



NEWS November 2023

News from The Chair

The AGWSD AGM may seem a long way off, June 8th 2024 at the Conway Hall in London or via Zoom. I am looking forward to seeing delegates and observers from as many guilds as possible at the AGM. Mary England will have emailed your guild secretary the first round of information, which includes the forms for nominations for the GPC (General Purposes Committee) and for the JEC (Journal Editorial Committee). The GPC has six vacancies and the JEC has nine vacancies.

The GPC is a group of people who are dedicated to keeping the AGWSD running and thereby to providing educational opportunities for the members of all affiliated and associate guilds. We were nominated by the guilds, sometimes by the GPC, elected at the AGM and our term of office is generally for five years. Five years may seem a long time; I can assure you it passes far too quickly. All GPC members are trustees of the AGWSD. The Charity Commission has very useful information on becoming a trustee, www.charitycommission.gov.uk

To give an idea of the makeup of the GPC I have created a list of roles and a short statement about what they undertake for all of you. The four AGWSD officers, who work as a team:
Hon Chair, keeps an overview of all the AGWSD activities
Hon Vice Chair, supports the Chair, has specific responsibilities for Health and Safety
Hon Secretary, undertakes all aspects of the administration of the AGWSD
Hon Treasurer, is responsible for all aspects of the AGWSD finances

Five Area Links, these are the communicators between the guilds in their Area, and between the guilds and the AGWSD.

The Areas are: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Online and associate guilds; Northern; Wales and Central; South and South West; South and South East

Foundation Certificate coordinator, an administrator role

Certificate of Achievement coordinator, an administrator with knowledge of education and an understanding of certificate courses

Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies coordinator, an administrator and encourager

Event convenors, essential for the continuing of the biennial events of summer school, conference and national exhibition

AGWSD News collator, receives and collates the news from the guilds and emails to guild secretaries

Librarian, for the Stuart Groom Memorial Library currently based in Trowbridge Museum, liaises with Trowbridge Museum

The following are on my wish list

IT manager role, responsible for all the parts of IT.

Events coordinator, someone to oversee the booking of venues for the biennial events

Graduate Showcase coordinator, to source and communicate with suitable textile graduates

This information is very brief, we welcome anyone interested to contact info@wsd.org.uk Though the majority of these roles are currently filled, time ticks away and a number of the roles will become vacant in 2025. As good practice the GPC would encourage anyone interested to be nominated for the 2024 AGM, so that they can become familiar with the workings of the AGWSD ahead of taking on a role. Please do consider standing for election at the AGM in 2024.

With my very best wishes for the festive season, Janet Crowther, Chair.

Please contact me at chair@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

The JEC are currently working on the Spring issue of The Journal, which has a theme of sustainability, we're currently agreeing the final content and whilst accepting it is not always easy to agree what is meant by sustainable, it really is looking like an interesting issue, but more on that in the next newsletter.

There are about 20 volunteers that work on producing The Journal, each volunteer is limited to 5 years on the committee, so we are always looking for new people to join us. We are currently looking for someone to take on the roles of Spin Editor and either Chair or Treasurer

The Spin editor works with the authors to make sure their articles are clear and in language that readers will be able to read and understand. It helps if the Spin editor has good experience and knowledge of spinning, and will be working with authors to ensure that we cover a range of topics within 'spinning' to appeal across the diversity of Journal readership.

The Chair role is currently being covered by the secretary and the treasurer, and we'd really like someone to take on that role, it involves chairing meetings, reviewing journal content and helping ensure each copy is successfully produced. If you take on the role you will be supported and there is a lot of experience on the committee and people that are willing to help.

If we can't find a chair, then our Treasurer will take on the role of Chair, if someone will take on the role of Treasurer, so if you have experience of keeping accounts and would be interested then please step forwards and volunteer.

The Journal Editorial Committee meets 4 times a year in hybrid meetings (zoom / in person), our next meeting is January 6th.

If you think you could be the next Spin Editor, Chair or Treasurer or are interested in volunteering to help with other aspects of producing 'The Journal', please contact me,

Sue McDaid

JECSecretary@wsd.org.uk

AGWSD Conference 2024, Bicton College 12 – 14 July 2024

Conference 2024 will be held at Bicton College which is set in beautiful parkland in East Devon. The campus is compact and flat and has plenty of ground floor bedrooms. Bicton can be reached easily by road, train and plane.

The theme of the Conference is “The riches of wool”. We have a wide range of speakers. Full details are available on the AGWSD website. Application forms can be downloaded and there are bursaries available. Closing date for applications is 31 January 2024. Closing date for bursary applications is 31 December 2023.

Given the cost of living pressures, we have worked to keep down the cost of attending Conference. The full residential package is £250. Attending as a non-resident is £145.

If you have any queries, please contact the Conference Convenor Janet Maher conference@wsd.org.uk

In Focus....Wales and Central

Wales and central area guilds have been active over the last year. Many have participated in our zoom meetings, sharing ideas and questions. We have been discussing how we can add diversity to our guilds by attracting people from underrepresented groups such as younger members, men and those from ethnic minorities. We also talked about visiting shows, sharing ideas on speakers and workshops. Here is a round up of a few activities.

