



NEWS June 2024

News from The Chair

It was nice to see so many of you at the AGM on 8th June. Thank you all for attending either in person or by Zoom, thank you also to the guilds who voted by post. All the reports were accepted and those nominated were voted into position.

The AGM is your guild's opportunity to meet members of other guilds, to discuss the purpose of the AGWSD and understand the services provided by the organisation. For many years there had been a feeling that the interface between the Association and the guilds was lacking. Over the past few years huge efforts have been made by those on the GPC to address this issue. If you are reading this newsletter, that is brilliant; if you or a member of your guild attend the Area Link Zoom meetings, that is even better. These are both excellent ways of keeping in touch.

The AGWSD News, as well as the information about your Area Link Zoom meeting, are emailed to your guild secretary. We hope these are then emailed onwards to guild members. These are two of the ways that the GPC are working to share the services offered and the support given.

Sometimes we are brought up with a jolt, talking to guild members it seems that, sadly, some guild members are not receiving or reading the information. This can lead to misunderstandings which often land back in our post-box.

If you are a guild secretary, please do share the information with your guild members.

I hope to meet many of you at the Conference in July, at Bicton College. All the Area Links will be there, do make yourself known to them. I will be standing in as Area Link for Scotland, Northern Ireland, Online and overseas guilds as Ann Johnson has decided not to continue.

We are looking for an Area Link to replace Ann and you can live anywhere to become part of the Area Link team. We work through Zoom and you will be

given all the support needed to host your Area meetings and report back to the GPC. It is a wonderful way of getting to know members of other guilds and finding out what is happening around your Area.

Sue and Sarah, joint convenors of our National Exhibition have recently visited Hay Castle again, they say they came away with huge smiles as it is such a very good venue for our biennial exhibition and the staff at Hay Castle so incredibly helpful. Please do check and send your creations as per the instructions in the Information Pack. I can hear some saying, 'my work isn't good enough' but you don't know until you try. You get a huge buzz when your work is selected and hung, and there is always the non-selected notebooks covers open to all.

The AGWSD Summer School at Queen Margaret University, August 3rd – 10th 2025. Thank you to all who have offered ideas and help, we are moving forward with this ready for the brochure going to guilds mid-September. There will be a mix of tutors who have run courses for us before and some who are new to us, some courses will have a flavour of Scotland. There will be courses for those at the early stages of learning a technique, some for those who have some knowledge as well as courses for the experienced. As with life, the costs will be more than in 2023. We do our very best to keep these down as far as possible. There will be information in the Summer School brochure about applying for an AGWSD bursary.

If you read last month's AGWSD News, you will be glad to hear that the pigeon re-emerged and built a new nest in the wisteria, a much quieter position, and is back sitting on an egg.

Like the pigeon rebuilding her nest, the Association could do with someone to help keep the AGWSD steady and to fill the vacancy of AGWSD treasurer. Support will be given while you learn the ropes and what is required for the role. Please let me know if you are interested.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

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

Thank you from Jennie Parry

Having now completed my five years as your President I am keen to say a big thank you to all the Guild members for your warmth, encouragement and support. I have really enjoyed meeting so many of you at various events, and to hearing about your guilds and your own textile journeys.

Many of you have helped with the Association out-reach to Galleries, Museums and major events with the colourful Association brochures.

Others have shown great kindness and help in enabling some of the Graduates who have taken part in the Showcases to be able to have their own loom. It is so hard for them as they leave the well equipped University facilities, and thanks to our support they have been able to keep on experimenting with their own work. They enjoyed writing for the Journal, and this has also encouraged invitations from the Guilds to offer them a talk. Janet Crowther helped enormously with all the administration, the practicalities, and displays. Thank you so much Janet.

I am really delighted that this Scheme is to continue under the stewardship of Janette Matthews. At the AGWSD AGM on Saturday I was totally bowled over by the announcement that it is to be called The Jennie Parry Graduate Showcase. I still can't believe it, and am deeply touched. Thank you.

I know that Andrew Johnson will be an excellent President. He is extremely knowledgeable and skilled in all aspects of yarn and thread, able to give good advice and is an excellent listener too as well as a very long standing Guild member.

Warmest wishes to you all,
Jennie

JEC News

We said goodbye and thank you to two of our features editors at the Association's AGM: Stacey Harvey-Brown and Linda More, Weaving and Dyeing respectively. We also formalised the appointments of new members, all of whom have already been volunteering as part of the Journal WSD team known rather grandly as the 'Journal Editorial Committee' or JEC. That team includes not only those who commission and chase-up feature articles, but also those who fill a range of more administrative roles. Every page has at least one volunteer's imprint on it and those directly involved with the content are supported by those who deal with orders and distribution, finance and IT. Very few of us have ever worked in publishing or any of the creative industries; what brings us together is the shared aim of producing a quarterly publication that we hope our readers value.

