



THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: www.wsd.org.uk
President: Jenny Balfour Paul Life President: Paddy Bakker
Vice Presidents: Peter Penneck, Jenifer Midgley

Association Newsletter, April 2017

Association News

AGM

The Annual General Meeting, held in Conway Hall, London on Saturday 22nd April, was attended by representatives of 52 Guilds, plus members of the General Purposes Committee (GPC) and the Journal Editorial Committee.

AGM Proposition from Montgomeryshire Guild

Montgomeryshire Guild proposed that regions be renamed to indicate their geographical area. Following quite a lively and interesting debate by delegates at the AGM, this was passed. The GPC would therefore like to suggest the following are adopted:

- A. Scotland & Northern Ireland
- B. North of England
- C. North West of England
- D. West Midlands
- E. East Midlands
- F. Wales
- G. South Central England
- H. East of England
- I. South West of England
- J. South East of England

The On-line Guild are included in all regions, as membership is widespread and some are also members of land Guilds.

There was a suggestion from one delegate that regions should be allowed to choose their own name. Obviously, this is a decision for the individual Guilds & regions themselves but one that they would have to organise and vote on, and advise the GPC of the outcome.

Unless we hear to the contrary by 10th June 2017, the GPC would like to assume that the above are acceptable to all Guilds in all regions.

Angela Colbridge



Stuart Groom Memorial Library

Association Library

Delegates at the AGM broke in to spontaneous applause, when it was announced that the long term future of the library had been secured but also because it was announced to name the library in memory of Stuart Groom, as he was instrumental in saving it the last time round and was always very keen and enthusiastic to take it to as many Association events as possible.

We have to thank Nik Knott (from Diss Guild) and her husband for offering to house the library permanently, at their home in Norfolk. Nik will run the library from her home.

Nik has designed the attached logo and we have spoken to Jean Groom, who is delighted.

Nik has now collected the books and is currently sorting through them. There are a few books, which are no longer fit for purpose and initially it was thought we could sell them at Summer School but have been advised you cannot sell books, which have been given for review purposes. A decision will be made as to what to do with any of these books once they have been sorted.

A pricing structure for postage and packing has to be agreed and this will be posted on the Association website, so all members will know what the costs will be.

We have had endless discussions on how to make the whole system user friendly, safe and secure and not over burdensome for Nik. We also need to protect the library from any potential infiltrators, looking for rare and or expensive books. It has been agreed that Guild members will be required to become members of The Stuart Groom Library and will have to complete an application form with contact details, which will be signed by Guild Chair or secretary. Nik will then issue a membership no, which can be quoted each time a request is made. Members will also receive a list of books available, which Nik will keep updated. Hopefully this will simplify the handling of requests for Nik too.

Members without email access can submit their applications by post with an sae for the book list to be sent to them.

There will be two forms of payment available, one on-line and one by cheque to accommodate all member preferences.

The library is constantly growing as new books from the Journal review are added.

If anyone has books they no longer use/require and would like to donate them please contact Nik on library@wsd.org.uk. We wouldn't obviously be able accept duplicates of ones already stocked.

Leaflets about the library will be printed, with application form attached and these will be available at Association events. Application form will also be available from Association website.

A new stamp will be made and all books will be stamped with logo.

Books can be borrowed either by individuals or Guilds for a maximum of two months. Delay in sending them back will result in a penalty of £1.00 per week, per book, until it/they are returned. Loss or damage will be charged at current value.

Nik can be contacted at any time on email but will only be sending out books once a month, again this will all be posted on The Association website. Nik is also proposing that she will invite Guilds to come to her house on predetermined days to borrow and return books. She will not be operating an open all hours' library but if you are in the area and would like to visit you must contact her in the first instance.

There are some forty books missing and maybe members have just forgotten they have them? We have no way of finding out who borrowed them but would be very grateful if you have a book or even books to get in touch with Nik. There is obviously no fine for returning them. We have located a few, one borrowed at the Conference in Manchester in 2014 and one at Summer School 2015, so you may have to think back quite a way.

All matters relating to the administration of the library will continue to be ratified by the GPC, Nik will not be making any charge for the storage, whilst in her care. The Library remains the sole property of AGWSD and will be fully insured by The Association.

