



NEWS June 2023

News from The Chair

I am sure that those who founded our guilds would be proud that the AGWSD continues to thrive through the input of the guilds today. Thank you to all the guilds that attended the AGM, either in person on such a hot day in London, via Zoom or sent in their postal votes

As with everything the GPC do, the AGM will be reviewed and pointers for the future noted. I will say that this is not a self congratulatory process, rather a reflective process, what went well and why, also, what could be done more appropriately for future AGM's.

At the AGM we had to say farewell and thank you to those retiring from the GPC and the JEC. As has become tradition Jennie Parry, as our President, presented each with gift.

The thanks were as follows:

Steve Kennett

Steve has been a Vice President for a good number of years, bringing his wisdom and knowledge to the role. In fact Steve seems to have been involved with the AGWSD forever, I know it is longer than I have, over 40 years. He has been magnificent as a vice chair and as an acting AGWSD chair, which he has done twice when the chairs have had to leave unexpectedly. Not always a satisfactory role as it is rather a 'hold the fort' position.

Steve has been so supportive of the organisation in many ways. You may not know that he has been instrumental in our receiving regular donations from the Worshipful Company of Dyers. He lends a thoughtful presence to GPC meetings. We will miss your presence Steve. Thank you for all you have done.

Roberto Campana (GPC)

My first contact with Roberto was at a London Guild meeting some good few years ago, when he was sorting out the projector and microphone. It seems to be that is how we know Roberto, the sorter outer. Roberto was a life saver at the Milton Keynes Conference, again sorting out electrical equipment. He was also excellent at ensuring that a very hot AGWSD chair caught her connection after a GPC meeting in Trowbridge, holding up the train while I puffed along behind him. Roberto has supported the AGWSD in many ways. I very much hope we will see him at summer schools and conferences for many years to come. I have never quite worked out what he does as a day job, but it is so very impressive and complicated. Thank you Roberto

Pene Blogg (GPC)

Another really committed member of the GPC. Pene would pop up all over the place to help out. When we were looking for a venue for the summer school in 2021, up popped Pene at Writtle to help to see if it would do, she lives miles away. Then, when the National Exhibition was set up at Leigh Spinners Mill, up popped Pene to help, again she lives miles away. I know that Pene has popped up, by arrangement, at many guild meetings to have a chat about the AGWSD.

Pene has also been the Foundation Certificate Spinning contact, undertaking many tasks for the Foundation Certificate students. Next on her list of roles was Area Link for the South and Southwest. We will gloss over Pene's ongoing difficulties with Zoom, the Area flourished with Pene's input, her willingness to do that extra bit. Thank you Pene, Zoom will miss you, but will you miss Zoom?

Kate Batchelor (GPC)

Last AGM it was agreed to extend Kate Batchelor's GPC membership for four months until the postponed Guilds Gathering was done and dusted. It is now part of the history of the AGWSD, a splendid event. Thanks go to Kate for all her hard work for the AGWSD and most of all I will miss the conversations I had with Kate about gardening, growing potatoes in particular.

Hilary Miller (JEC)

The Journal Editorial Committee is losing its Chair, Hilary Miller.

I was trying to work out when I first met Hilary, it was a long, long time ago. Hilary was convenor of the 2001 Bangor Summer School along with Pat Denne, who I had met in a queue at the Aberystwyth conference. The power of a name badge with your guild on it.

Hilary, and Pat were good enough to take me on as a summer school tutor in 2001, an unforgettable event thanks to the very hard work put in by Hilary to ensure the events went smoothly.

I have no idea how long Hilary has been involved with the JEC, with a series of roles culminating with her volunteering to be the JEC chair. Hilary has laid the foundations for looking at the ways The Journal can be taken forward through the Future Directions project.

The AGWSD owes a huge debt of gratitude to Hilary for all the years and years of volunteer time she has put in. We would like to extend our most grateful thanks to her.

(Hilary reminded me that we had met at the Norwich Summer School in 1993, we were on the same knitting course with Sue Leighton White.)

The other members of the JEC retiring this time are, Sarah Kelly, Subscriptions manager and Carolyn Griffiths, Advertisement manager. Katie Weston who was not a member of the JEC but was social media person, followed by Elisabeth Vigué Culshaw, has also retired this year. I hear that Linda Moore, Dye editor is no longer able to continue on the JEC, and lastly Lyn Duffus, collator is about to leave.

It is so important to say thank you to those that have given so much to the running of the AGWSD.

The minutes of the AGWSD AGM will be available soon.

Janet Crowther
Chair AGWSD

How about offering your services, email secretary@wsd.org.uk to see what we can offer you as well you offering us, and please feel free to contact me, Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

Issue 286: Summer 2023

This issue contains the concluding part of Susan Foulkes' fascinating exploration of the weaving disc and the first part of guidance on reading weaving drafts by Stacey Harvey-Brown. A timely article on botanical printing by Elisabeth Vigué-Culshaw is encouragement to experiment with summer leaves. Jo Lilley, who won the Lylie Smart Trophy for a novice weaver at the 2022 National Exhibition, tells us how her guild members helped her get started as a weaver and how she then embarked on an ambitious project. The rug weaver, Mark Cullen, looks at sources of inspiration and how they transfer into his rug designs. Finally, Sonya Hammond explains why filling a bobbin evenly improves spinning consistency. We also have a short appreciation of Tim Searcy, past Chair of AGWSD remembered by Jennie Parry at the AGWSD AGM recently. He dedicated much time to supporting the Association, and was one of the initiators of the Certificate of Achievement. There are reviews of the exhibitions of Rachel Scott's handspun and handwoven rugs and of Magdalena Abakanowicz's amazing 3-D tapestries at the Tate Modern.

