



NEWS December 2024

News from The Chair

Once again it is time to celebrate. This time it is the success of Sue Horne who has just been awarded a Distinction in the Certificate of Achievement in Tapestry Weaving. Sue had intended to submit twice before but, at the last minute, due to unforeseen circumstances, had to cancel. To save Sue having to wait for the Summer School 2025 for assessment, it was agreed that she post the work to the CoA coordinator, who worked with the assessor and moderator, posting the work on and using zoom as the means for discussions. This assessment method has been used in the past and works well.

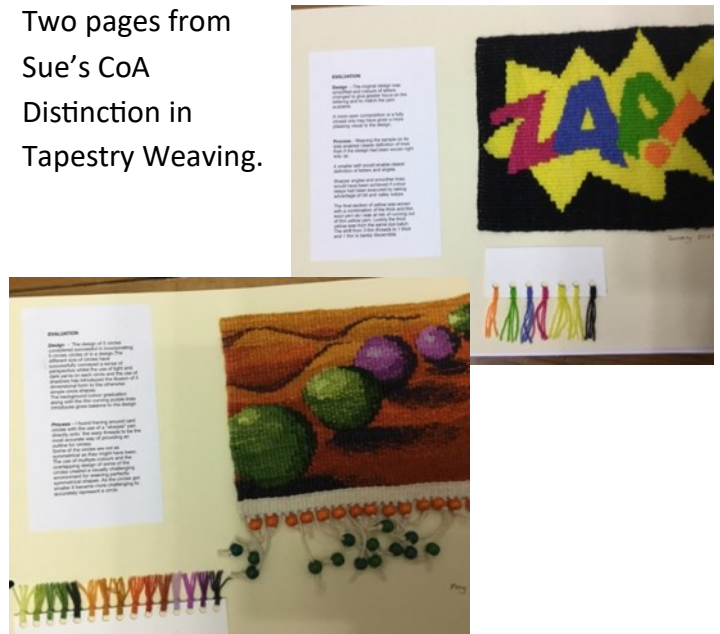
Congratulations to Sue.

This is also a timely reminder that the AGWSD Certificate of Achievement is there for any guild member who wishes to further their knowledge and techniques in the areas of spinning, weaving, tapestry weaving, or dyeing (either natural or synthetic).

It is self-directed learning which has the advantage to the student of being able to set their own time goals, and to use their own initiative for learning. There are no mentors though currently the CoA Coordinator, who is an experienced and qualified textile tutor with knowledge of all the areas involved, particularly in the areas of design and use of colour, gives support and encouragement when requested. See wsd.org.uk GIH (Guild Information Hub) for more information, the syllabus for each of the areas, the 2024 Handbook, and the registration form. Or email certificate@wsd.org.uk

There is no password required for access to the website, Speakers List, GUI, Certificates, Summer School, plus a lot more.

Two pages from Sue's CoA Distinction in Tapestry Weaving.



The request for information about the Loom 'in pieces' in the October newsletter has led to information being passed to the inquirer. Thank you to those who made contact.

Don't forget to book for Summer School 2025. After much indecision, I have just completed my booking form and paid the deposit. Bookings should be made by the end of December.

During 2024 the AGWSD has continued to reach members of guilds through the Area Zoom meetings and this newsletter too. For all of this to continue, please consider standing for the GPC. Your Guild Secretary has the nomination paper work for this. With your help and support may the AGWSD continue to thrive in 2025 and beyond.

With every good wish for 2025.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD Chair

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

“The things we do for love”

This old song by 10cc came on the radio recently and made me think of all the volunteers doing their bit for guilds and the AGWSD. Without you our crafts would disappear because we do it for the love of the craft. You are more appreciated than you know.

If you have attended any national events - Summer School, Conference or the National Exhibition - or have worked on one of the Certificates or read a Journal, these do not happen by chance. All the activities offered by the AGWSD are about education and keeping the crafts alive for generations to come. They can only happen if we have volunteers to help organise them.

We need you now. There are roles to be filled at the next AGM. They have been listed elsewhere. Some things to know:

- ◆ You do not need to be a craft expert, few of us are
- ◆ The work is not arduous or hard
- ◆ Knowing how to plan and organise are the main skills
- ◆ There is support in getting to grips with new things for as long as you choose

Come and talk to us if you can give any time. You can observe or shadow before deciding. Drop an email to any of the officers or your own Area Link to find out more.

Another old song also came to mind writing this: “Give a little bit” by Supertramp. We would love to hear from you.

Janet Maher
Vicechair AGWSD
vicechair@wsd.org.uk

From the Journal

The Lylie Smart trophy is awarded to a weaver, spinner or dyer with less than 3 years experience and the winner is chosen by the visitors to the National Exhibition submitting their votes.

