



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, March 2021

Association News

Update from the Chair

AGWSD Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

The GPC agreed the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (EDI) for the AGWSD at their zoom meeting on 28th November 2020. The policy was written by a working party of members of the GPC who went through a structured process of discussion, sharing thoughts on; what does discrimination and harassment mean, awareness of harassment and discrimination, personal experiences, groups that are more likely to face discrimination and harassment. Followed by, how the AGWSD works at the moment, what we wished to achieve.

Writing the policy focussed on the aims of the AGWSD as found in the Constitution:

The objects of the Association shall be: (i) the preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in hand weaving, spinning and dyeing, for the benefit of the public; (ii) the promotion of public awareness and education in such craftsmanship. What we would do to achieve the aim of making the AGWSD open equally to all, looking at the Code of Conduct already in place.

The following is the agreed EDI Policy:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Policy

This policy covers everyone working for or on behalf of the AGWSD.

The purpose of the AGWSD is:

- i. the preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in hand weaving, spinning and dyeing, for the benefit of the public;
- ii. the promotion of public awareness and education in such craftsmanship.

We will ...

- Work considerately and respectfully with all – respecting diversity, different roles and boundaries, and avoiding giving offence
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect
- Set an example by behaving as you would like to be treated
- Encourage others to challenge constructively any attitudes or behaviours that are not in keeping with the behaviour expected in this policy
- Treat all people as equals

We recognise our legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that no-one covered by the protected characteristics of the Act is discriminated against.

We will work to implement this policy with everyone involved and the policy will be reviewed annually by the GPC.

Please contact an officer of the GPC (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) about any behaviour that you believe is not in line with the policy.

Signed:

Date:

As with all AGWSD policies, this policy will be reviewed annually.

The AGWSD Guilds are autonomous. It is the remit of Guilds to have their own discussions and agreement on an EDI Policy. The working party used a very useful website: www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/equality-and-diversity-policies-for-small-groups as a basis for their discussions.

AGWSD Exhibition 2022

The AGWSD Exhibition 2022, Coal, Cotton, Canals is back on course for September 2022. Leigh Spinners Mill has a new manager in place, Jo Platt. Communications with her are very positive. Our understanding is that the work continues to create spaces of interest for the various parts of the mill. We have the basis of a team, who were involved with the exhibition prior to the rescheduling. We would very much like a volunteer to take on the role of exhibition convenor, to take this forward. Much work was undertaken for the exhibition before it had to be cancelled for 2020, the convenor will be picking up the reins, to bring about a much waited for exhibition.

AGWSD Guild Gathering

The AGWSD Guild Gathering, convened by Kate Batchelor, is rescheduled for mid June 2022. I remember the disappointment when the Guild Gathering had to be cancelled. I also remember the support given by guild members and the speakers and tutors for rerunning this event in 2022.

Glanffyd Mill

I am a member of the Welsh Mills Society, have been since the eighties when I was doing research into Welsh Mills. I received an email from them about the mill restored by Margaret Bide. Since Margaret's death in 2019, the mill has been sold. It is listed by Cadw, the new owners are looking to make alterations. There is now a consultation period, which has been extended to 7th March. I have written to Cadw, as has Jennie Parry, our President, on behalf of the AGWSD.

Reference Number: 87822

Name/address of building: Glanffrwd Mill

Community and unitary authority: Llanfair Clydogau, Ceredigion

Consultation: 7 December 2020 – 1 February 2021 extended to 7th March 2021

Reference Number: 87823

Name/address of building: Mill House at Glanffrwd Mill

Community and unitary authority: Llanfair Clydogau, Ceredigion

Consultation: 7 December 2020 – 1 February 2021 extended to 7th March 2021

There are a couple of auctions that will be selling Margaret's effects. Margaret was very interested and heavily involved in woollen mills and milling and so the contents will range will no doubt include some historically fascinating pieces of textiles, blankets etc.

- On **March 20th** Youngs of Farnham will be holding a Specialist Sale at their new & larger premises at 24 Riverside BusinessPark, Dogflud Way, Farnham GU9 7UG. <https://www.youngsauctions.co.uk/> This will include Margaret's collection of blankets,

textiles, furniture & paintings. If Covid restrictions allow, there will be an exhibition prior to the Sale.

- Finally, there will be another online Fine Arts Sale at Peter Francis Auction House in Camarthen on **April 14th** which will include more of Margaret's blankets, textiles, furniture etc.

What do we get from our affiliation fee?

Firstly, a huge thank you to all guilds for paying their affiliation fees for last year. It enables the AGWSD to continue to provide the public liability insurance as well as continuing with all the other benefits guild members have access to.

All members of Guilds affiliated to the AGWSD, pay an affiliation fee. This covers the public liability insurance, the costs of your guild delegate travelling to and from the AGWSD AGM, it also goes toward the costs of running the AGWSD.

There are so many further benefits from affiliation.

The AGWSD constitution states that we are an educational organisation which promotes public awareness. The biennial events, summer school, conference (Guild Gathering for 2022), and exhibition are open to members, they are also open to the public.

Our three certificates, the Foundation Certificate, the Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies are there for guild members to undertake.

The Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, produced under the banner of the AGWSD, by the Journal Editorial Committee, with each edition full of information and advice, adding to the whole emphasis on education.

Then there is this AGWSD News you are reading, emailed to guild secretaries, roughly monthly, by Charlotte Powell. It is full of information, updates on events, links to interesting exhibitions, conferences, anything textile related, an ongoing communication packed with items of interest.

There is so much on offer for the annual affiliation fee, far more than the very necessary public liability insurance.

