



THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: www.wsd.org.uk
Vice Presidents: Peter Penneck, Jenifer Midgley

President: Jenny Balfour Paul
Life President: Paddy Bakker

Newsletter September 2015

Association News

Welcome to our September newsletter. This year, our 60th Anniversary of the Association has seen some very successful events. To recap, the anniversary cakes for our AGM, the knit for peace project (ongoing), more recently the twin spin in conjunction with Campaign for wool (still ongoing) and our Summer School 2015 which was, I hope, much enjoyed by a lot of people both students, organisers, tutors, traders and visitors to the open day. I myself attended for the first time and met many new friends and learned a great deal.

2016 Exhibition The prestigious Association exhibition is coming up in 2016. The exhibition will be held at Killerton House, which is a National Trust property near Exeter in Devon that has good exhibition space and access. It will run from 8th to 18th September. It may seem far away, but now is the time to be thinking about making something to submit. The exhibition is to show all our crafts, and it doesn't have to be a final piece; yardage and skeins are very welcome.

2016 Conference - Lincoln The 2016 Conference will be held at Bishop Grossteste University in Lincoln from 10-12 June 2016. This is a chance to go hear some interesting talks and experience the conference while it is nearby. Conference is a wonderful time to get inspired, and to meet up with lots of like-minded people. Do consider giving it a go when it is held so near us!

TwinSpin

The word is out there and already we are getting enquiries from people who have seen it on social media. Lorna who is responsible for both The Journal Facebook & Twitter has had an amazing response to her first postings. Over 1000 people saw it in the first two days!! Since then I have had a steady stream of enquiries, which I am passing on to the local Guilds. Hopefully I will be able to manage this influx into my in box!!

We have had messages from organisations and people who have their own blogs, wanting to learn to spin but also blog 'their journey'. This is now beginning to go beyond our normal audience, which is great news for Guilds and the potential for new members.

Campaign for Wool are also gearing up with their promotion of TwinSpin, so really hoping that together we can all put this out far and wide and attract a completely new audience. We are hoping to enlist our 'first born twins' to blog their progress, so if you have someone who would be willing to do that please let me know.

If you follow any FB sites, please ask them to post and share the poster.

Try contacting local knitting groups, many are on Ravelry. So much can be done to promote this from the comfort of your chair and all for free.

The whole purpose of the campaign is to help Guilds inspire a whole new generation of spinners, of all ages and hopefully new members.

On the Woolfest website there are these very well written free downloads and maybe something you could consider as hand-outs at your TwinSpin events, especially to your new 'twins'

<http://www.woolfest.co.uk/downloads/FleeceSell.Web.pdf>

<http://www.woolfest.co.uk/downloads/FleeceSort.web-1.pdf>

<http://www.woolfest.co.uk/downloads/FleeceWash.web-1.pdf>

Please keep in touch regarding your own events and also post any pictures on the Association and Journal FB.

Just to clarify the TwinSpin project. This is a National Campaign to raise awareness of The Association but more importantly to raise awareness of all Guilds and hopefully to help them recruit more members. By partnering with someone with a much higher profile than our own, we hope to reach a far wider audience than would be possible with our limited resources, in terms of both finance and people. We therefore hope that when we refer enquiries to Guilds, they will offer people the chance to have a go at spinning before discussing about joining a Guild. There is no obligation on anyone to join a Guild to learn to spin on the Campaign poster, which I am sure all Guilds do anyway but just wanted to make sure everyone understands what the campaign is all about. We don't want people to feel they have to join a Guild, then find this is not for them.

This is a truly wonderful opportunity, which we hope all Guilds will embrace, as enquiries are coming in on a daily basis and the poster has now been shared by many on social media, including RBST, Permaculture, Castle Milk Moorit Group, Portland Sheep Society to name a few and it is growing all the time.

Others want to get involved and are offering events, such as Weald & Downland and Cotswold Farm Park which the local Guilds are now involved in.

If you are organising events please do go to The Campaign for Wool website to the Love Wool section and add your own events there.

Posters at the end of this newsletter

Knit for Peace

There seems to have been a late surge in the numbers of Guilds making dressing gowns and this is fantastic. Many thanks to all who have taken time to do this as I know from talking to Knit for Peace, that very sadly the need is desperate. Those who have made them will know at least one person is able to stay so much warmer this winter.

Please make sure you get them to the address below, so that we can present these en mass to Knit for Peace at Alexandra Palace on Friday 9th October. If you are going to be there please let me know, as we would love as many of the dressing gowns to be worn for a photo opportunity.

