



NEWS November 2024

News from The Chair

We have some unusual requests sometimes. This one is for information about a 4 Shaft, countermarch wooden floor loom that is in pieces. We have had offers to help with putting the loom together again, but would like to know if there is anyone who knows anything about the London School of Weaving & The Kensington Weavers (Associated). They closed in 1970 and appeared to have had their own joiner who made the looms. As the Harris Tweed Museum (in Stornoway on Lewis) is interested in acquiring the loom in the future, it would be nice to add some information about the company who made it. Please let me know, chair@wsd.org.uk, and I will pass the information on.

The bookings for the Summer School 2025 are rolling in nicely, please send your booking by the end of December, sooner if possible, so that we can confirm the workshops and the accommodation required with Queen Margaret University.

If you are interested in the way that our summer school is organised, the costs calculated, the tutors booked, how it all works to provide the very best we can on a tight budget, please do email me.

Sue Collins as events coordinator is being kept busy by seeking for venues for the Conference and National Exhibition in 2026, as well as acting as joint summer school coordinator. Information and requests for help running these events will be coming soon.

The AGWSD relies totally on the volunteers who give their time and energies to provide the very best we can for the members of the guilds.

The AGWSD AGM is to be held on Saturday 7th June next year. It is an opportunity for your guild to have a say in how the Association is run and to help with the organisation by nominating a guild member for election to the GPC.

Circumstances have resulted in the three remaining officers, (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) all retiring at the same time. Not a very good situation, but it came about by circumstances beyond our control. The GPC has responsibility for the AGWSD as a whole. Currently the GPC is made up of the following roles:

Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Communications: Newsletter editor, Area Links for each of the five Areas

Events: Event coordinator, Convenor (of the current events such as the Summer School, Conference, National Exhibition)

Education: Coordinators for the Stuart Groom Memorial Library, Foundation Certificate, Certificate of Achievement, Certificate in Advanced Textile Studies and the Jennie Parry Graduate Showcase

At present these are filled with wonderful volunteers, but there is a time restriction on their tenure. The GPC invite any interested member of a guild to contact the AGWSD Secretary, or myself, for more information and to arrange for them to attend a GPC meeting as a visitor. During the winter months these are by zoom.

I met John Allen, one time AGWSD President recently and he asked how the Association was faring. His comment was, that if members of the guilds did not step up, there would be no organisation left. Which to my mind would be a tragedy.

Janet Crowther
AGWSD chair

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

Focus On.....Scotland, Northern Ireland and Other Guilds

Here are a selection of highlights from some of the Guilds that make up the SANIO area.

Ulster Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

It was great to join with the Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers in a shared stand at the first ever Belfast Knitting and Stitching Show. It was our biggest event of the year and the shows organisers think it



was one of their most successful. We spoke to hundreds of interested people over the four days and were able to educate many and enrol some as new guild members.

We are immensely proud that two of our members had their work selected for the National Exhibition at Hays Castle. Diana was able to get over for a visit, enjoyed seeing her piece on display and was happy to explain the story behind it to Janet Crowther.

Grampian Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

Grampian highlights included workshops on Shibori Dyeing with Sandra Hunter, Traditional Corn Dollies with Elaine Lindsay and an Introduction to Tapestry Weaving Alastair Duncan.

Under Alastair's expert guidance, look at these beautiful creations!



Dumfries & Galloway Guild of Spinners, Weavers, & Dyers

We have been busy in August with our display and demonstrations at Dumfries Agricultural show. Many of our members attended and enjoyed meeting the public and showing what we do as a guild. We have recruited some new members from this. At our September meeting we had a spindle spinning workshop with Sarah Beattie, this was very well attended and enjoyed by all with a lively discussion following on the merits of various spindles and associated tools. In October we had our annual Gathering with Coastal Colours as our visiting supplier. Many of our visitors were tempted by the super soft camel & silk fibres as well as equipment.

Throughout the year we had a full programme of demonstrations including Inkle Loom weaving, Portuguese Knitting, Felted 3D Flowers and felting on silk paper. Anyone interested in coming as a visitor to any of our meetings or as a member are very welcome, our new web site has all the information you need. <https://www.dgguildswd.org/>

The **Online Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** have had a great range of online workshops so far this year. Covering a wide range of topics to interest all members including UFO workshop, Establishing and Using a Dye Garden and the current Craft and Creative with Textile Waste workshop. To pick just one workshop to tell you about is very difficult but here we go - the Scottish Sheep fleece workshop with Ruth Filmer Robinson gave members the opportunity to purchase the study pack of raw fleece from the tutor and then spin along over 6 weeks, learning and feeling for themselves the difference in fleece. If members preferred to just to learn about the breeds without spinning the fleece they could use the accompanying notes and videos from the tutor. The videos were often filmed in a field with sheep in the background, helping to bring it all to life. The 2025 programme looks equally inspiring!

www.onlineguildswd.org.uk.

The **West of Scotland Guild** set off their year with the September Meeting which was an 'open day' allowing visitors to see the range of projects we work on. The meeting is as relaxed as we can make it and, as in all things in Scotland, it comes with a cup of tea with something by the side!

October's speaker was Bevan O'Daly and we enjoyed her conservation presentation. It was followed up by an animated discussion about moths with lots of suggested solutions to these pesky critters and the carnage they can produce. Bevan's bottom line was 'good housekeeping is key' so, no prizes for guessing what I did for the rest of the weekend. Any sewers/dressmakers reading this would love her shop full of carefully curated fabrics with the emphasis on sustainability. <https://bawntextiles.com/>

Glasgow School of Yarn is held in October in the Trades Hall in Glasgow Merchant City. This is a wonderful event run by Yarn Cake and this year we were invited to have a table to represent the Guild. We met folk from all over the world, but we were particularly pleased to chat with local people who showed an interest in the Guild. We have invited those interested in the Guild to come to our November meeting where we will have a tapestry weaving workshop.