At the AGM 2018 Nik will provide the first annual review of the library, which will include an annual stock take, the number of members signed up, frequency of use, plus a breakdown of expenditure and income. The Library must be self-sustainable.

Nik will be co-opted on to the GPC at the next meeting in June 2017

The GPC are delighted to be able to pass on this wonderful news, as we have heard from many Guild members who were devastated at the possible loss of the library. We are therefore hoping that all members will make good use of this valuable resource.

Nik will be writing in the next Association Newsletter updating all this information and giving a launch date for members to join The Stuart Groom Library.

Angela Colbridge

AGWSD Sumer School 2017 'Simply Special' Open Day and Trade Fair

The Summer School Open Day and Trade Fair, including Tutor's Exhibition and CoA Exhibition, will take place on Saturday 19 August, 10:00 – 16:00 at Sparsholt College, Winchester; all welcome.

'A Touch of Silk' Exhibition

An exhibition of the work of members of Guilds in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, including Online Guild members who live in this region. To be held in conjunction with AGWSD Summer School 2017 'Simply Special', between 01 August - 01 September 2017 at Whitchurch Silk Mill, Hampshire.

Members of the AGWSD Guilds in, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Online members who live in this region are invited to submit work to the A Touch of Silk' exhibition.

Submission information has been emailed to your Guild Secretary and is also available from the convenor, janet.crowther@btinternet.com.

The Certificate of Achievement needs more Mentors

At present over 100 candidates are registered for the CoA and we just don't have enough mentors to support them, especially in Scotland and the North of England. CoA mentors are experienced and active practitioners in their subject(s) and play an important part in helping the candidates work through the demanding syllabus.

This is a voluntary role and it involves supporting the candidate by listening, discussing ideas, looking at samples and notes, suggesting sources of information and help, and generally being encouraging. You need to have an idea of the standard of work expected for a CoA submission, but you do not have to second-guess the Assessor. The relationship between candidate and mentor is generally a confidential one, although if either party felt there was a difficulty which could not be resolved between them, then they can contact the CoA Co-ordinator.

There are various ways that a mentor and candidate can work together. Ideally they can meet face to face if they live close enough to one another. However, for most people it will be more convenient to use email and telephone for most of their communication. It may be possible for the candidate to post small samples and examples of notes to the mentor for comment (return postage paid, of course). Therefore, living in a remote place or outside the UK need not prevent mentor and candidate keeping up a useful correspondence.

It is also possible for one mentor to hold group sessions with candidates if all agree. This is another way of making the best use of time, especially where there are long distances to travel.

On a more informal note, I can also say from experience that being a mentor is very enjoyable. Most of the people currently on the mentors' list have served for many years. Recently some have withdrawn with reluctance only because age or ill-health prevents them continuing.

If you are interested and would like to discuss the possibility of becoming a mentor please contact Heather Seddon by email (hfseddon@btinternet.com) or by phone (01946 861515).

Journal News

Current Issue of the Journal

The current issue of The Journal, issue 261 Spring 2017, contains articles on the following:

- Experimenting with Alpaca, by Jane Lucas
- Weaving with Máximo Laura, by Ros Wilson
- Three interviews with award winners at New Designers 2016
- Readers' Showcase: Firth of Tay, by Cally Booker
- The Dye Plant Garden, by Susan Dye, & Ashley Walker

<http://www.thejournalforwsd.org.uk/>

Advertisement for new Journal Designer:

Due to the forthcoming retirement of our longstanding designer, Ros Lobb, we are looking for a passionate and enthusiastic replacement who shares and understands our thoughts and views to help the WS&D Journal achieve its goals.

This role is likely to suit an applicant with a degree in graphic design and ideally an active interest in textiles. It includes creating, using computer software, and designing the overall layout of the Journal by communicating Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing ideas that inspire readers.

