



NEWS January 2024

News from The Chair

Another year and our thoughts may turn to new adventures.

As Certificate of Achievement and the Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies coordinator I have received a flurry of registrations and it is so very pleasing to see that members of our guilds are keen to further their skills.

How about another adventure, joining the GPC or the JEC? Nominations don't have to be with Mary England, AGWSD secretary until 10th February so you have plenty of time. If you miss the deadline don't worry, we are able to co-opt the right people, as long as we keep within the AGWSD constitution guidelines.

The GPC is not a band of elite people, not a band of those who are really brainy, just ordinary guild members who answered the call to help to run the organisation.

Are you good at organising, have experiences of planning and communicating, working as a team? Have you been on your own guild committee? The GPC really does require more members, rather urgently, to keep the whole organisation going. If you join in now you will have time to see how the organisation works, before taking on a specific role. Not that we haven't roles that require filling. One is for AGWSD event coordinator; someone to find venues for our major events, conference, summer school and national exhibition; to keep an ongoing record of the events, but not to be the event convenor. I do the event venue finding at the moment, which is great fun, but it would be so very good to have someone that will take on this vital role. Please contact me, chair@wsd.org.uk if you think you may be interested to find out a bit more about the GPC.

Meanwhile, the AGWSD National Exhibition subcommittee recently met by zoom, and what a wonderful group they are. The Exhibition Information Pack will be sent to all guilds any day now. The title for the exhibition is 'Battles, Borders, Books', which comes from the venue themselves. For those of you who haven't been involved with the exhibition before, there are two parts. The non selected part, which this time will be a cover for a small notebook. (One of those covers that have an inside flap for inserting the notebook cover to hold it in place) The cover should involve spinning, weaving, dyeing or a combination of any of these and the construction can include other techniques too. Please send complete with a stapled or stitched slim notebook. The cover is to be inspired by the theme of 'Battles, Borders, Books'. The other part of the exhibition is the selected work which does not have to adhere to the theme. The first stage for this selected part, is to finish your item and to take as good a photograph as you can. Remember to create a 'feelie' piece, that is, a small sample that can be handled. The photos and feelie pieces are looked at by the selectors. These are practitioners in the appropriate field, who make a decision as to whether an item would be suitable for the exhibition. At this point I can hear some of you saying, 'my work is not good enough'. I will answer by saying that you won't know unless you enter. Over the years I have had work selected and hung, selected and not hung (it was too large for the available space), and work that has not been selected. I am not particularly expert at weaving, spinning or dyeing, but I give it a try. This is just a brief summary, please read through the information pack that is sent to your guild secretary.

Meanwhile, keep creating
Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

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

Journal News

The sustainability issue will be published very soon, and is full of articles that will hopefully provoke thought and curiosity about what is sustainable and what we can do if we want to improve 'sustainability' in our crafts. Do consider taking out a subscription if you don't already have one.

We are looking for more volunteers to join the Journal Committee. We meet 4 times a year either by zoom or in person and together find and review contributions to the magazine.

Everyone brings their own skills to the roles and the time commitment is largely down to what the individual feels they can give, there is a 5 year limit on how long someone can be on the committee, so we always need new people to join.

We are currently looking for a Chair, Spin Editor and Subscription Manager, if you feel that you could help please contact me on JECSecretary@wsd.org.uk

Our next committee meeting is Sat 13th April and any prospective volunteers are welcome to come along as an observer and see what you think.

Sue McDaid
Secretary JEC

Area Links

Our Area Links aim to connect individual guilds and guild members to the Association and each other. Once a year your Area Link will send the AGWSD News a round up of events in your area. Please send your area link a short write up of any workshops, events or meetings that you think the wider readership would enjoy. They can then collate these and submit them to the News in time for their slot. For your information here are the months when your area will feature in the newsletter.

March: Northern

May: South & South West

July: East & South East

September: Wales & Central

November: Scotland, Northern Ireland & Others

Area Link Zoom meetings

Before every meeting of the Association's General Purposes Committee your area link will hold a Zoom meeting which is open to all guild members. This helps them to keep you updated but is also a chance for you to voice your opinions on how the Association is run; or to find answers to queries regarding the running of your own guild; as well as being a great opportunity to forge links with other guilds in your area. Here are the dates of the upcoming Zoom sessions, joining details will be forwarded to your guild secretary.

