



NEWS January 2024

News from The Chair

AGWSD Summer School 2025, 3rd August – 10th August, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh

The AGWSD Summer School 2025 brochure is now available. A paper copy has been sent to the secretaries of all AGWSD Guilds, an electronic copy is available for download by you, from the website wsd.org.uk.

The courses on offer are a wonderful range, hand picked from tutors of excellence for Guild members to learn from and enjoy. Some tutors are old hands at our summer schools and some are new to our events. The courses are just a part of the summer school experience, the company of like minded people is equally important.

When you complete your form for Summer School 2025 please read the information with care. There are some, even after being asked to include three preferences for courses, will only put one. We have had a great debate, do we say, play by the rules and put three preferences or you are put in the bin! Of course we wouldn't do that, but please give three preferences, it makes the allocation, 'names out of the hat', so much easier.

There are bursaries available, information towards the end of the Summer School brochure. Again, a plea for all the information to be included, the criteria to be answered. We have 'boxes' this year that can be typed into with the information, they will expand as you type. If you are completing a paper copy of a bursary application, you can always add further information to the back of the forms.

Read on for a taster of all the courses.

Communications

The Area Links are currently holding their Zoom meetings, the Zoom link will be sent to your guild secretary. Please find time to join in if you can. The Area Link Zoom meetings, as well as this newsletter are such good ways of communicating with other guilds and learning about the educational opportunities offered to guild members by the Association.

Mary England has requested an up to date land address for all guilds so that the Summer School brochure can be posted. Thank you to all the very many guilds who have replied, we are short of a few and would hate those guild members not to have a copy of the Summer School 2025 brochure.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

AGWSD National Exhibition 2025

Battles, Borders, Books

at Hay Castle

Hay-On-Wye

14th - 27th October

Open 10am-5pm daily

Over 100 selected items and a whole array of notebook covers.

A not to be missed exhibition of guild members' creativity.

Obituary

Recently we heard of the death of Heather Seddon, Heather was a respected tapestry weaver, member of the GPC and the coordinator for the Certificate of Achievement until 2017.

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

So here, for your delectation and delight: Eighteen courses with an amazing array of tutors, techniques and inspiration.



Felt–stravaganza ... a festival of felting! with Kirsty Tudor

‘Experimenting with as many felting techniques as can be comfortably crammed in.’



Adventures in Double Twill with Cally Booker

‘Take the classic 4-shaft twill and double it, weave double width and a whole lot more.’



Spinning fancy yarns with Jane Deane

‘Design a fancy yarn and how to spin it’.



Beginners’ Weaving Workshop: Designing Tweed & Tartan with Janis Embleton

‘Design and weave your own tartan or tweed fabric’.



Textures in Woven Tapestry with Dot Seddon

‘Introduce, explore and experiment creating textures in traditional woven tapestries’.



Twist, Twine, Loop art baskets with Anna Corbett

‘Create useful and/or decorative baskets, bags or vessels from plant fibres’.



Nature in our hands with Deborah Gray

‘Use local plants and other found materials to create, colour, cordage and textiles’.



Fine Spinning for Lace Knitting with Elizabeth Johnston

‘Identify fine fibred fleece, learn preparation and spinning techniques for fine lace yarns’.



Fair Isle Steeked Cowl with Janette Budge

‘Fair Isle knitting techniques and approaches to choosing colours in relation to the pattern’.



Weaving on a warp weighted loom with Dr Carey Fleiner

‘Learn the historic techniques for weaving using a warp weighted loom’.



Design with Texture for Weaving on 8 Shafts with Charlotte Grierson

‘Building confidence in using weave structure to create texture in weaving’.



Spinning for consistency and balance, from thick to thin - and back again
with Sue McNiven

‘Understanding the how, why and what to create a range of yarns’.



Double two tie exploration with Brenda Gibson

‘Threading the loom to explore the versatile double two tie threading system’.



Tablet Weaving for the curious beginner with Belinda Rose

'Learn the framework and rules of tablet weaving, using them to make original designs'.



Beyond the rainbow with Julia Billings

'Dive deep into the world of natural dyes to create a wide palette of colours'.



Fascinating Braids with Jean Leader

'Covering a variety of decorative braids without using any special equipment'.



Plant fibres and beyond with Andrew Johnson

'Looking at various plant materials, preparation and use'.



Blue prints: Pattern-making with the resist methods of Southeast Asia and a Ferrous

Indigo vat with Elizabeth Viguie Culshaw

Explore mark making using resist techniques and a ferrous indigo vat

Speakers List September 2024 Update

Three new speakers have been added to the list this month.

Charmaine Wombwell is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans theatre, music and visual art. She is a knitter and a spinner. Her business, YarnTings, sells hand-dyed yarn and fibre, drum-carded batts and hand spun jewellery. Charmaine was recommended by the Mid-Herts Guild who say she is a “lovely engaging person, a charismatic speaker, very entertaining and funny and who gave us all a most enjoyable evening”. She also comes recommended by Lea Valley Guild who say she is “a vivacious young lady who brought along an impressive collection of items she had knitted and a wonderful selection of her hand-dyed braids, drum carded batts and hand-spun yarns to sell”. Charmaine is based in London, within the East & South East Region.

Rox Maderia sees the history of herbal medicine as the history of our lives. Plants have been used for food, medicine and dyes and women have often been the keepers of this knowledge. Rox shares her insights into historical medical practices through a number of entertaining talks on women's health, the history of women's medicine, connecting with the land and ancestral herbalism. These would make a fascinating alternative topic for a Guild meeting. She is located in Scotland.

Sara Kelly is a textile artist and tapestry weaver based in Deptford, South-East London. She skilfully combines various textile practices, including weaving, embroidery, and quilting, to create works that explore the intersection of craft and collaborative making. Her art reflects a deep interest in knowledge sharing and material cultures. Her work establishes a refined relationship between materials, narrative, and space, creating pieces that are personal, durable, and beautifully integrated into their surroundings. Sara is recommended by Kent Guild for whom she gave an excellent talk and slide show on a Saturday and returned on the Sunday to run a workshop for 10 Guild members. Sara is based within the East & South East Region.

Highlight of the month: Jacqueline James

Jacqueline is a modern craftsperson endeavouring to keep traditional and heritage weaving skills alive. Her woven rugs and wall hangings are proudly and exclusively British made in her studio in the historic City of York. Pleasing colour combinations, striking geometric patterns and smooth gradients are all distinctive elements of Jacqueline's woven designs. With great passion and discernment for colour, she uses a broad range of dyed yarns and carefully blend several strands together, like mixing paint, to achieve the desired hue. Jacqueline offers a number of talks on both the use of colour and rug weaving.



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