The design should reflect the Aims of the Association by: 'encouraging the excellence of craftsmanship' and 'a sense of beauty of material, texture, colour and design'

This appointment carries an Honorarium payment, as the designer is not officially a member of the JEC. If you would like to find out more please contact Christina Chisholm on chair@thejournalforwsd.org.uk

Person Specification:

- Good computer, graphic software skills including Photoshop
- Eagle eye for detail
- Communication and interpersonal skills with JEC and print shop
- Able to work on your own as well as part of a team
- Enthusiastic
- Self motivated and hardworking
- Self sufficient time management – ability to meet deadlines

Role Responsibilities:

- Designing, producing the Journal magazine, brochures, and other artwork e.g. adverts, from the Collator and Advertising Manager
- Preparing the layout, designing article pages
- Preparing photos i.e. re-sizing, cropping
- Preparing and sending first proofs to JEC members for reading before JEC meeting
- Attending quarterly JEC committee meetings (Saturdays in Central London)
- Correcting first proofs
- Preparing and sending copies of second proofs
- Correcting second proofs
- Make classified adverts and Association adverts
- Layout for Classified page
- Classified page to advertising manager for checking
- Making space for final number of adverts
- Send list of adverts positions to printer
- Receive advert proof pages for checking from printer
- Preparing final magazine electronic files ready for print
- Re-sizing and sending images for Social Media; also any needed by the GPC
- Arranging images and downloadable article for Website editor
- Make reciprocal adverts for magazines, agree with ads manager prior to sending electronic files

Coming Next Issue!

We are now putting together the Summer issue of the Journal, to be published on Friday 26th May. To celebrate what we hope will be vibrant days filled with hot summer sun, we're painting the Journal red! Unravel more mysteries of Turkey Red under the expert guidance of Julie Wertz, and learn how to produce both red and yellow natural dyes from the same safflower petals from well-known author Jenny Dean. Michael Crompton describes the development of his tapestry design from his travel experiences, while Ann Fisher brings us back to basics with her detailed Spinner's Glossary. Historians will enjoy Glenys Crocker's exploration of the warp weighted loom, while Beryl Cole's very recently designed and registered tartan provides a unique highlight to her daughter's wedding.

Guild Highlights Submissions

Have you welcomed any interesting tutors or speakers to your Guild meetings recently? If so, and you feel other Guilds would appreciate fresh ideas, please consider writing a short piece for the *Guild Highlights* pages of the Journal. Contributions should be up to 300 words, accompanied by a high-resolution digital image (1 MB or greater file size), and sent to our Guild Highlights and Readers Showcase Editor, Sally Firth, at rigglands@gmail.com.

Recent News from Guilds

Durham Guild Chinese Whispers Project

Durham Guild have been working on a project since January 2016 called Chinese Whispers. Twelve members signed up for the challenge to produce images using fibres and or yarn.

Each member was allowed just six weeks to create their work, which had to measure 30x30cm. Once completed a photograph of her piece, was sent to the next member. No-one was allowed to discuss or reveal their work until April 2017 when the story and images were revealed.

The exhibition runs until 31st May 2017 at Durham World Heritage Site Visitors Centre.

More information and a reveal of the completed pieces here:

<https://dgswd.wordpress.com/2017/05/02/fabulous-exhibition-chinese-whispers/>

Birmingham Guild have a talk by Alison Ellen, *'Stitch-led design - shaping knitting with stitches and knitting in different directions'* on Saturday 13 May. Visitors welcome; £5 entry, including tea/coffee and cake. The meeting takes place at Friends Meeting House, Watford Road, Cotteridge; 10:00-16:00, with the talk starting at 14:00.

Cheshire Guild are holding a Friendship Day on Saturday 20 May 10:00 - 16:00, at Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 7QN. A selection of stalls including Yarns from the Plain, and Crafts from the Dungeon will be attending. RSVP to cheshireguildwsd@gmail.com

Tynedale Guild are having their annual Spinner's Gathering at Stocksfield Community Centre on Saturday 20 May, 10:00 – 16:00. There will be lots of stalls, with a chance to buy fibres, yarns, patterns, books and many other textile accessories from a range of suppliers as well as refreshments. Entrance is £2 at the door.

