



## NEWS March 2024

### News from The Chair

I have been rummaging through the back copies of The Journal, they are little gems of information. Back in 1958, at the third Annual Council meeting, the then chair was saddened by the lack of an Association secretary, and by the cancellation of the Bingley Hall exhibition due to the high costs. But he was pleased to say that the new project, an Open day planned in Birmingham was going ahead.

The Annual Council Meeting was changed only fairly recently to the AGWSD AGM. I have no idea why the name was changed, but I rather like the idea of a council meeting as it implies we are there for debate about the AGWSD, to further the good works of the Association.

### AGWSD AGM Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024,

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London

Your Guild secretary will have received the papers for the AGM, along with all the reports. The AGM is the opportunity for your guild, through your delegate, to vote on the nominations; to ask questions about reports and to share in the knowledge of the many activities of the AGWSD.

We still have an AGWSD secretary, Mary England, but, along with the current chair and the vice chair Janet Maher, their tenure comes to an end at the AGM in 2025. It would be so sad to repeat the message of 1958, saying that we have no secretary, chair or vice chair. If you feel you have skills that the AGWSD could call upon, please let us know. The power of communicating through the AGWSD News brings results. I am so very pleased to say that we have a volunteer for the role of AGWSD/GPC minute secretary.

The AGWSD National Exhibition 2024, 'Borders, Battles, Books', Hay Castle, Hay on Wye, 14<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Thank goodness we haven't had to cancel an exhibition for quite a while, 2020 was only postponed to 2022. The costs are still high but the AGWSD is currently able to offer financial support. As with everything undertaken by the AGWSD the work of volunteers underpins all we do. We are so grateful to Sue and Sarah as joint National Exhibition convenors and to the exhibition subcommittee. The National Exhibition Information Pack has been emailed to your guild secretary. Please read with care and follow the instructions for all parts. The information is on the website [wsd.org.uk](http://wsd.org.uk) but not the forms. Your Guild secretary has the forms. Email contact, [exhibition@wsd.org.uk](mailto:exhibition@wsd.org.uk)

The plans for the AGWSD Summer School 2025, to be held at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, 3rd - 10th August, are going ahead rather nicely. I have had lovely suggestions for courses, for tutors, and for links to those who may be interested in tutoring. If you have any ideas, please do email and let me know.

We would very much like a volunteer to become the convenor of the 2025 Summer School. Support will be given by the GPC (there are guidelines for all events) so you won't be cast adrift on your own. As convenor you would be initially co-opted to the GPC and then, if possible, be made a trustee.

As mentioned previously, Sue Collins volunteered to be Events coordinator and is in the process of sorting out the information available, to make the role of future event convenors so much easier. When I refer to events, I include the AGWSD National Exhibition, the Summer School and the Conference.

Meanwhile the GPC will continue to put the relevant parts in place. Please email me if you are at all interested and I will set up a zoom meeting, for the evening of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April which is ahead of the GPC meeting.

Please feel free to contact me about any of the above, Janet Crowther, [chair@wsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@wsd.org.uk)

## Journal News

Have you ever wondered why it takes so long for your copy of The Journal WSD to reach you by post?

Well, there are two main reasons. The first is the Post Office. As you may know, Ofcom is investigating the Royal Mail's failure to meet its delivery targets last year. Anecdotally, they don't seem to be much better now, although it does seem to depend on where you live. We have looked at changing the company delivering The Journal, but having discussed this with our printers (who are responsible for the bulk of the regular mailing) their experience suggests that the service levels of other delivery companies over the longer term is no better than Royal Mail. But, on a positive note, the number of missing Journals is actually a very small percentage of all those we mail.

The second reason for a delay is down to the date you place your order. The cost of The Journal WSD to UK subscribers has remained the same since Spring 2013 and one reason we can do this is because copies are enveloped and addressed by machine at our printer's and so can take advantage of a Post Office bulk mailing scheme. We therefore have to supply the mailing list to the printer by a fixed date. If you just miss that date when taking out your subscription, it could be another 3½ months before the next Journal is due.

When you subscribe online at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/product/4-issues-per-year/> you will see when your first copy will be and you have the option of ordering the most recent one as a back issue. A rule of thumb is that orders need to be placed by the third weeks of each of January, April, July and October to catch the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter issues respectively.

Lesley Fidler, Journal Treasurer and Acting Co-chair

## Virtual Exhibition International Weaving - BEES

The weaving group International Weaving presents its third virtual International Weaving Exhibition with the theme

'BEES'. Woven art by weavers from UK, France, and The Netherlands can be seen in the virtual exhibition.