Thank you to those Guilds who have contacted Jennifer Midgley to let her know when they will be posting the dressing gowns to her, or that they will not be able to send one after all. If you come into either of these 2 groups and have not yet contacted her please do so via

jenifermidgley@yahoo.com

If you are posting, can you please not send them to her until last week in September. Her address is 86, St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 2LP

The Journal

Exhibition Reviews Editor and Diary Compiler Needed

The Journal is looking for a volunteer to 'shadow' our Exhibition Reviews Editor and Diary Compiler, with a view to taking on this enjoyable and interesting role at the end of April 2016 when Jill Davies 'retires' from the JEC.

The person taking on this role needs to have literacy and computer skills, enjoy communicating with others, be willing to work as part of an enthusiastic team and be able to organise necessary tasks to meet Journal copy deadlines.

Training will be given, and all out of pocket expenses, including travel costs to the quarterly meetings held in London, will be reimbursed.

If you would like to find out more please contact Dawn Willey chair@thejournalforwsd.org.uk

Guild News

Bucks Guild

Apologies for late notice

Heather Seddon will be visiting our guild on 5 September 2015 to talk about the Certificate of Achievement and we would welcome anyone wanting to join us from other guilds.

19 September– World Wide Spin in Public Day and skill share **York & District Guild** will be participating in the World Wide Spin in Public Day. We will be spinning in public at Sewerby Park in Bridlington. Dawn is organizing this event, and Liz will be the anchor at the event. Check the Sewerby website for directions www.sewerbyhall.co.uk. More information will be sent out by email once we have the details. If you don't get guild emails, contact Dawn closer to time. As our September meeting date coincides with World Wide Spin in Public Day, the schedule has been changed and there will not be a speaker. There will be a skill share at Murton for those not wanting to attend the World Wide Spinning Day event. If you aren't going to Bridlington, bring a wheel or spindle or loom or anything else you are working on and join in.

LONDON GUILD OF WEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS

We are exhibiting our work at St Martin in The Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, from 8 September-3rd October 2015

"Waste Nothing- Finding a home for the Discarded"

This exhibition brings together original textiles and yarns designed and made by members of the London Guild using old textiles, yarns and other materials and demonstrates our creativity in transforming unwanted materials into something new.

Free admission - open Daily 11.am-6pm.



CREATIVE HANDS

West Berkshire Museum
Newbury 30th September
to 29th November



AN EXHIBITION OF WORK
BY MEMBERS OF THE
KENNET VALLEY GUILD

This year featuring
BEAUTIFUL BOXES
and
Work inspired by
CHARLES RENNIE
MACINTOSH



Other Exhibitions coming up

Sedbergh SHEEPFEST 2015 – 12-19 September This big festival will run for 9 days. In recognition that 2015 is the Chinese Year of the Sheep, this year there will be a distinctly oriental feel to the celebrations. The heart of Sheepfest will be the wonderful sheep created by the people of Sedbergh, and this year some very colourful guests are arriving to take their place amongst the Rough Fell and Herdwicks.

Sounds of the times

NOISE was a big part of apprentice life at Quarry Bank Mill.

For at least 12 hours a day the workers toiled in stifling hot and humid conditions, but often it was the clattering sound of machinery that most impacted on their health during the 1800s. Now those sounds have inspired Aural Looms, an exhibition at Quarry Bank that explores the rhythm and pattern found amongst the deafening roar and constant whirring noises.

“Conditions were incredibly tough for the apprentices during the height of the Industrial Revolution, but this exhibition will be taking a unique view of the sounds they experienced,” said Visitor Experience Officer Kate Picker.

“If people want to hear what the actual machinery sounds like they can explore the mill itself as they are still in operation. However, this will be a more fun and playful look at the noises that are created.”

When the mill was still producing cotton in the 1800s the noise of the machines was deafening, often leaving workers to communicate via sign language.

It also meant they became good lip readers, which made gossiping difficult because other workers could 'overhear' conversations from a distance.

Quarry Bank's latest exhibition recreates sounds from the mill in a series of interactive artworks. Curators Mid Conversation – Manchester-based artists Elizabeth Atherton and Laura Blake – have also included contemporary textile artworks.

Elizabeth and Laura met while studying embroidery at the School of Art, MMU and wanted to work together after graduating.

Their collaborations draw on tactile use of materials to create large scale works that allow the viewer, in turn, to become the maker.

Their first collective work used 18 miles of cotton thread and opened Elizabeth and Laura's eyes to the North West's rich textile heritage.

Further projects left them enamoured with the aesthetics of textile machinery and this has resulted in Aural Looms, which focusses on the sounds of Quarry Bank's waterwheel, the mill's mule and the looms.

"We're very excited to be working with Elizabeth and Laura and think everyone will enjoy this sensory experience," said Kate Picker.