Do you subscribe to the Journal via the website?

The Journal website merged with the AGWSD website in May and subscribers should go to www.wsd.org.uk homepage and click on the Journal tab. You can manage your subscription details by logging in to 'My account' from the Journal menu as well. The first time you log in you will need to set up a new password. Click on 'Journal' from the main menu then 'My Account' from the Journal menu bar or drop down list and then on the log-in page click on the 'lost your password' link and follow the instructions.

There is a new system in place which integrates the subscriptions and sales with the accounting process. Whilst we move from the old system to the new one it would be very helpful if those of you whose subscription is coming up for renewal could log into your account to update your details for renewal as soon as you can.

Despite lots of pre-launch testing, there are a few minor glitches involved in transferring to the new system, one of which may be several emails telling you about your subscription renewal. Please be patient, we are working our way through them and when resolved we will have a system that will make life a lot easier for volunteers!

Readers' Showcase

Do you have a project that you would like to share with other Journal readers? It doesn't need to be a perfect example of planning and execution - projects that didn't go quite according to plan are valuable learning experiences. What didn't happen as intended and how did you resolve the issues? Pieces should be no more than 400 words and be accompanied by a couple of images (minimum size 2MB). The editor will be able to help if you aren't sure how to approach writing a piece. In the first instance, please get in touch via info@wsd.org.uk



The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) awards scholarship and apprenticeship funding of up to £18,000 to talented and aspiring craftspeople working in a broad range of skills, from farriery and jewellery design, to silversmithing, dry stone walling, glassblowing cheese maturing, sculpture and more. Our next application round is open **10 July - 14 August 2023** and we are looking for more talented applicants .

QEST celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2020 and since 1990 has awarded £5.5million to 800 individuals working in over 130 different crafts. We define craft broadly and welcome applications from all areas including rural skills, contemporary craft, conservation, luthiery and much more. A directory of all our alumni can be seen on our website, along with more details on how to apply - www.qest.org.uk.

In addition to our **Scholarship** and **Apprenticeship** funding, we are excited to launch our **Emerging Maker Grants** this summer. This new funding opportunity supports talented early-career craftspeople in their development. Makers with four years or less of professional practice, who have a strong connection to materials, technical skills and processes, can apply for up to £10,000.

The funding specifically supports training and education to enable makers to enhance their craft skills and advance their careers. The training can take many forms, from traditional college courses to vocational one-on-one training with a master craftsman, or a bespoke programme of short courses.

We will be running three 'How To' sessions via Zoom to introduce interested makers to the different funding available, tips and advice for filling in your application and the opportunity for a Q&A:

How to Apply for a Scholarship

Wednesday 12 July, 1pm-2pm

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZUkduihrD4pGtY0nnivFIBiCbubIWMI1tn6>

How to Apply for an Apprenticeship

Tuesday 18 July, 1pm-2pm

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZYocu-sqDlve9lgSeetEJcCCSVmMScZCQX>

How to Apply for an Emerging Makers Grant

Thursday 20 July, 1pm-2pm

Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZctdOmgpijH9Uz7pfguzvwlF9PTuBI5guS>

For more details on the funding opportunities available see: www.qest.org.uk/apply

Booking is open for an April 2024 studio weaving workshop, led by Margo Selby.

Concurrent to her art practice and textile business, Margo offers creative weaving and loom set-up workshops at the new studio in Whitstable, Kent.

This 5-day workshop is suitable for all levels – from complete beginners through to advanced weavers who may want to approach their work with fresh eyes or learn a new technique.

For more details go to margoselby.com

Stuart Groom Memorial Library

Applications for membership are invited from current members of affiliated guilds. Please apply to the Association Library representative on library@wsd.org.uk. An application form will be emailed to you.

Please read the policy on borrowing books before applying for membership. This can be found by following the links on the AGWSD website.

If you have any queries, also contact above email address.

Janet Maher
Vice-chair and Library Representative

From the Eden Valley Guild

Eden Valley Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers will be at the Westmorland Dales Festival in Kirkby Stephen on Sunday 30th July. The Festival takes place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th, visit [Westmorland Dales Festival 2023](http://visiteden.co.uk) (visiteden.co.uk) and see what's on.

Find the Guild at The Old Forge, opposite The Taggy Man pub.

Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please send to: newsletter@wsd.org.uk. All news received by 20th of each month will be considered for that month's edition.

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, check page 3 of the Journal for print deadlines and send to: diary@journalwsd.org.uk If you miss the deadline your copy could still be included in the Diary on the Journal website.

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

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

Speakers List Update

At the 2023 AGM earlier this month, the new AGWSD website was launched. However, rest assured that access to the online versions of the Speaker's List remain the same: the searchable Speakers List is still at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list> using your Guild's login or, if you prefer the print-based, fully searchable PDF version it can still be found, without any password, on the Guild Information Hub (GIH) at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

If you have any problems or would like to share details of a new speaker or give feedback on a listed speaker that recently visited your Guild, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

Invitation from the London Guild

Beki Gilbert from the Natural Fibre Company in Launceston In Cornwall will be giving a talk to the London Guild of WSD on Saturday 8th July at 2.00 pm on Zoom. The company is expert in fibre processing, working with wool, alpaca and mohair. They handle wool for customers in the UK and worldwide and they also work with a range of natural fibres such as silk, linen, bamboo and some less familiar and alternative materials. Their services include scouring plus carding of woollen and worsted fibres. These processes take place under one roof at their mill, which ensures that they limit their carbon footprint.

Non LGWSD members can join us by clicking on the Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-natural-fibre-company-tickets-658034227087>