See [www.weven.eu](http://www.weven.eu) or [www.artsteps.com/view/65a7e81b942aa4883d801ca6](http://www.artsteps.com/view/65a7e81b942aa4883d801ca6)

Contact: [exhibition@weefnetwerk.nl](mailto:exhibition@weefnetwerk.nl)

## Area Link zoom meeting dates for April

East & South East Area: Sunday 7th and Monday 8th April

North: Thursday 11th April

S&SW Area: Tues 9th and Wed 10th April

Wales and Central: Thursday 4th April

Scotland, NI, Online and other: TBA

## An invitation from the London Guild

We are having Mario Sierra from Mourne Textiles giving a Zoom talk on Saturday 13th April at 2.00 pm. It is entitled

**Fibre to Fabric** – Restoring our Textile Heritage in Northern Ireland

Talk description 'Out of the past flows the future' Gerd Hay-Edie,

Mario will be giving an overview of Mourne Textiles and its origins, both the weaving mill and their Textile Designs. He will look at the use of traditional weaving techniques to manufacture their collection of blankets, cushion fabrics, scarves and rugs. They celebrate and learn from their weaving heritage, keeping these skills alive for future generations.

He will also be touching on their recent Crowdfunding project 'Fibre to Fabric' reviving of the skills needed to operate these machines which were once common within Northern Ireland's textile landscape.

This is open to non London Guild members on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fibre-to-fabric-restoring-our-textile-heritage-in-northern-ireland-tickets-856251319747?aff=oddtcreator>

## Focus on..... Northern Area

Activities from York and District Guild.

York and District Guild had a busy autumn and winter with our shows season finally closing on 25<sup>th</sup> November, with two shows on the same day: Waste not Want Not with the Coast and Vale Community Association at Pickering, and the St Clements Festival in Malton. This on the back of one of our biggest show commitments ever – 11days of the Made in York Festival in mid-October.



Christiane Seufferlain and Dr. Karin Altman

The speaker programme has been equally full and exciting with Islamic design in textiles, by a casual contact made whilst demonstrating, a hilarious look at Medieval embroidery with Tanya Bentham and perhaps the icing on the cake , a visit by Christiane Seufferlain and Dr. Karin Altman speaking about the origins, history and wonderful human stories attached to the Berta's Flax Project , and a look at flax and linen in textile art.



Medieval Embroidery

Wonderful, inspiring pieces and stories of triumph and struggle accompany the show and tell sessions during the year, which shows the breadth of talent and interests amongst our members.

After having a pop-up professional shop in previous years, we decided to invite members with fibre businesses as well as those with a house full of stash to take stalls at a mini market. It was a resounding success.



Mini Market

York has an enthusiastic committee supported by the members and particular delight is the number of younger members we have attracted and retained.

John Tavender, York and District Guild

It is always interesting and heartening to read of all the activities that happen throughout the year around the regions so next time your area link asks for input please send them your news. It doesn't have to be a lot, you don't have to have pictures but please send something. If you are sending pictures they will need to be less than 1mb each.

Creative Lives is a registered charity that was established in 1991. They champion community and volunteer-led creative activity, and work to improve opportunities for everyone to be creative. In particular celebrating and promoting people expressing themselves creatively with others, recognising the benefits this can bring. Their website features projects from all over the UK and is definitely worth a look. Currently they are seeking nominations for the Creative Lives Awards

<https://www.creative-lives.org>



## Speakers List Update

Following the biennial Speakers List Review we now have 58 speakers/tutors on the list, including nine additions. Several of these new entries are organisations with significant historical roots. In addition, the Association of Guilds itself is on the list with speakers available to share information with Guilds about its work for Guilds and the various certificates it offers – and at no cost to Guilds booking them! Three speakers from our list will be on the platform at the Association’s National Conference in July 2024. **Louise Cottey, Isabella Whitworth** and **The Thread of Time Distaff Spinners** will all be presenting different aspects of the processing of wool. You can read full details of the programme on the Association’s website at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/news-events/conference/>



### Highlight of the month: Jennifer Hughes

Jennifer Hughes loves textiles, especially those from Asia. Her extensive collection covers examples from Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Japan, India and China. All the face-to-face talks she delivers are distinctive in that they are illustrated with textiles; no slides or PowerPoint. She is also happy to give talks on Zoom where using pictures of her textiles becomes necessary. The list of topics Jennifer offers, both as talks and workshops, is extensive. All the details can be found on the Speaker’s List.

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](mailto:speakerslist@wsd.org.uk)

### Contact

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent to: [newsletter@wsd.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:library@wsd.org.uk)