



News from The Chair

The AGWSD Summer School this August is getting nearer, if you are attending, please remember to pay your balance by the 31st March. This is as much a reminder to myself as to you.

The AGWSD AGM is on the 10th June at the Conway Hall in London. Your delegate will have their travel paid by the Association but your guild will have to decide if they will pay your observer's expenses. I do hope that as many as possible will make the trip to London, if that is impossible, please join by zoom. Mary England will be sending out the details nearer the event.

The papers for the AGWSD AGM have been emailed to your guild secretary. The IT gremlins removed the first section of the initial reports sent out but Mary has sent a revised report file, please read this one. It gives so much information on the workings of the AGWSD.

If nothing else, the Association brings together so many of us like minded people, particularly through the Area zoom meetings. Please join these where you can.

This Newsletter is very much your Newsletter. Please do let Lorna, Newsletter editor, know of any events that you think will be of interest to others.

I hear that Whitchurch Silk Mill are holding a Weaving Festival, 'Weftival' over the weekend 3rd – 4th June this year. I also hear that the Hampshire Guild will be taking part. Please send us more details.

Another mill that is a favourite of mine is Melin Tregwynt in West Wales. They have updated their website with a very creative banner, using linking imagery, colour, shape and movement. I was particularly impressed with the V shaped link between the scissor blades cutting fabric and the V shape of the fishing boat wake. Amazingly well designed.

Some of you will have heard Daniel Harris talk at the Guilds Gathering, or maybe at a guild meeting, of his passion for looms. I wonder how his latest venture is going, as he purchased Elvet Mill in Carmarthenshire to restore and to start the looms weaving again.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

Editor's note: Daniel is making great progress in the restoration of Elvet Mill as well as continuing the restoration of looms in his London workshop. You can see his many videos of the processes involved by searching London Cloth Co on Instagram

Northern Area zoom dates

All members of Guilds in the Northern area are welcome to join these zoom meetings. They are a great way to connect with members of other guilds and to hear more about your Association. Your guild secretary will have the login details

11th April
25th May
12th July
21st Sept
22nd Nov

Ann Martin
Northern Area Link

Please contact me, Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

Journal issue 285: Spring 2023

This issue includes a second article about the Online Guild Dyeing Challenge; two participants, one in Canada and one in Scotland write about their experiences. The second part of Amanda Hannaford's lesson on preparing longwools looks at making a roving from flick carded or combed fibre, and we have the first part of Susan J Foulkes' discovery of a technique to make tubular cords with a core using a weaving disc.

Beverley Usher was prompted by a spinning workshop to devise a way of using her considerable stash of fibre. She methodically sorted and blended colours to create yarns for an impressive array of jumpers and a scarf. A very satisfying project.

Kate Williams describes how she bridged the perceived gap between art and craft, with a piece she wove being shown in a contemporary art exhibition. And Lindsey Marshall creates unconventional 3D tapestries, describing how she moves from flat to shaped weaving.

We have a review of the 2022 National Exhibition and three of the exhibitors write about the pieces they displayed. The Certificate of Achievement was assessed, and the work displayed at the Guilds Gathering in June 2022; two of the candidates write about their experience with the Certificate.

In addition, there are a range of other exhibition reviews, Guild Highlights, Association News etc.

Hilary

The AGWSD website is changing

www.wsd.org.uk

From early May the Journal website will become part of the Association website. You will then find all the Association and Journal information in one place. We have been working for some time on improving the Journal webpages to make it easier for you to subscribe or buy single issues or back copies of the Journal and it will be easier for the volunteers from JEC to manage Journal business. The Association and Journal pages have been updated to make them easier to read, and over the coming months there will be further improvements.

To reach the Journal pages you will be able to navigate from the Association home page using the navigation bar at the top of the page or a link further down the page. There will be an automatic redirection from the old Journal website for a while, but do get used to going straight to the Association site.

We will provide a further update in the April AGWSD News.

Hilary Miller

Chair, Journal Editorial Committee

The Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

Weaving Opportunities from Whitchurch Silk Mill

Heritage Skills Student Placements

Each year we offer three 6-week Heritage Skills Student Weaving Placements. This year we are hosting these from 4th July to 12th August 2023. We invite applications from those studying woven textiles or anyone with experience or interest in working with textiles to apply for a six-week placement.

Weaver Demonstrator (Fixed Term)

We have a fixed term position, until the end of March 2024, for an organised and engaging Weaver Demonstrator with knowledge of woven textiles and attention to detail. This role requires a team player with an interest in textiles, weaving, heritage machinery and the ability to engage with visitors. The successful applicant will have great communication skills, be self-motivated and hard-working, able to follow instructions and work well in a small team.