The two major events where local guilds acted as organisers and volunteers have been Wonderwool in Builth Wells in April and The All Wales Event hosted by the Montgomeryshire Guild in Llanbryn-mair Mid-Wales at the end of September. At the latter biennial event Gwynedd Guild were delighted to win the All Wales Challenge Salver for their A1 sized display on flowers of Wales.



Many guilds have attended local shows and events. North Shropshire Guild demonstrated at The National and The Welsh Alpaca Shows in March and October respectively.

The Norwegian exchange programme that the Berkshire guild organise sounds exciting. In 2013 they placed an advert for a friendship group in the Norwegian craft magazine, Norsk Husflid. Bærum Husflidslag from Akershus, just outside Oslo, responded. In 2014 the Norwegians visited for a craft inspired programme and stayed with members. It was a great success and exchanges have taken place every 2 years since (apart from a covid break). Both groups have gained from the exchanges, learning from each other, and sharing knowledge, culture and expertise; most of all, they have had much fun and laughter!



Norwegian braids



Congratulations to Herefordshire Guild who celebrated their 40th anniversary with an exhibition at three different public venues.

Worldwide Spin in Public Day has been popular with many guilds and provides a chance to introduce the wider population and especially young people to the art of spinning, weaving and dyeing. Interesting venues across the area have included castles, osprey centres, town centres and libraries.



Lynn Guild spinning in public at Caernarfon Castle

A number of guilds have held friendships days. In June Gwynedd guild held theirs with a fabulous display of work. Beds, Berks and Bucks held a joint day which gave their committees chance to share ideas in more depth. Crickhowell are planning a Friendship Day for March- watch this space.

Talks and Workshops enjoyed by the guilds

Hereford Guild - Weaving with Waste' by Sarah Cooke; Dye day with Zoe Ackett of Paint Box Threads
 Gwynedd Guild - Off loom weaving workshop by Sarah Key; Free form knitting and crochet workshop by Bee Wear; Lock hook workshop by Sue Sayer; talk on stick weaving by Peggy Gollogly

Lynn Guild - "An Allotment to Dye for", a talk by Teresinha Roberts; Drum Carding workshop by Katie Weston from Hilltop Cloud; plus member led workshops such as Inkle Loom weaving by Robert; Eco dyeing with Janis and a Scribble Scarf workshop by Jean

Crickhowell Guild - Beginners' Spinning and advanced art fibres courses by Sarah Stacey of Hedgehog Carding; weaving talk by Sue Hiley-Harris; Eco-dyeing course by Jane Langridge

An added challenge that Crickhowell guild faced was moving venues, despite this they ran a full programme.

Cath Snape

Area Link for Wales and Central wandc@wsd.org.uk

Speakers List Update

Following some intensive activity, I am delighted to announce five new entrants to the Speakers List – two of which are organisations rather than individuals.



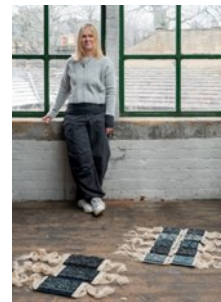
The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters and The Worshipful Company of Weavers are both now contactable to provide speakers about the work they do. These are historic organisations, grounded in the textile industry that play a significant role in modern society.



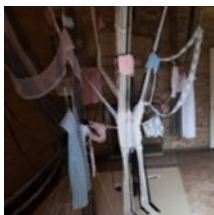
In addition, three new individual speakers have been added to the list.



Joy Evitt is passionate about all aspects of Costume and Textiles. Teaching for over 30 years enabled her to build up a very diverse knowledge base and her range of talks is extensive.



Jane Walkley explores the connections between memory, place, and attachment. She creates innovative sculptural tapestries using traditional techniques and hand-cast resin.



Lucy Brown weaves together bodily and domestic related materials, exploring themes around the body, femaleness, women's lives, making skills, textile and social histories. In addition, as a member of the 62 Group of Textile Artists, Lucy can deliver a talk on the work of that innovative group.

Both formats of the Speakers List have been updated with these new entrants. The searchable Speakers List is online 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, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, Matty Smith

speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

For Sale - Ashford Jumbo Flyer and 4 bobbins, £60

The jumbo flyer which includes the mother of all, fits the Ashford Traditional Wheel and uses Scotch Tension. It has only been used a few times. It is easy to swop over with the standard flyer as it is just two screws to remove the assembly.

A new flyer without the mother of all is in the region of £90 and the bobbins are £15 each. So a bargain.

Happy to post or meet somewhere in the Devon/Somerset/Avon area.

Sheila Liddle, sheilaliddle@btinternet.com

And finally....Exciting news from Jennie Parry Lara Pain, one of the 2023 Graduate Showcase participants at 2023 Summer School, has just been awarded one of the five Heritage Craft Young Maker Awards - and is Young Weaver of the Year.

She has a feature in the Journal (Autumn 2023), and is certainly making the most of her time at Cockpits in Deptford.

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/>

Stuart Groom Memorial Library: library@wsd.org.uk