



## **THE CONSTITUTION**

of the

## **DEVON GUILD of WEAVERS, SPINNERS and DYERS**

### **1. NAME**

The Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. There shall be no unauthorized use of the name of the Guild.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Guild are to encourage and promote the work of weavers, spinners and dyers; to raise the standards of workmanship and design; and to promote the public interest by:

- a. Arranging meetings for lectures and discussions.
- b. Holding periodic exhibitions.
- c. Organizing residential courses and working groups.
- d. Supporting events organized by the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and allied organisations to further these objectives.
- e. Furthering the interchange of ideas with neighbouring Guilds.

### **3. COMMITTEE & OFFICERS**

The affairs of the Guild shall be managed by a Committee not exceeding eight in number, exclusive of officers and of members co-opted for any specific purpose. Only Full Members are eligible to serve as officers and committee members. The officers shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be ex-officio members of such other committees as may be formed within the Guild.

- a. The Chairman shall be elected as required by an AGM and shall hold office for no longer than three years, after which he/she shall not be eligible to serve as officer or committee member until one year has elapsed.
- b. The Secretary and Treasurer shall each be appointed by the Committee as required, confirmed in office at the next AGM and hold office for no longer than, normally, three years. They may not be re-appointed until one year has elapsed.
- c. One of the Committee members shall be appointed by the Committee, as required, to act as Vice-Chairman during his/her Committee service.
- d. Two members of the Committee in rotations shall stand down each year after, normally, three years service. In order to ensure this, Committee members will be elected by the AGM as required. A retiring Committee member is not eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed.
- e. Nominations for vacancies shall be called for two meetings prior to the AGM and completed nominations, with the nominees' agreements, handed to the Secretary at the meeting prior to the AGM.
- f. The Committee is empowered to co-opt members until the time of the next AGM to make up the number of the Committee; also to co-opt other members for a limited period for specific purposes.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

Full or Associate Membership shall be open to all genuinely interested in the Guild crafts, whether practising or not.

- a. Full membership shall include entitlement to vote at General Meetings, to exhibit with the Guild and to receive newsletters.
- b. Associate membership, at a reduced subscription, shall not give entitlement to vote or to exhibit but shall give entitlement to newsletters. Associate members are to pay a fee when attending meetings.
- c. The Committee is empowered to suspend admissions from time to time until not later than the next AGM. That AGM shall determine whether applicants still so excluded shall now be admitted and whether any current suspension shall remain in force.

#### **5. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- a. The amount of the Annual Subscription shall be determined from time to time at a General Meeting. Subscriptions for the following year become due at each AGM. Members joining after 31<sup>st</sup> May shall pay half the current annual subscription.
- b. A member whose subscription for the new year has not been paid by the close of the January meeting shall be sent a reminder. If the subscription remains unpaid by the close of the February meeting, membership will be deemed to have lapsed. Such termination of membership may, in extenuating circumstances, be delayed at the discretion of the Chairman.

#### **6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

There shall be an AGM at which every member shall be entitled to speak and vote. The AGM shall:

- a. Receive the reports of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- b. Elect Chairman and Committee members as required.
- c. Appoint an auditor.
- d. Consider and vote on any motion proposed by Guild members.
- e. Consider any other business.

Notices convening and the agenda for the AGM or Extraordinary GM shall be posted or otherwise distributed to reach members two weeks before the meeting.

#### **7. ACCOUNTS**

Special funds may be maintained as expedient.

#### **8. EXPENDITURE**

At the discretion of the Committee, the Guild may:

- a. Reimburse officers and members of the Committee for reasonable expenses incurred in pursuance of duties for the Guild.
- b. Rent, hire or buy accommodation and materials for the Guild's use.
- c. Make ex gratis payments
- d. Make affiliation with other organizations.

#### **9. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution shall not be altered except at a General Meeting of the Guild and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

#### **10. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the Guild being dissolved, such dissolution must be decided by not less than two-thirds of votes at a general Meeting specifically called for the purpose. The Committee shall be empowered to dispose of any surplus funds subject to the approval of the said General Meeting.