



NEWS September 2023

News from The Chair

Your guild secretary will have received an email from the AGWSD Treasurer, Christina Chisholm, asking for payment of Guild affiliation fees (payment, if possible by the end of November). Each guild will organise collection of the £4.75 per guild member. Most guilds include it in their annual subscription although I hear some will ask for it as a separate payment. There are a handful of associate guilds and as these are situated outside the U.K. they have many of the benefits but not quite all.

All those £4.75s go towards running the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers who offer your guild members a whole raft of educational activities and support.

I thought of setting a quiz to see how many you could think of, but to save you worrying here is the list.

1. The biennial AGWSD Summer School
2. The biennial AGWSD National Exhibition
3. The biennial AGWSD Conference
4. The Stuart Groom Memorial Library housed at Trowbridge Museum
5. The Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
6. Your Guild represented on the WSD website, with a link to your guild information
7. Access to the monthly AGWSD News emailed to your Guild secretary for forwarding to guild members
8. Communication with the guilds in your Area through your Area Link zoom meetings
9. Input to the organisation of the AGWSD by the attendance of your delegate at the AGM who brings the views of your guild members to the meeting and where you can put forward Propositions and Points for Discussion
10. Access to self directed learning through the Foundation Certificate, Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate of Advanced Textile Studies

11. Access to the AGWSD Speakers List to be found on the wsd.org.uk website in the GIH
12. Bursaries for summer schools and for the Certificate of Achievement
13. Opportunities to join the GPC/JEC/event subcommittees
14. Support for guilds through a number of policies on the WSD website, in the Guild Information Hub (GIH) and by providing a listening ear. As guilds are autonomous, and run their own affairs according to their own constitution, we can only advise.
15. There is one more, the one that is often given as the only reason for your guild affiliation, which is public liability insurance

How do we make all those £4.75s go that far? All those involved are volunteers, just like those running your guild. We do it because we believe in the organisation and its aims of promoting spinning, weaving and dyeing through education.

Those who join the GPC, JEC or one of the event subcommittees will be able to learn the skills of running a business, learn the mysteries of using Microsoft Office 0356, gain the satisfaction of working as a team and most of all contributing to the world of the AGWSD.

Maybe you have these skills already, or would be willing to learn, and make your contribution to the running of the AGWSD.

Please do email me, Janet Crowther AGWSD chair, chair@wsd.org.uk

AGWSD National Exhibition 2024

The GPC have to ratify the venue and the organisation of the event before we give you all the good news, which we will share via the website and the October AGWSD News.

Journal News

If you subscribe to the Journal online and have previously paid by PayPal, you will need to use your new Journal account on the AGWSD website to pay for your subscription when it is due to renew. Sadly we have not been able to transfer your automatic payment to our new system. Close to the date of renewal you will get a reminder that your subscription is due to renew, a message from PayPal indicating that your automatic payment has been cancelled and the invoice for your new subscription.

You can find the link to the 'my account' log in on the Journal page of the AGWSD website; <https://www.wsd.org.uk/the-journal/> When you log in for the first time, you need to click on 'lost your password' in order to reset it.

If your subscription is due for renewal and you have not received an email, please check your spam folder.

JEC Vacancies

JEC is looking to recruit new members for both editorial and administrative roles. The Spin Editor post is vacant and the Weave Editor post will fall vacant next year and it would be helpful if a replacement was in place to shadow Stacey for a few months. We are also looking for people to take over the Notebook section. There is also a vacancy for either Secretary or Treasurer to release one of the current post-holders to take on the role of JEC Chair.

For details of any of these posts and for further information about working with JEC, in the first instance please contact JECChair@wsd.org.uk

From the Guilds

Beds, Berks, Bucks & Cotswold Guilds invite members of neighbouring guilds to their Friendship Day.

Light-hearted activities in the morning to expand your knowledge of fleece and spindles followed by an afternoon speaker displaying their vintage Fibre to Textiles tool collection.

Plus a bring & buy table, raffle and homemade cakes.

Sunday 15th October, 11am - 4pm, at Haddenham Village Hall, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8EE

£5 per person, payable on the door includes tea, coffee and cake. Bring your own lunch or buy locally.

For more details see www.buckswsd.org.uk or email secretary@buckswsd.org.uk

The Peter Tavy Guild is holding its biennial Exhibition, celebrating 25 years of Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing, on 27-29th October, in the Coronation Hall, Mary Tavy, PL19 9QA, from 10am to 4pm.

Admission free, refreshments available. For more information visit www.petertavguildwsd.org

East Surrey Guild invite you to their Creative Fibres Open Day at Box Hill Village Hall on Saturday 21st October from 11-3

An exhibition of work and demonstrations by guild members, free admission. For more information visit www.creativefibres.org

The York & District Guild draw your attention to the Yorkshire Craft Festival, taking place in Parliament Street, York between the 12th and 22nd of October where they will be demonstrating a variety of techniques.

