



NEWS July 2024

News from The Chair

At the AGM we said goodbye to Jennie Parry as the AGWSD President. Jennie was the instigator of the Graduate Showcase, which has been very popular with the graduates and those who visit the Showcase. The graduates also write a piece for The Journal. At the AGM the Graduate Showcase was renamed the Jennie Parry Graduate Showcase in honour of the work Jennie has done for the Association over many years. Thank you Jennie.

We welcome Andrew Johnson as our new President. Andrew has been involved with the AGWSD for an incredible number of years, as the saying goes, 'man and boy' originally as a member of the Kent Guild, he now lives in Pembrokeshire. We will ask Andrew to write a piece for this newsletter to introduce himself. All I can say is that, like a stick of rock, Andrew has AGWSD written right through him.

Those who attended the Conference, 'The Riches of Wool', at Bicton College, a couple of weekends ago, were treated to the most inspiring and informative range of lectures. We know far more about sheep than we did before. Thank you to Janet Maher and to Sarah Basham, and the staff at Bicton College. And to those members of guilds that made the trip to Devon. Planning for Conference 2026 will start the very soon. As will the National Exhibition for 2026. If you fancy being involved please let the GPC know.

As I type many photos and 'feelie' pieces for wonderful and glorious items are in transit from your guild to the National Exhibition team. It can be a bit of a wobbly time, waiting to hear if your submitted item has been selected. The notebook covers are to be sent further along the line. All details and forms are with your guild secretaries.

WANTED - to keep the AGWSD rolling along - AGWSD treasurer, an Area Link, as well as those willing to come to meeting with a view to being nominated at the next AGM. We always welcome those who have a real intention of putting themselves up for election to visit a GPC meeting.

Please contact: info@wsd.org.uk

Some years ago the Association was taken to task about the lack of communications between the GPC and the guilds. The current GPC has worked so hard to improve these communications, with this Newsletter and the Area Link zoom meetings. We are delighted that a good number of guilds are represented at the zoom meetings, they are lively debates with much information being shared. One aspect is the cost of travel for speakers to a guild, the suggestion is that guilds get together to share the costs, the speaker may be able to travel from one guild to another. Or to advertise the speaker to nearby guilds, inviting them to join the meeting, paying a visitor fee. One excellent way of advertising your guild and its activities, is to send the information to newsletter@wsd.org.uk by the 20th of each month. As this newsletter has a quick turnaround, events happening this summer into autumn could be included in the August News. If you are in a holiday visitor area, it could be such a good idea; all the guild meetings I have attended have been so interesting with such lovely welcoming members.

Summer School 2025, 3rd August – 10th August, Queen Margaret University. I have heard it said that Edinburgh is a long way to go. That depends on where you live. In my view summer schools, as well as the National Exhibition and the Conference are worth every effort to attend. For this summer school we are planning courses that do not require much equipment, maybe a pair of knitting needles or a spindle. Though adventuring forth with dye buckets and such like for the Chester Summer School some years ago by train, was all part of the fun.

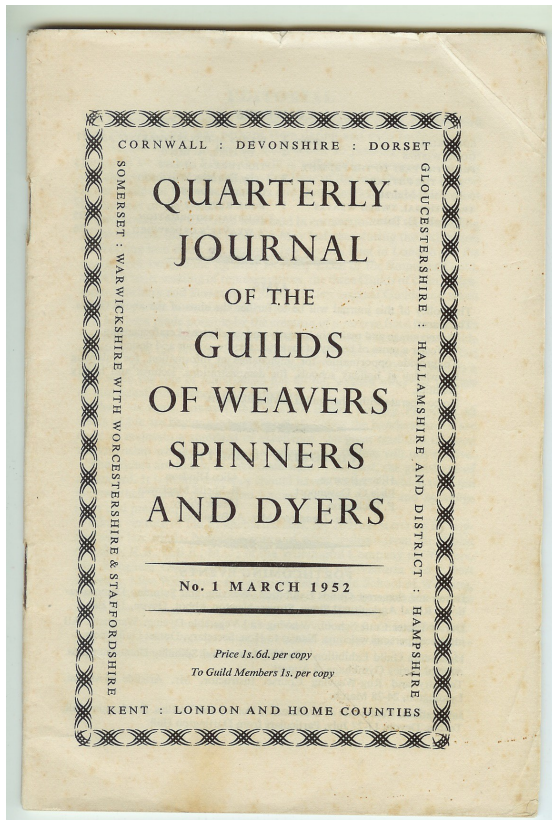
My last plea is for guild secretaries to forward this newsletter to their members through email. Please also email the Area Zoom link to your members. You may be unable to attend, but there could be a guild member who would. We have to show that our communications are good and worthwhile.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

Please feel free to contact me about any of the above, Janet Crowther, chair@wsd.org.uk

Journal News

The Journal for Weavers, Spinners and Dyers has been published since 1952, although the early issues were in a very different format from the rather more colourful Journal that arrives on our doorstep each quarter now.