Bowland Guild are holding a Friendship Day on Saturday 03 June 10:30 – 15:00, at Gisburn Festival Hall, Bentlea Road, Gisburn, BB7 4LL. A selection of stalls covering a range of crafts will be there, including Scottish Fibres, Dales Crafts and Coastal Colours. Entrance is free of charge. RSVP to Bowlandwsd@yahoo.co.uk

Lancs and Lakes Guild will be exhibiting and demonstrating at the Silverdale and Arnside Art and Craft Trail, Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June (17:00-22:00 Friday; 10:30-17:30 Saturday and Sunday). Find us at Venue 21, Silverdale St John's Primary School, Emesgate Lane, Silverdale, Lancashire, LA5 0RF. Further information at <http://saactrail.co.uk/> Come and find us on your way to or from Woolfest.

East Sussex Guild will hold their biennial Exhibition and Sale on 27 – 28 October 2017 at Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex.

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Open Days and Exhibition, The Spinners and Weavers Workshop, 13 - 14 May 2017, Taunton
Annual open days and exhibition, where you are able to view work carried out by members and students at the Workshop.

<http://www.spinnersandweaversworkshop.com/>

Entangled: Threads & Making, until 17 May 2017 at Turner Contemporary, Margate, Kent

Features over 40 international female artists who expand the possibilities of knitting and embroidery, weaving, sewing and wood carving, often incorporating unexpected materials such as plants, clothing, hair and bird quills.

<https://www.turnercontemporary.org/exhibitions/entangled-threads-making>

Chinese Whispers, until 31 May 2017 at Durham World Heritage Site Visitors Centre

Exhibition by Durham Guild members of a sequence of textile images.

<https://dgsword.wordpress.com/2017/05/02/fabulous-exhibition-chinese-whispers/>

World Textile Day Central, Saturday 03 June at King's Sutton Millenium Memorial Hall, Oxfordshire

Exhibition of woven, printed and embroidered textiles from around the world, and a fair trade market.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk/index.php>

RBST Fleece Sale, Sunday 04 June, 10:00 – 15:00 at RBST HQ Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, CV8 2LG

Huge Selection of sheep fleeces for sale, plus refreshments and advice.

John Arbon Textiles' Annual Mill Open Weekend, 10 – 11 June 2017, South Molton, Devon.

<https://www.jarbon.com/mill-open-weekend>

World Textile Day Scotland, Saturday 17 June at Bridge of Allan Parish Church of Scotland

Exhibition of woven, printed and embroidered textiles from around the world, and a fair trade market.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk/index.php>

Fibre Yarns by The Hardway Textile Group, 05 - 25 June 2017, at The Bibbern Gallery @ The Exchange, Dorset

A mixture of textile techniques by this group of friends, from wearable art to fibre paintings – including weaving, spinning, dyeing, hand and machine embroidery, braiding, and felt work.

<http://stur-exchange.co.uk/>

Black Sheep The Darker Side of Felt, 08 May – 02 July 2017 at Beacon Museum, Whitehaven
Showcasing technically-brilliant and contemporary feltmakers.

<http://www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk/whatson/#black-sheep-the-darker-side-of-felt>

The Weaver's Apprentice, 10 March – 03 July at Dovecot Gallery, Edinburgh

This exhibition tells the story of the Dovecot weaving apprenticeship. A supporting programme of events will run alongside this exhibition, with an emphasis on the stories behind the tapestries, the apprentices and Dovecot's heritage.

<https://dovecotstudios.com/gallery/exhibitions/the-weaver-s-apprentice/>

Lucienne Day - A Sense of Growth, 14 April – 16 July 2017 at The Whitworth, The University of Manchester

Best-known for her textiles, Lucienne Day was an enthusiastic gardener and plant forms inspired many of her textile designs.

<http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/currentexhibitions/lucienneday/>

‘Simply Special’ AGWSD Summer School, 13 - 20 August 2017 at Sparsholt College, Westley Lane, Sparsholt, Winchester, SO21 2NF

The Summer School Open Day and Trade Fair, including Tutor’s Exhibition and CoA Exhibition, will take place on Saturday 19 August 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; all welcome.

<http://www.wsd.org.uk/news.php?id=57>

Here & Now, 01 Apr – 04 June 2017 at MAC Birmingham; 23 June – 01 October 2017 at the Holburne Museum

Curated exhibition of contemporary tapestry. Alongside British tapestry weavers, the exhibition features international artists from Australia, Norway, Latvia, Japan and the USA with over 20 artists represented overall.