Focus On.... East and South East

Diss and District Guild WSD reports that Mary Watkins from the Guild is also a life member of the RBST and an enthusiastic promoter of native and rare breed sheep. As such it is not unusual to find Mary putting the word out for volunteers to support the RBST (Rare Breeds Survival Trust) at the Royal Norfolk show, which is held in June. About 40 volunteers came together from **Mid Norfolk; Diss and District; Norwich City and Norfolk Countryside Guilds**. Weavers and spinners demonstrated how to use native and rare breed fibres and a volunteer was placed next to each sheep breed; with a fleece on display



and a demonstration of how the fleece can be used. The sheep breeds on show were North Ronaldsay, Norfolk Horn, Boreray, Leicester Longwool, Shropshire, Devon Closewool (Primitive, local, Longwool and downland). There was a table with a needle felting demonstration using native and rare breed fibres; a drum carder demonstration; felted balls for the tumble dryer; bags of fleece for the garden as well as information on the benefits of fleece on the environment. A wonderful display of woven swatches illustrated a range of fabrics from native and rare breed fibres

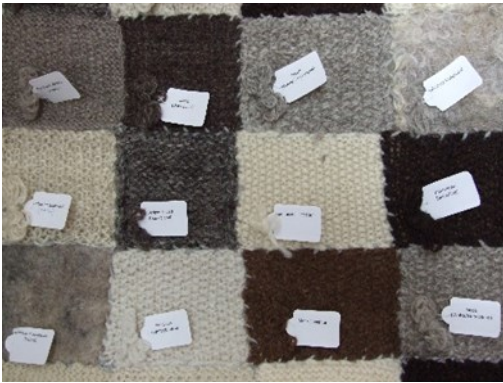
On 24 August, Members of the **Diss and District Guild WSD** were lucky enough to spin at the Camel Park Oasis near Harleston on the 24th August. The weather wasn't too good to start with but fortunately they were under cover and out of the rain. Due to the early morning rain, numbers were down but visitors to the park who came to see them enjoyed their demonstration and seeing them spin Alpaca, Llama and Camel fibre. Children and adults alike were interested in what they were doing and the children enjoyed having a go at making yarn using the woolly winders. It was a splendid day and great fun. They even managed a train ride round the grounds later in the afternoon and a photo with one of the camels.



In the true spirit of 'Area Links', both **Mid Herts and Lea Valley Guilds** joined forces this year at the prestigious four day Living Crafts Show at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. Their chosen theme was 'Colours from Nature'. Many of the display items had been prepared pre-Covid, but everyone had to wait patiently until life returned to normal and they could enjoy demonstrating in public again. Needless to say, it was a real joy for everyone!

Focus On.... East and South East continued

,Flossie' and 'Bessie' are **North Herts Guild's** projects, inspired by our then Chairman, begun in 2015. The challenge was to produce a blanket made of 10cm squares incorporating only British breed sheep. Affectionately named 'Flossie', the more common breeds were relatively easy to achieve and not to be deterred, the members searched for those harder to find. Everyone took part whether a spinner, weaver or felter and those who didn't spin were more than happy to do some knitting. Although some breeds have remained elusive, and could be added later, for now they have decided to call a halt on the project. 'Bessie' is their latest project, which will be made from any and all 'non- wool' fibres that we can source. Our enthusiastic group has taken this on board and Bessie is progressing well and we are hopeful that she will not take another eight years to complete! There has always been lots of interest shown in viewing 'Flossie', and the hope is, that with 'Bessie' alongside her in future, both will continue to draw people into the world of wool and other fibres.



'Bessie' (above left) and the final 'Flossie' (above right)



Norfolk and Suffolk Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers have had quite a busy summer. In addition to the usual monthly meetings they have participated for the first time in Suffolk Open Studios in June. For one weekend they welcomed visitors to their pop-up studio hosted by a local gallery, Merlina Arts in Earsham. The insights they gained from the weekend were invaluable for planning and building upon for a full exhibition at the same gallery in August. Both events were well received and they thoroughly enjoyed sharing their collective work and seeing it through new eyes.

London Guild was invited to take part in Southwark Cathedral's Heritage Crafts Day on 29 July. The guild dyers set themselves the challenge to 'dye a rainbow' in a day using the dye plants grown at Southwark Cathedral's garden, bolstered by some of the dyers' home grown plants. The tapestry weavers and loom weavers encouraged visitors to 'have a go' while the spinners demonstrated on wheels and spindles in the Cathedral.

With other Guilds also demonstrating at local events, the East and South East Area Guilds have had a busy spring and summer period.

Andrea Easey

East and South East Area Link



Speakers List Update



I recently had an interesting and informative Zoom meeting with the Area Links. We discussed various aspects of how the Speaker's List is used and how it might be improved, and I will be bringing you details of changes next month. Meanwhile it was suggested that you might like to see the face behind the Speaker's List - so here it is!

The searchable Speakers List is 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

The Nettle Dress Film Release

Follow the story of Allan Brown, member of the Sussex guild making a dress from nettle fibre over a period of seven years.

There is to be a significant cinema release for the film which will see almost 150 screenings in over 60 cinemas across the country, and more to be added. It's really special (possibly unheard of?) to have a film about craft being given a release like this and a big opportunity to garner attention for the craft community.

About the film here including trailer:

<https://www.nettledress.org/home>

Details of screenings booked so far here (lots more to be added):

www.nettledress.org/watch

Apologies from the editor as some dates will have passed before publication of the AGWSD News, however there are plenty of dates in October.

The Braid Society - 30th Anniversary Exhibition

Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 22nd October

WOA Gallery, Market Square, Bampton. OX18 2JH

There will be demonstration days and a chance to try braiding yourself. For further information on opening hours, demonstrations or to book a place on the workshop please contact

www.thebraidsociety.com

Consuo Textiles - Reflections of South Hill Park

30th September to 5th November

South Hill Park Arts Centre, Bracknell, RG12 7PA

Open Monday to Sunday 9.30 until late

Textile works inspired by the house, its grounds and its 50th anniversary as an arts centre will be displayed in the gallery and throughout the building. Free Entry

See www.consuoarttextiles.co.uk and www.southhillpark.org.uk for more information.

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