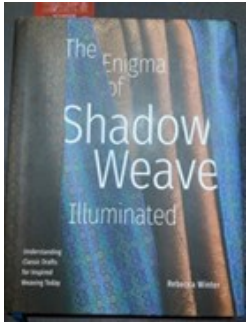
Entries for 2025 were:

- 'Aurora Borealis' scarf by Yvonka Hurtado (Mid Herts Guild)
- 'Lest We Forget' tapestry by Diana Gaia Owen (Ulster Guild)
- 'All Linked - Our Past, Present and Future' tapestry by Catherine Ellis-Braithwaite (Hereford Guild)

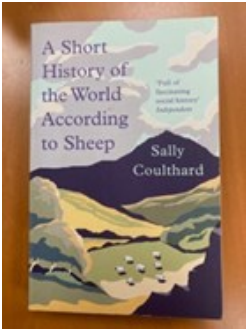
Yvonka Hurtado was awarded the trophy. Congratulations to her. She has agreed to write an article for a future issue of The Journal WSD. The deadline for copy for the Spring issue of the Journal was very soon after the close of the exhibition and too soon for Yvonka to write an article and provide illustrations for the forthcoming issue - but it will appear in due course.

Lesley Fidler
JEC Chair

Recent additions to the Stuart Groom Memorial Library



The unusual structure of shadow weave creates works that shimmer and glow with multifaceted dark-and-light colour. How and why did the legendary weavers Mary Meigs Atwater and Marian Powell develop it? And how, exactly, does it work? Even better, how do you write shadow weave drafts of your own design? This guide provides the answers with drafts included for 4, 6 and 8 shaft looms.



Since our Neolithic ancestors' first forays into sheep-rearing nearly 11,000 years ago, these remarkable animals have fed us, clothed us, changed our diet and language, and financed the conquest of large swathes of the earth. Sally Coulthard tells this fascinating story full of engaging anecdotes and extraordinary ovine facts, showing just how pivotal these woolly animals are to almost every aspect of human society and culture.



“This is a book about waste – about the coffee grounds your barista theows away; about the plastic swept off the floor of the recycling centre to which you dutifully send your empties; about the denim offcuts that didn’t even make it into your jeans. Ultimately, a book about waste is a book about everything.” Katie Treggiden, author

These books, and many more, may be borrowed by library members. If you wish to join the library please contact library@wsd.org.uk

Summer School 2025

Thank you to the Guild Secretaries who helped me to find the missing booking form for Summer School. I had received a deposit payment without a form – and didn’t want the person to miss out on a place on a course of their preference. All is now sorted!

Information for anyone booking a place – I will respond within 48 hours to every booking received (usually much sooner than that) so if you’ve not had a response by then, please get in touch again. I would rather get the information twice than not at all.

There is still time to book your place at Summer School – all bookings are looked at equally, it is not done on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. You have until midnight on 31st December!

Thank you to those who have already booked.

Sue Collins

Joint Summer School Coordinator

Speakers List Update

The Speakers List year ends with yet another addition.

Lucy Sugden. A tapestry artist from North Hertfordshire, Lucy graduated with a degree in constructed textiles, specialising in woven tapestry. She spent her early career developing arts education at her local arts centre, where she was the arts education manager working with the local college, schools and wider community.

In 2017 Lucy began to focus her time on creating her own artwork and now weaves and runs workshops from her garden studio. Her work is an exploration and development of process and often includes light play while sharing the beauty and tranquillity she experiences in her garden and nature. Since 2020 her woven art has been heavily influenced by her love of garden life and how supportive a garden can be to the local eco system. Lucy chooses to use repurposed and second-hand fibres to create her artwork which has become an integral part of how she creates her work and has a direct effect on design and possibility.

Her love of light play and glimpses of beauty and hope are entwined with her weaving as she uses both traditional techniques on frame looms and her own development of exploring her weaving processes on the circle loom to create 3-dimensional forms. Lucy is located within the East & South East of England area.

Highlight of the month: Sue McNivan



As a tutor of over 30 years, Sue has taught at over 50 guilds in the UK many of them multiple times. She aims to make her workshops fun and informative. They are based on learning new skills and perfecting aspects of spinning that allow for better quality yarns. Sue is based in Twynholm, Dumfries & Galloway and her workshops offer a wide range of topics including working with exotic fibres, fine spinning, drafting techniques, preparation for either worsted or woollen spinning, long draw and spinning for balance.

If you have booked a speaker or workshop tutor from the Speaker's List, do share your feedback to help other Guilds make their choices.

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 GIH 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