East & South East: Sunday 11th February at 3pm and Tuesday 13th February at 7pm

South & South West: Monday 12th February and Wednesday 14th February at 7pm

Wales and Central: Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm

Scotland, Northern Ireland & Others: Tuesday 13th February

Northern: Thursday 22nd

My Favourite Piece of Equipment - Janet Maher

I found this beauty at the house sale of a lady who had passed away. She had been a spinner all her life.

My Barnett skein winder sits proudly in my workroom and is used frequently, replacing the umbrella skein winder and my niddy noddy. (I still use these if I am out and about as they are easier to pack away). You probably will know of the Barnett drum carders, as I did, but I had never seen a skein winder made by David.



I wind my plied yarn directly from the bobbin and know that the plying twist I put into the yarn will be retained as there is no further twisting during the wind on.

The skein winder also measures the yarn automatically through the dials in the centre so I know all my skeins will be the same in length, and weight if my spinning is consistent. I put skeins on when I am turning them into balls for knitting and crochet and can wind a pirn directly too when weaving

I love equipment made from wood and this is very aesthetically pleasing to me. I got a bargain with the £25 I paid for it and hope to have years more use.

Colour Theory in Weaving

Devon Weavers Workshop with Margo Selby
Friday 15th - Sunday 17th March 2024, cost £330

This workshop is designed to help you think about colour in the context of weaving. The suggested warps are designed to explore colour theory including the theories of contrast: light/dark, bright/neutral, complementary opposites, proportional contrast.

Students will set up their own looms for the workshop, a briefing document will be provided and students will choose from three warp suggestions:-
Satin/Sateen – great for getting pure colour and stripes

Double cloth – in particular looking at polychromatic squares and warp/weft colour blending

Lampas – good for pure colour in warp and weft, technically challenging and good for weavers with experience.

For more information please contact Devon Weavers Workshop

London Guild invite you to an in-person talk by Liz Baltiesz on 10th February at 2.00 pm
Community Centre, Burr ridge Gardens, St John's Hill (Danvers Avenue) , Clapham SW11 1AR (5 minutes from Clapham Junction Station (do not use Grant Road Exit).

Natural Dyeing for Vibrant Knitting

Covering the main classic natural dye families; using indigenous plants; foraging for a specific palette and smashing some myths.

Non LGWSD members are welcome and tickets are available on:-

Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/monthly-guild-meeting-speaker-liz-baltiesz-natural-dyer-and-knitter-tickets-726259420477?aff=oddtcreator>

Speakers List Update

A New Year and a lot of activity around the Speakers List.

Firstly, the biennial review has commenced, during which all speakers on the list are asked to review and update their entries as well as to share their activity over the past two years. Each entry, whether on the printable version of the list or on the online list, indicates if it has been reviewed (no changes made) or updated (some changes made) and recent Speaker activity recorded. So far about a third of the entries have been refreshed and it is hoped that this process will be completed within the next month to six weeks.

In addition, there are two new entries on the Speaker's List, each of which provides unusual but fascinating topics for talks or workshops.

Angharad Thomas is a lifelong knitter, both hand and machine, and has a very special and deeply researched interest in gloves. On retiring from a career in education and knitwear design she launched 'The Glove Project' in which she researched, designed and knitted gloves, traveling in the UK and Europe to visit museums and meet knitters. Angharad also knitted gloves in traditional patterns from the Yorkshire Dales and Sanquhar in southern Scotland as well as her own designs. In 2020 – 2021 she led the Holy Hands research project, funded by the Society of Antiquaries, which researched knitted liturgical gloves, resulting in a comprehensive database of these with associated literature, research methods and reconstructions. Angharad offers fascinating talks on glove knitting as well as a workshop.



The Knitting & Crochet Guild (KCG) was founded in 1997 and promotes the crafts of hand and machine knitting and crochet. They offer face-to-face and virtual talks giving an overview of the KCG, its remit, and what it offers members. They offer a history of the Guild, talks on its Collections, publications, and activities, all with a PowerPoint accompaniment. Other

talks can be arranged, including a trunk show with a selection of items from the Collection. These can be themed, from an introduction to the Collection or a more focused offering, e.g. traditional knits of the British Isles, lace, Aran, machine knitting, or crochet for example.

You can check these out, and more, in the online searchable Speakers List 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 WIP at <https://wipagwsd.wordpress.com/contents/speakers-list>. If you have any problems, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Matty Smith

speakerslist@wsd.org.uk

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: jecdiary@wsd.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