Aural Looms opens on September 12 (11am to 4pm) and runs until November 22.

Letter from Macclesfield Museums- Would anyone like to contact Rose directly to demonstrate at her event?

I am currently planning our Makers Day in November – this is a hands-on craft fair for visitors to browse and buy handmade items and have-a-go at different crafts.

I wondered if you had any contact details for any local members of the Spinners, Weavers and Dyers Guild who might like to demonstration spinning or weaving? Or sell any locally made products.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many Thanks,
Rose Smith

Event Coordinator- Macclesfield Museums
The Old Sunday School,
Roe Street,
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SK11 6UT

@maccsilkmuseum

www.facebook.com/pages/Macclesfield-Museums/661085717235770

www.facebook.com/MakersMacc

Masham Sheep fair 26-27 September

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

Yarndale Skipton 26-27 September

<http://yarndale.co.uk/>

Links to other newsletters you may find interesting

[Voluntary Arts News](#)

[Heritage Crafts News](#)

[Crafts Council Weekly Round Up](#)

[Get Creative](#)

The Newsletter is attached at the end of our Newsletter but as it was in pdf format It did not copy very well. If you are interested in getting this newsletter you may be better subscribing yourself on the bbc site.

ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS SPINNERS AND DYERS website:

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

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com>

If any guild wants to let me know about their upcoming events, speakers or guild workshops, please email the information to info@wsd.org.uk. Please note the subject box “guild newsletter”

BBC ARTS Get Creative

Newsletter 6
August 2015

EVERYDAY ARTISTS

Each week we shine a light on an everyday artist – ordinary people doing something extraordinary with their creativity. From model makers to impressive painters, they've been a Get Creative success story, so if you know someone who could be an Everyday Artist, let us know by emailing getcreative@bbc.co.uk.

Icing's on the Cake

Who doesn't love cake? With the return of the Great British Bake Off, digital merchandiser Anneka Gamble helped inspire wannabe bakers with top tips on sugar-crafting to give every cake a finish with a flourish. She's Get Creative's star baker!



Recreating your job in miniature

Construction worker Gary Cummins spends his work life operating heavy equipment but it's the lighter side of photography that is his hobby and escape. He recreates scenes in miniature, many of them with a building theme, giving a giant and humorous perspective on everyday life, whether that's excavating an avocado with a mini digger or using tiny pots of red paint for a manicure.

Model Behaviour

Its eyes are made of ping-pong balls, the loin cloth is an old cut up leather jacket and the frame is built on a discarded fishing rod. This model of the alien from Predator was designed and built by Kidderminster landscape gardener Joe Whiteman after what he called 'an early mid-life crisis' made him look for an after-work hobby. "Some people buy a Ferrari. I decided to make a life-size model of the Predator" he says.



CHAMPIONS

There are some fantastic events being held under the Get Creative banner by champions across the country. Each week, we pull together a list of highlights and feature many on our homepage. Keep telling us about them by emailing getcreative@bbc.co.uk.



Twitter Takeover

How would you feel about handing over the password to your Twitter account for the day? That's exactly what the National Trust and the National Portrait Gallery, amongst others, did on Thursday 20th August as young people staged a Teen Twitter Takeover, organised by the Kids in Museums charity. The hashtag #takeoverday trended on the social media platform and, as the charity says, it's a great way to see our galleries and museums through fresh eyes.

Roundhouse Utopia

Visitors to Penny Woolcock's new urban-themed installation at The Roundhouse in London had the opportunity to ignore the usual £10 charge every Tuesday. For three of the 19-day run, the award-winning filmmaker invited visitors to her Utopia exhibition to pay what they wanted, even if it was nothing.



www.bbc.co.uk/getcreative

LEARN TO SPIN FIND A TWIN!

The Campaign for Wool has joined with the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers to celebrate their 60th Anniversary. Together, we want to create a new generation of hand spinners and preserve one of the wool industry's original skills. So we have created a great new promotion called TwinSpin!

COME ALONG
AND JOIN US AT

ON

Spinning is
very relaxing
and therapeutic -
put the technology
away and join
TwinSpin!

◆ What is TwinSpin?

TwinSpin is all about learning how to spin natural fleece wool into wool yarn with the help of an experienced spinner.

◆ How you can get involved...

TwinSpin will pair you with an enthusiast, and they will help you learn the impressive art of spinning yarn.

◆ Who can get involved?

Anybody! If you are a textile student, a knitter, a crafter - you can be dyed in the wool or new to the wool - its just about interest and enthusiasm!

Find your TwinSpin now by contacting
TwinSpin@wsd.org.uk



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THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Falken INN The Prince of Wales



Live Naturally... Choose Wool

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