<http://www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk/whatson/#here-and-now>

‘A Touch of Silk’ Exhibition, 01 August - 01 September 2017 at Whitchurch Silk Mill, Hampshire, 28 Winchester Street, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7AL

An exhibition of the work of the members of Guilds of WS&D in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, including Online Guild members who live in this region. To be held in conjunction with AGWSD Summer School 2017 ‘Simply Special’.

<http://whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk/mill/index.php/home>

Chris Ofili: Weaving Magic, 26 April – 28 August 2017 at The National Gallery, London

Turner Prize winner Chris Ofili unveils a new tapestry, handwoven by Dovecot Tapestry Studio. The tapestry goes on permanent display in the Clothworkers’ Hall following this exhibition.

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/chris-ofili-weaving-magic>

World Textile Day East, Saturday 09 September at Mundford Village Hall, Norfolk

Exhibition of woven, printed and embroidered textiles from around the world, and a fair trade market.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk/index.php>

World Textile Day North, Saturday 23 September at Frodsham Community Centre, Cheshire

Exhibition of woven, printed and embroidered textiles from around the world, and a fair trade market.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk/index.php>

World Textile Day West, Saturday 30 September at Salford Hall, Bristol

Exhibition of woven, printed and embroidered textiles from around the world, and a fair trade market.

<http://www.worldtextileday.co.uk/index.php>

Campaign for Wool, Wool Week, October 2017

<http://www.campaignforwool.org/>

House Style, 25 March - 22 October 2017 at Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire

An exhibition exploring five centuries of fashion and adornment at Chatsworth, curated by Hamish Bowles, International Editor-at-Large at American Vogue.

<https://www.chatsworth.org/events/house-style/>

East Sussex Guild Biennial Exhibition and Sale, 27 – 28 October 2017 at Town Hall, Lewes, East Sussex.

Made in the Middle, until 25 November 2017 at various venues

Touring exhibition which showcases and sells some of the best contemporary craft and applied art from across the Midlands.

<http://craftspace.co.uk/made-in-the-middle-2016/>

Indigo Sutra, 09 - 11 November 2017 at Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Kolkata

The three day event will comprise of seminar, workshops on indigo dyeing, demonstrations, exhibitions, films and Grand bazaar. There will be optional textile tours.

<http://sutrertextilestudies.com/upcomingevent.html>

Katagami – the Craft of the Japanese Stencil, 11 April – 07 December 2017 at ULITA (Archive of International Textiles), The University of Leeds

This exhibition celebrates one of the archives major collections – ‘katagami’, Japanese resist dyeing stencils.

<http://ulita.leeds.ac.uk/events/katagami-the-craft-of-the-japanese-stencil/>

Elsewhere on the Web

- [The Newtown Textile Museum](#), one of the few remaining examples of a hand loom weaving ‘factory’, is open for the 2017 season. Based in Newtown in Mid Wales, the Museum is open 01 May until the end of September on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (12:00 – 16:00) and Saturday (10.30 – 16:00). Admission is free and on most Saturdays there are craft demonstrations in the museum. Private tours can also be organised.
- The Heritage Craft Association published their [The Radcliffe Red List of Endangered Crafts](#).
- Mapuche weaving and eco-printing are amongst the courses on offer at [Springfield Arts](#).
- John Arbon Textiles’ annual [Mill Open Weekend](#) will take place on Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 June.
- The Natural Fibre Company are looking for Castlemilk Moorit, any lustre wool, and Black Leicester Longwool fleeces. Potential suppliers should contact enquiries@thenaturalfibre.co.uk.

Other Newsletters

- [Crafts Council Newsletter](#)
- [Voluntary Arts Newsletter](#)
- [Craft & Design Newsletter](#)
- [Craft Industry Alliance Newsletter](#)

Contact & Social Media

If you have an item for inclusion in the next monthly newsletter, please sent to:

newsletter@wsd.org.uk

If you have an event/exhibition for inclusion in the next issue of The Journal, please send to:

diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk

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