Hours: 7.5 hours per week, Sunday 9.15 am to 5.15 pm

For more information see the Whitchurch Silk Mill website or contact info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

NEW from OLD

Riitta Sinkkonen-Davies

Sat 22 – Mon 24 April 2023



Create new and colourful items using fabrics from all those old clothes you have kept but would never wear again. You can weave them into a variety of items from bags and scarves to table runners and cushions as well as rugs and wall hangings.

Riitta inherited her love for weaving as well as for flax and linen from her grandmother in Finland, where she later completed a degree course in woven textiles. She has lived and worked in Pembrokeshire for 47 years running courses in her workshop and other venues.

Cost: £315.

Venue: Devon Weavers Workshop TQ9 7DY

If you would like to do this course, please apply through the website

www.devonweaversworkshop.org

Kasuri: warp & weft Ikat - Marilyn Robert



Marilyn Robert is a Textile Designer, who weaves, stitches and dyes. Throughout her professional life, Marilyn has been an artist who teaches. Currently no longer teaching at the professorial level, she continues to teach workshops both in Oregon where she lives and further afield. Since 2008, she works exclusively with

dyes derived from plants and insects from the natural world. She has received awards to travel to Japan with a Japan Foundation Fellowship, and to Turkey three times, and led a Textile Tour there in 2011. While in Japan, she studied *kasuri* (ikat) weaving, and other weave structures. During her trip she witnessed the annual indigo harvest.

Course Dates: Fri 8 to Mon 11 September 2023 **or** Sat 16 to Tues 19 September 2023

Fees: £410.

Contact: Please apply through the website

www.devonweaversworkshop.org This is a 4 day course with only 8 participants on each. Early booking is recommended.

Virtual Exhibition International Weaving 'Freedom Weave Exhibition'

The weaving group International Weaving presents its second virtual International Weaving Exhibition with the theme 'Freedom'. Woven art by weavers from Sweden, UK, Italy, France, Belgium and The Netherlands can be seen in the virtual exhibition from 1 April 2023. For the virtual exhibition, see <https://www.artsteps.com/view/63b6cc430049f1b7328b7dd5> and www.weeven.eu

Contact: www.weefnetwerk.nl and exhibition@weefnetwerk.nl. Theme 'Freedom'. As artists, the freedom to dream and to express those dreams, those inspirations, is vital. As weavers, the freedom to weave ideas together in a physical, tangible form to express something beyond the surface of thread and structure is who we are and what we do. But with freedom also comes responsibilities – to the environment in our choice of materials; if we dye our threads, which dyes we employ; how we finish our work; how it will be cared for and how it finishes its life – and those are part of freedom too. As ever it is always a balancing act and the freedom to make those choices and to justify them to ourselves and the wider world is part of the work that we create. In this exhibition you will find highly personal responses to what freedom means to each of us. Please take the time to read the thought and decision processes behind each artist's work because each philosophy informs the work and leads to a deeper understanding both of the artist and of the art.

Speakers List Update

A new speaker has been added to the list following a very positive recommendation from the Cambridge Guild. **Amanda Sutherland**, a former costumier, introduces you to her world of creative design, crafting, costume and textiles. In her description of her talks, Amanda says her talk "includes an exciting presentation method taking audiences on a creative journey to include background information on a career in theatre, design and textiles as well as a large visual showcase to include stunning headdresses and eco jewellery." Amanda has been delivering talks for over 14 years so is a very experienced presenter.

<https://www.wsd.org.uk/speakers-list> or if you prefer the print-based version of the list it can still be found on the WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>.

Matty Smith
speakerslist@wsd.org.uk



MAKE IT AT MARKET
SERIES 2

Would you like to turn your passion and talent for craft into a career?
Would you like money that professionals can't buy done just that?

Flabbergast TV are looking for all types of amateur artisans and crafters, from potters, blacksmiths and woodworkers, to jewellers, upcyclers and artists who would like to be mentored through the practicalities and pitfalls of turning a hobby into a business for a TV series.

Whatever your passion and talent, if you want to turn it into a profession get in touch. For more information please email MIAM@flabbergast.tv.

We welcome applications from all communities including people with disabilities, from black, Asian, or minority ethnic groups and disadvantaged backgrounds. You must be over 18 to apply. Flabbergast TV will process your personal data in accordance with its data protection policy. Please note that expressions of interest are not a guarantee of taking part. To view our privacy policy, visit flabbergast.tv/privacy

BBC ONE Flabbergast

Job Opportunity at the Irish Linen Centre

Assistant Handloom Weaver

An opportunity to work in our Weaving workshop, and weave on cambric, dobbie and table handlooms, and demonstrate and explain these processes to visitors.

For more details and to apply contact Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum

E: ILC.Reception@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

T: 028 9244 7684

Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent 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/>