The team of volunteers making up the Journal Editorial Committee (JEC) work together to offer a balance of articles that reflect the objectives of the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, namely:

The preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in hand weaving, spinning and dyeing, for the benefit of the public.

The promotion of public awareness and education in such craftsmanship.

The content of The Journal WSD covers a wide variety of aspects of weaving, spinning and dyeing. Member Guilds have regular pages where they share their activities, inspiring ideas for our own meetings; while individual readers often have an opportunity to showcase their skills and the projects they have been working on. If you or your Guild have news, an interesting story to tell or have suggestions for future articles do please get in touch jecsecretary@wsd.org.uk

Our retiring President, Jennie Parry, has been searching out new talent at colleges and textile courses across the UK, and introducing us to new graduates. Each year these young textile artists are invited to exhibit at the Summer School or Conference (alternating biennial events) and to showcase their final portfolio through an article in The Journal WSD. This will continue under the stewardship of Janette Matthews as the Jennie Parry Graduate Showcase.

In alternate years the courses enjoyed at the Summer School or the presentations at Conference are described by members who attended, giving us a taste of the events, especially fascinating for those who couldn't get there.

There are short articles of news from around the textile world in the Notebook pages, and advertisements from UK suppliers. The comprehensive Diary of exhibitions, shows and courses is also available on-line where it is kept up to date between the quarterly print issues.

Journal News continued

A full set of back copies of The Journal WSD is held at the Stuart Groom Memorial Library housed in Trowbridge Museum, Somerset. All guild members can join the library to access books and The Journal WSD, providing an invaluable resource for research and study.

Do consider taking out a subscription for yourself, or your Guild. It's an ideal gift suggestion too! Find more details and subscribe through our online shop on the website at <https://www.wsd.org.uk/the-journal/>

"Oh what a great edition of the Journal -again! Warmest congratulations and thanks to everyone involved. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful quarterly publication with such interesting articles, useful relevant adverts, news, reviews and information about exhibitions."

Jennie Parry, Past President

"I have been raving about the Guild's The Journal and showed our librarian the last couple of issues and after taking it to a committee meeting and then the membership we have decided that we would like to subscribe. Can you please tell me what we need to do plus the postage to Australia print edition."

The SWDGroup Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

"I look forward to ...the possibility of having my work featured in your esteemed publication."

"J290 - I am enjoying it immensely, as I have all the previous issues" Overseas readers

Guilds exhibiting at the Summer Wool Festival

The Bedfordshire, North Herts and Northants Guilds, with support from Bucks Guild, are exhibiting at the Summer Wool Festival again this year. We are showing displays of members work, and demonstrating our skills to visitors, which always attracts lots of interest and often introduces new members to the Guilds.

Do come along and say hello over the weekend of 27th-28th July, 10am-4pm, at Redborne College, Ampthill, Beds, MK45 2NU <https://summerwoolfestival.co.uk/index.htm>

There will be over 100 stalls of exhibitors, with workshops, coffee, good food and plenty of free parking. All the stalls are under cover, either in the college buildings or specially erected marquees.

Tickets are available on the website or pay on the door. Hope to see you there!

Tynedale guild will be demonstrating at the North East Wool Show

August 10th & 11th at Newcastle Racecourse
NE3 5HP

Do come and say hello if you are visiting. On display will be our new exhibition piece showcasing the North East in wool. The piece features iconic Tyneside and Northumbrian landmarks as well as the flora and fauna of the area.

Call for Volunteers

National Exhibition at Hay Castle, October 2024

We still need volunteers to act as demonstrators/stewards for three of the dates in October - Friday 18th, Friday 25th and Sunday 27th.

If your Guild is planning to visit on one of those days would you please consider bringing your loom, wheel or spindle and demonstrating your craft to the public.

We need at least 6 demonstrators every day.

Please contact Sue Ballantine exhibition@wsd.org.uk

East and South East Area in Focus

In the spring and early summer, Guilds in the East and South East Area have been out and about demonstrating our crafts and encouraging new members to join the Guilds. In April, London Guild visited Deen city farm in south London to demonstrate spinning during the school holidays it was a chilly day but lots of families stopped to find out more and with children joining in singing 'Wind the Bobbin'.



At about the same time Mid-Herts Guild were demonstrating at Oaklands College in Saint Albans for their Lambing Weekend. They also attended the annual Living Crafts show in the grounds of Hatfield House in May, which is a regular booking. This was the 50th anniversary of the show and the Guild celebrated that their founder, Shirley Tittle, was there at the very start!