Four of our members represented the Guild at The National Exhibition at Hay Castle this year. It was a shame none of us could get to see the entries on display, but that couldn't take away the enormous pride we all feel for our Guild member's skill and creativity. The photograph shows Caroline's entry.

The Act of Proscription of 1 August 1746 made wearing "the Highland Garb", including the kilt, by men and boys illegal in Scotland, north of the Highland line. The tartan is Cameron of Lochiel and the other side is the estate tweed from that area.



Pat Strong (Secretary West of Scotland Guild of WSD)

The **Highland Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers** started 2024 with an almost completely new committee, and it was quickly agreed that we would like to carry out a membership survey in order to get more insight into our members' priorities. Fortunately, we have a high level of on-line usage across our membership so were able to manage the survey on-line.

Our Guild area covers a third of the land area of Scotland, and includes the most remote and sparsely populated parts of the United Kingdom; it was the challenges presented by this geography that were the focus of our survey. For example we wanted to know about any barriers to attending our monthly Open Meetings and workshops/talks.

We had 49 responses, representing 55% of our membership, which far exceeded expectations and has shaped activities for the Guild for this and future years. One outcome was the decision to move our Open Meetings around the Highland region, and in May of this year we headed west to the Dundreggan Rewilding Centre in Glenmoriston. We were delighted to see not only the usual suspects, but also some new faces who don't make it to Strathpeffer, our headquarters; they must have heard about the cafe!

For our Open Meetings next year we will be heading north to Dornoch in March and west to Poolewe in May.

In parallel we continued with our usual programme of activities including regular Interest Group meetings via Zoom, external tutors and speakers, and we continue to be invited to more summer shows than we are able to support!

Photo credit: Stephanie Hoyle, Strathnairn Community Woodland Gala



I hope you enjoyed this round-up, Zoe Watson, Area Link sanio@wsd.org.uk

Prices for The Journal WSD from 1st January 2025

After much deliberation the Journal Editorial Committee (JEC) has reluctantly agreed that the cost of The Journal WSD will be increased from 1 January 2025. The new prices will be applied to all future orders. The current price will continue to apply to subscriptions that have already started in 2024 and to back copies ordered during 2024.

The new prices will be:

	£		
	Print	Digital*	Print and Digital*
Cover price per copy	8	NA	NA
Back copies	Check website www.wsd.org.uk/shop	NA	NA
Type of subscription (4 issues per annum)			
UK	24	24	29
UK Guild, student or recent graduate (up to 2 years after graduation)	22	22	27
UK Guild bulk subscription (mailed to one address; minimum 3 copies)	Enquire jecsubs@wsd.org.uk		
EU	34	NA	NA
Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland	34	24	39
Rest of the World	36	24	41

*Currently digital issues are only available on subscription, not for individual copies, and not at all for EU customers

The cost of The Journal WSD has remained unchanged for over 10 years but as we all know, the cost of postage, paper, printing and production have all increased over recent years.

Whilst JEC volunteers have worked hard to streamline processes and production, external factors are sadly outside our control. The Journal WSD is competitively priced when compared to other journals and magazines covering similar topics, and we believe it remains great value for money.

Kath Gerrard, Journal Subscriptions Manager

“TEXTILE DYES FOR TOMORROW” SEMINAR



14.O1.2025

How Does the Past Inform the Future
14 January 2025 11:00 - 13:00 EEST
Estonian National Museum

We would like to cordially invite you to join us for our upcoming public online seminar.

The public seminar will feature a series of brief presentations and a panel discussion focusing on the impact of and approaches to transforming the traditions of craft skills, textile production, and dyeing practices into sustainable cutting-edge colouration processes and the future development of dyeing technology for textile industries

Information about joining online can be found on the Colour4CRAFTS website: <https://colour4crafts.eu/>

Join us for this exciting seminar. Feel free to invite and share this invitation with your network(s). We look forward to seeing you at the event!

Speakers List Update

Another new speaker has been added to the list this month.

Angie Parker is a rug weaver, designer and textile artist based in Bristol. After training as a rug weaver in the early 1990's she pursued a career in costume for several years whilst continuing to weave on small-scale collections. During this time she developed the original style for which she has become known since setting up in business in 2014. She specialises in weaving the Norwegian technique of Krokbragd and combines this with an instinctive and daring approach to colour. Angie is known for importing a contemporary element to this traditional weave technique. Herefordshire Guild highly recommended Angie, who is based in the South & South West Area.

Highlight of the month: Carole Keepax



Carole started out as an environmental archaeologist and a fascination with the traditions and practice of natural dyeing inevitably followed once she joined the then newly formed Grampian Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. After many years of experience, she took her interest to the next level by doing the Association's Certificate of Achievement in Natural Dyeing in 2015 (Distinction). Since then she has completed a 'Hundred Dye Project', making samples from all the Scottish plants traditionally used as dyes which has been very instructive.

Carole offers a range of talks and workshops which she is happy to combine to suit the needs of any group. Talks can be delivered on Zoom. She is based in Aberdeen, but it is possible to charge travel from either Aberdeen or London.

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

Search for new Journal Editorial Committee members

We would love to welcome new volunteers to our team. If you have experience of, or simply an interest in editing or publishing and would like to be involved in the production of The Journal WSD - please get in touch info@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