Lock-down and then the saga of rail strikes and working to rule by different unions and different railway companies has not made it easy for us to meet in person over the past few years. Zoom has certainly filled a gap. But I think all of us who have met face to face and been able to chat over a coffee or a sandwich at lunch time agree that in-person meetings have benefits that cannot be replicated via a computer screen. There's room for both types of meeting and the JEC has its collective fingers crossed that we shall soon be back to two in-person (with a Zoom option) and two virtual meetings a year that fit with the production schedule.

Lesley Fidler, Journal Treasurer and acting Chair.

Herefordshire Guild Summer Outing



This month was our Guild summer outing. 15 Herefordshire Guild members went over to Simon and Clare Cooper who run Flaxland just outside of Stroud. The flowers on the crop were really exquisite at that particular stage of growth. We were so glad Simon had suggested that particular week for our outing and even the weather seemed to be on our side. Hosting an event like that for fifteen people involves a great deal of preparatory work and behind the scenes activity but their effort really paid off and the day seemed to flow seamlessly. Simon and Ann provided us with a fabulous Flaxland experience, the perfect blend of talk, discussion, demonstration and practical.

Their knowledge and enthusiasm for their work was quite contagious and we've all come away even more motivated to give flax a try. We are suggesting that members who wish to participate each sow a patch of flax seed next year for our 2025 Guild challenge and that we follow the process through to a final product. We highly recommend this venue to other guilds. We also wish to recommend Simon as a speaker.

<https://www.flaxland.co.uk>

Sue White
Secretary HGWSD



An invitation from Brighton & Hove Textile Arts Group

We are holding two events led by Dr Carey Fleiner and offer an invitation to members of other guilds to join us. Dr Carey Fleiner is currently Senior Lecturer in Classical (Roman) History at the University of Winchester. In addition to her interests in all things Roman history, Carey is accomplished in various textile arts.

Roman Women - Wool and Weaving 12th October 11am.

This talk is a discussion of the symbolism of spinning and wool in the Classical world, with an emphasis on Roman women and the household. We'll consider where spinning and wool fit into popular myths and how this reflects the importance of sheep, wool, and spinning in the general economy. The main part of the discussion looks at spinning as women's work, and the significance of spinning and household economy – not only the practicalities of the task, but also the symbolism of spinning (and weaving) as representative of domestic harmony.

[Roman Women - Wool and Spinning - A lecture Tickets, Sat, Oct 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

In the Loop - From Nalbinding to Knitting A history of Fabric on Needles 12th October 1.30pm

This talk considers fabric making with yarn 'with loops' - that is a look at Nalbinding and Knitting. We start with Nalbinding, which predates written history, and discuss the various stitches and small object found and made from this type of textile work from the Neolithic through to the 20th century, and its cousin knitting. Knitting comes along later from the Middle East to Europe in the 12th century, and we'll look at earliest examples and representation of knitting in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. The practical and social elements of these 'small works' will be folded into the discussion.

[In the Loop - From Nalbinding to Knitting, a History of Fabric on Needles Tickets, Sat, Oct 12, 2024 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Speakers List Update

This month speakers and workshop tutors located in the South & Southwest Area are listed. For more details on any of them, go to the Speakers' List (see below)

Carey Fleiner : Expert on Roman history - talks given on ancient (Roman) & medieval spinning and weaving; workshops on hand-spindles, charkha, and long-draw techniques and workshops on hand-spinning, nalbinding, charka & point-spinning.

Fiona Morris: A wide range of knitting and crochet techniques that can be tailored to your guild's requirements e.g. knitting with handspun, Patchwork/Domino knitting and Fairisle

Isabella Whitworth: Dyeing and painting fabric, resist dyeing techniques, research into orchil

Janet Phillips: Over 40 years experience of weaving and of teaching others to weave

Linda Lemieux: Basketry- willow and rush, many techniques, hedgerow foraging for materials, harvesting Somerset river rush from a coracle and growing basketry willow on Dartmoor

Louise Cottey: Designing and weaving of unique fabrics

I am delighted that Christina Chisholm has rejoined the Speaker's List. She offers not only a wide range of talks and workshops but also some valuable insights into the AGWSD Certificates of Achievement having gained three of them - as well as the Certificate in Advanced Textiles. Christina is located in Ross-shire, Scotland.

Highlight of the month: Janice Lawrence



Janice is a Textile artist who trained at the London College of Fashion (C&G Embroidery (dis) 1974) after attaining a BSc in Geography at the LSE. She has taught embroidery, design, crochet and silk painting and given talks to adults over many years. Janice has travelled widely and has a passion for South America and their textiles. She uses beautiful photographs to illustrate her talks, many of which she has taken herself. These include museum pieces and the environment in which the textiles were created or inspired by. She regularly exhibits her own work inspired by her surroundings. She has designed church vestments and has worked in private collections. Janice brings to her talks some of her own work and textiles that she has collected from the countries that she has visited. Janice is based in Coulsdon, Surrey and can be contacted by email on janicemlawrence@gmail.com

You can access the web-based Speaker's 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