Lincolnshire Guild held a successful in-house workshop dyeing sock blanks. Their treasurer led the session after having knitted the blanks on her knitting machine. Participants dyed the blanks with acid dyes which was such a popular idea that two workshops were held over two meetings as everyone wanted to take part.



East and South East Area in Focus continued

Rampton Spinners had held a wet felting workshop in May and were able to display some of the outcomes at their stall at the Fen Edge festival in Cottenham in June. Visitors were invited to make a short length of yarn and thread on small felt beads they had also been invited to make. This demonstrated two of the characteristics of merino that spinners enjoy - softness and a willingness to felt with a little bit of friction. This popular demonstration saw children making friendship bracelets for each other and coming back for more.



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75th Anniversary

The Somerset Guild, one of the oldest Guilds in the UK and a founding member of the AGWSD, are thrilled to invite you to celebrate a remarkable milestone. Mark your calendars for August 17th, 2024, from 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Hatch Beauchamp Village Hall TA3 6SG

- Live Demonstrations: See our talented members in action as they spin, weave, prepare fleece, and blend fibres.
- Try It Yourself: Get hands-on with our crafts and discover the joy of spinning and weaving.
- Historical Archives: Explore our journey through the decades with a special archive display.
- Member Creations: Admire the stunning work of our members in our exhibition.
- Shopping Stalls: Shop for beautiful fibres, yarns, prepared tops, and handcrafted items.
- Delicious Refreshments: Enjoy tea, coffee, cake and light lunches throughout the day

For more information contact

secretary@somersetguildwsd.org.uk or <https://www.somersetguildwsd.org.uk/anniversary>

Very Special Event This Year

This year West Surrey Guild is 45 years old.



To celebrate this we will be having an Open day and party on 17th August at The United Reform Church Hall, Milford Rd, Elstead, Godalming GU8 6HP ,

The day will start at 10.00 and we would like members to contribute something to add to a picnic lunch. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can sit outside

At 2 pm we will open for the Public to see the sort of things we do. Members will be demonstrating spinning and weaving as well as answering questions and promoting the Guild.

There will also be a sale of equipment - some of which will be equipment the guild can no longer keep. This will be most helpful to those visitors who may want to start their spinning or weaving journey.

More details can be found on our website

wsgswd.wordpress.com

Or by contacting our secretary

secretarywsgswd@gmail.com

Speakers List Update

New addition to the list.

We now have 70 entries on the Speaker's List, following the addition of Flaxland, run by Simon and Ann Cooper. You may have read the glowing review of Flaxland by Herefordshire, in the last Newsletter. Simon and Ann have been growing and processing flax for linen since 2008. They are now producing hand produced artist canvas and offering talks and workshops on both spinning, growing and processing flax.

Speakers by Region - Continuing the presentation of speakers within specific regions, this month we have a long list of speakers located within the East & Southeast Region. For more details on any of them, go to the Speakers' List (see below)

Alison Ellen. Exploring knitting, with main interest in seamless knitting and shaping with different stitches, encouraging students to explore and gain confidence in creating their own designs

Amanda Sutherland. Former costumier Amanda Sutherland introduces you to her world of creative design, crafting, costume and textiles.

Anna Champeney. Anna moved to N.Spain, aged 30, to weave. Her fascinating talks draw on nearly a quarter of a century of textile adventures, experiences and knowledge.

Anna Crutchley. Passementerie – bands, fringes, cords and tassels for interior decoration and shaft loom weaving.

Brigitte Kaltenbacher. Sustainable Weaver with a love for local fibres like nettle, local wool & linen yarns. Brigitte also hand-processes her homegrown nettle and flax.

Cara Bookless. Our Gotland flock, how we started in sheep keeping, how we process the fleece etc...

Chris Carr. A social historian with an interest in traditional dyeing methods.

Eliza McClelland. Opportunities to learn about beadwork both on canvas and fabric

Erica Just. Talks and workshops in ikat techniques as well as fabric printing, collage and watercolour painting.

James Perry. All areas of handspinning can be offered with specific specialisms in woollen yarns, fine spinning, consistency and the science of wool and fibre preparation.

Janice Lawrence. Janice has acquired an in-depth knowledge of South American textiles through research and travel. An experienced speaker she brings material and photographs to her talks.

Jennifer Hughes. Textiles from the Far East shared through talks and workshops

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

Lucy Brown. I weave together bodily and domestic related materials, exploring themes around the body, femaleness, women's' lives, making skills, textile and social histories

Lyn Scott. Everything you wanted to know about Alpaca

Rita Parniczky. Spinning flax and weaving with linen

Steve Kennett. Fleece selection, spinning and inkle weaving

Susan Cranmer & Elizabeth Cranmer. Susan was a teacher and Elizabeth is a textile artist and we bring those skills together to share what we do with others.

Veronika Kapsali. Textile technology, textile futures, smart textiles and biomimetic design.

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

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