The GPC

There are two members of the GPC retiring this AGM. Would you be interested in joining the GPC? Yes, we are interested in your spinning, weaving and dyeing skills, but the skills of communication, organisation, team playing, are so important. Information has been emailed to all guild secretaries. Please contact the AGWSD Secretary, Mary England secretary@wsd.org.uk, or myself, Janet Crowther, AGWSD Chair chair@wsd.org.uk. Nominations to be received by the 27th March.

Summer School 2021 – Remaining Spaces

Writtle University College, near Chelmsford, Essex, 15th - 22nd August 2021

There are a few places available on the following courses on a non-residential, first come, first served basis. Please contact Convenor, Christina Chisholm, in the first instance to check availability, on SS2021@wsd.org.uk

Passementerie: Traditional Techniques with Anna Crutchley
Knitting: Entrelac and Beyond with Alison Ellen
Ply-Split Braiding with 3-Ply twisted cords with Julie Hedges

Spinning Exotic Fibres with Andrew Johnson
Nuno Felting with Vivienne Morpeth
A Square with Variations: Interesting Bags to Treasure with Jennie Parry
Woolcombing with Jaquie Teal

Please see the brochure for detailed information on each course, available from the [Summer School webpage](#).

If you wish to be added to a reserve list should any residential places become available at a later date, please contact the Convenor.

Summer School 2021 – Trade Fair

This will run from 5pm-8pm on Friday 20th August, then from 9am-4pm on Saturday 21st August

If you are interested in booking a place, please contact the Convenor, Christina Chisholm, on SS2021@wsd.org.uk, in the first instance, who will pass your details onto the Trade Fair organiser, Jane Brighouse, who will contact you direct to discuss.

Meet the GPC: Christina Chisholm, Summer School 2021 Convenor



I'm not really new to the GPC, as I've been here twice already in a different guise! I served on the JEC from 2009-2019, with two stints as Chair (2012-2014 and 2016-2019), which automatically elected me a member of the GPC and Trustee of the Association.

This time I've returned direct to the GPC for a far larger challenge than I had originally anticipated; remaining positive and moving forward with the organisation of a Summer School in the midst of a pandemic!

I joined the Highland Guild in 2002 as a novice spinner, learnt a great deal from workshops and fellow Guild members, and was Chair from 2005-2009. Since the recession started in 2008, I have enjoyed more time to pursue my textile crafts and take on various responsibilities within the Association.

My learning curve has continued through Certificates of Achievement in Spinning (2015, Distinction), Natural Dyeing (2016, Credit) and Weaving (2017, Distinction) and continues to be fulfilling and enjoyable. I was a Selector for the 2018 National Exhibition, and a tutor at the 2019 Summer School. I particularly enjoy combining spinning, weaving and dyeing in a single project, and exploring colour, pattern and texture. My production is efficient to the extent that I sell mainly handwoven articles worldwide; I don't have sufficient cupboard space!

My other interests include hillwalking, music (piano, organ, flute and clarinet), and I am an external Associate of the London College of Music (Clarinet Performance). I am also a Church of Scotland Elder and organist. It now seems centuries ago, but after University (Cambridge) I qualified (RICS) and practiced as a Chartered Surveyor in the City of London for several years, prior to moving to Ross-shire (Scotland) and setting up in practice with my husband. We ran our own practice for 20 years and also set up and ran a residential development company during this time. Had it not been

for the opportunity for a change of direction created by the recession referred to above, I would probably not have had such fun with textiles over the last decade!

Speakers List Update

Once again, we are in lockdown. But the good news is that more and more of our speakers and workshop tutors are offering virtual events. Check out the list for all those who have a 'Yes' against virtual delivery. Twenty-five out of our fifty-eight listed speakers are willing to deliver through virtual media so there is no shortage of possibilities. I recently heard from the York & District Guild who had been delighted with an excellent Zoom talk by Lesley Hordon on all things Angora Rabbit.

The full list of Speakers is available through the WIP at this location:

<https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list/>

Matty Smith

speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

The Journal: Spring 2021 issue

The Spring 2021 issue is now available. It includes reports on Jenny Dean's one-year natural dyeing course at Ditchling museum illustrating the varied responses by students and their enthusiasm for natural dyes. Sandra King introduces us to a number of breeds of sheep in Ireland and her encouragement for handspinning and weaving. We also have an introduction to the Gotland sheep breed - Pauline Caroline Jones tells us about her small herd of Gotland sheep and Sonya Hammond has undertaken to test out the fleece with interesting results. It is definitely a fleece to look out for. Stacey Harvey-Brown interviews Sandra De Berduccy - who incorporates the cultural heritage of Andean weaving and the elements of the environment into her work. A though-provoking immersive approach to design. Marcia B John, a recent graduate, introduces her design inspirations and looks forward to a career in fabric design. We have not been able to visit exhibitions for much of the past year, but galleries have responded by putting more online - there are reviews of two online exhibitions in this issue. Do check the diary on the Journal website for online exhibitions or look and see what your favourite gallery may be making available. Also Guild Highlights, Readers Showcase and Book Reviews as usual!

Nominations for the Journal Editorial Committee

The JEC is seeking nominations for new members to be elected at the Association AGM on 19 June. We are seeking a Secretary and editors for the Notebook and exhibition reviews. Details have been sent to Guilds and is also available on the Association website. Please contact chair@journalwsd.org.uk for more information about the committee. A wide range of skills are valuable to the committee. Do get in touch if you think you might be interested - producing the Journal is hard work, but very rewarding.

Elsewhere on the Web

- Crafts Council recommendations for [six craft documentaries](#)

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/>