees will be looking for nominations for election at the AGM in June. If you are interested, please do email, Hilary Miller, chair@journalwsd.org.uk, for the Journal Editorial Committee (JEC) or Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk for the General Purposes Committee (GPC).

Summer School 2021 – Booking open until 31st December

The AGWSD Summer School will be held at Writtle University College, near Chelmsford, Essex, from Sunday 15th August - Sunday 22nd August 2021.

Booking is open until 31st December 2020; all details can be found at the dedicated page on the AGWSD website:

www.wsd.org.uk/summer-school-2021

which includes the downloadable brochure and application forms for Summer School and for the Association Bursary Scheme. Application forms are available in both pdf and Word format, so a printer is not required to apply by e-mail.

Printed copies of the brochure have been sent to Guild secretaries. Please publicise the event as well as you can in the current circumstances; by Zoom meetings or your own newsletters, even if you are unable to meet in person. For applicants who are unable to access the brochure online, there is a limited number of extra copies available which will be sent direct to Guild members on request; please contact me (details chu to unplaced applicants).

Any places remaining after all applicants who have applied before the deadline have been allocated to courses will be advertised on the AGWSD website, within this Newsletter and circulated to Guild Secretaries. These places will be available on a first come, first served basis. Please contact me direct (details below) to ascertain up-to-date availability.

Despite the current pandemic, bookings are coming in fast - we all need a light at the end of the tunnel! So if you want to give yourself the best chance of a place on your preferred courses, make sure your application reaches me by 31st December.

Please feel free to contact me with any queries on SS2021@wsd.org.uk.

Christina Chisholm, SS2021 Convenor

News from Guilds

A 'Tweet of Robins'



Linda Johnson



Lynne Hunt

The Kent Guild Christmas message. The members are creating robins by any means they wish, emailing a photograph to their Secretary, to be collated to form an emailed seasonal greetings card, based on an idea by Mary England, AGWSD Secretary.

Speakers List Update

The Speaker's List is being revised for delivery through the internet rather than as a downloadable PDF file as it is now. This will enable us to give more details about each speaker, to add a comprehensive search facility and to include links to wider information about the speakers. The intention is to make the Speaker's List much more 'user friendly' and therefore more widely used by Guilds looking for speakers and workshop tutors. In addition, the Speaker's List will be put behind a password, as it used to be, preserving the value of this facility for affiliated Guilds only. More details on the launch of this exciting development will be available in the New Year. Watch this space!!

A new speaker on the list specialises in virtual workshops in eco printing and indigo dyeing. **Elizabeth Viguie Culshaw** comes recommended to us following a personal experience of one of her online events. She has extensive experience running large workshops through Zoom and, given the current COVID19 situation, would be a perfect choice for a virtual Guild event. You will find all her details in the updated list at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

Have you come across any great online textile learning events over the past few months? With many Guilds still unable to meet face-to-face, all suggestions for virtual meetings either as talks or workshops, would be very welcome. Just drop me a line.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

Journal 276: Winter 2020

The Winter 2020 issue was published in late November.

Two Antipodean Approaches to Weaving Nature - Agnes Hauptli and Jennifer Robertson	Stacey Harvey-Brown	Pg.7
Readers Showcase: Conversations with Doreen Sanders	Anna Crutchley	Pg.13
Private View - Old Church Studios	Linda More	Pg.16
A Window on the Linen Industry in Eighteenth Century Scotland	Hilary Miller	Pg.19
A Passion for Waste	Linda More	Pg.24
Foraging Colour to Close the Loop	Penny Wheeler	Pg.28
Researching Sanada-himo: The Traditional Japanese Woven Band	Susan J Foulkes & Tamaki Takagi	Pg.32

Plus the usual Notebook, Guild Highlights, Diary, Association News and Book Reviews

Subscription Renewals

Renewal forms have been sent to the individuals who usually deal with the guild bulk orders. An extra copy will also be sent to all guild secretaries in the next AGWSD secretary email. However, we realise that for a lot of guilds it has been difficult to distribute copies to their members in a timely fashion this year. So we would remind you that it is possible to order an individual subscription for only an extra £2 per year (50p per issue). This will be delivered straight to the comfort of your own home on publication date. If possible, please apply online via the website because this causes the least amount of work for the subscriptions secretary (<https://journalwsd.org.uk/subscribe>). Alternatively, if you prefer to pay by post you can email or write to her at subs@journalwsd.org.uk or The Buttery, Manor House Farm, Durham Road, Lanchester, Co Durham DH7 0TQ. Please note

that the subscriptions secretary has moved this year so in order to avoid delays please make sure that you use this address. The cost of an individual subscription for a UK guild member is £18 per year for print or digital only or £22 per year for both print and digital. For non-members in the UK the rates are £20 and £24.

JEC Treasurer

The Journal committee is seeking a Treasurer. Ideally you will have good computer skills and bookkeeping experience. The Treasurer maintains the Journal accounts and advises the committee on financial matters. You would also become a Trustee of the Association and be part of the friendly and hardworking team who produce *The Journal*.

For more information and to discuss the role please contact Hilary Miller chair@journalwsd.org.uk

Elsewhere on the Web

- [The Haptic & Hue podcast](#) explores the stories of textiles and the people who make them. The host, broadcaster and handweaver Jo Andrews, was interviewed on the [Sew Organised Style podcast](#) and mentioned joining her local guild on her return to the UK after learning to weave in New Zealand.
- [Kickstarter project to develop a dress from wild nettles.](#)
- [Exhibition showcasing the innovative work of renowned Japanese textile designer Sudō Reiko.](#) At Japan House, London 6 February - 16 March 2021.
- Weaver [Kasturi Balotia released her debut rug design](#) as part Jaipur's Manchaha initiative, working with textile workers in rural India.
- The Bowes Museum is holding an [exhibition from March 2021 showcasing some of the remarkable North Country quilts](#) it has added to its collection over the last 20 years.

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

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

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