



# THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

Reg. Charity No. 289590 Website: [www.wsd.org.uk](http://www.wsd.org.uk)  
Vice Presidents: Peter Penneck, Jenifer Midgley

President: Jenny Balfour Paul  
Life President: Paddy Bakker

## Newsletter January 2016

### Association News

A Happy New Year to all our membership, wishing you all the best for 2016.

Our President Jenny Balfour-Paul has recently had some fantastic news about her latest book. Michael Kerr who reviewed Deeper Than Indigo for the Telegraph has chosen it as one of his books of the year!

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/artsandculture/travelbooks/12027348/Christmas-books-2015-the-best-for-the-armchair-traveller.html>

As you all probably know our Chairman Stuart Groom has been seriously ill this year. I am happy to say he is now on the road to recovery and wish him all the best for the future.

### From the secretary.

All Guild secretaries will have received the notice of the 2016 AGM, to be held at Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016. This includes a list of vacancies on the General Purposes Committee (GPC) and the Journal Executive Committee (JEC). These two committees form the engine of the Association and in all of its 60 years they have been run by volunteers. Without them there would be no Journal, no Summer School or Exhibition or Conference, Certificate of Achievement, no Speakers List or communications to Guilds and no presence at Shows such as Knitting and Stitching. So you can see that it is vital that these committees can continue to function.

There are 4 vacancies on the GPC for 2016 and in 2017 both the secretary and the vice-chair are due to stand down. We feel it would therefore make sense for us to look for people to shadow both secretary and vice chair now. One of the jobs that the shadow secretary could take on would be looking after the Web Information Point (WIP) and the web site although that is up to the individual. The vice-chair would very much appreciate someone to share the work on setting up our new Foundation Certificates.

Unfortunately due to personal & family circumstances two members have recently had to stand down and we are now in urgent need of someone to become Editor for the Association Newsletter and also a Coordinator for the Shows we attend. There is also the Association Facebook page to look after.

The GPC meets five times a year including the AGM. The meetings are usually held in London and your travel expenses are paid. The AGM on alternate years is held in conjunction with The National Conference. Between meetings, there is email communication and no-one is ever pressured in to taking on a role they do not feel comfortable with, just because they have joined the GPC. There is a wealth of knowledge within the GPC and all new members will be fully supported.

Likewise The Journal, which has excelled over the years and is now an amazing publication, is also produced by volunteers and now also looking for fresh input, motivation and enthusiasm.

There are also 5 vacancies on the JEC, including secretary.

Meetings are held in London (usually 4 per year) and travel expenses are paid by the Association. Without email the Journal could not be published, as all JEC members receive every article, book review, exhibition review etc., in draft form before it goes to print and there are often many discussions and changes before the final copy. For anyone interested in the production of such a magazine and being part of it, there are many opportunities to get involved in an area of particular interest. You may start off in one particular role but as people leave you will have the chance to change. Seeing the printed Journal and knowing you were part of the process is just so rewarding.

So you can see that there are a variety of jobs available. If you think you would be interested and would like to know more, please contact the secretary or vice-chair of the GPC or the JEC Chair (details below). You would also be welcome to attend either a GPC meeting or a JEC meeting, as an observer to see what goes on. Alternatively, some jobs can be done by other volunteers without the full commitment of GPC membership – again, please contact the secretary.

The next two GPC meetings will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> April.

To contact GPC: Sarah Williams [secretary@wsd.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wsd.org.uk), Steve Kennett [vicechair@wsd.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@wsd.org.uk)

The next two JEC meetings will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

To contact JEC: Dawn Willey [chair@thejournalforwsd.org.uk](mailto:chair@thejournalforwsd.org.uk)

## **TwinSpin**

Since the campaign started, I have responded to around 125 individual enquiries, all over the country and still counting. I have had three more over the Christmas period.

This obviously generates a huge amount of work.

Sometimes they don't tell you where they live, when you have that information, you then have to find their nearest Guild, ( my map reading skills have vastly improved as a result) contact them, then contact the enquirer to tell them they should be hearing from their local Guild.

Most of the time this has worked but occasionally Guilds haven't followed this up and have had to be sent a reminder, whilst some Guilds appear to be unaware of the project itself.

Working on a national campaign, when all Guilds are autonomous also presents its problems.

There was even one enquiry from Pretoria, South Africa and managed to put her in touch with a non- affiliated local group, which she has now joined.

In addition to this Cotswold Farm Park, Weald & Downland, as well as many Guilds had their own events but have not got numbers for them.

Also had 15 woven textile students wanting to learn to spin, so waiting to hear how they have progressed

We also had success in getting the following to post on social media

RBST

Coloured Sheep Society

Portland Sheep Society

Heritage Crafts Association

Voluntary Arts Association

Get Creative

Permaculture

as well as Journal FB and twitter and our own FB

The Journal confirmed that over 1000 people had viewed within two days of it being posted on their site.

It will have also been shared by many others along the way too.

It would be very interesting to hear from all Guilds who have been sent enquiries or who have had their own TwinSpin events to see how many new Guild members this campaign has generated. This has been an amazing campaign, which has helped to promote The Association and all the Guilds way beyond anything we could do ourselves, through normal channels of local events and even attendance at national wool events and yet cost virtually nothing. The power of social media! The TwinSpin has no end date and you can carry on using the posters to promote your own events. I have asked CfW to redo the poster, to take off the 60th celebrations but also to delete the black ink, as we are aware of the cost to Guilds when printing them. I will hopefully have the revised posters to you early in the New Year.

Thank you to all those Guild members who are so passionate about their crafts and who are willing to pass on those skills to others.

---

## **Guild News**

Please see below, further speakers have been added to the Speakers list.

**Alison Daykin** based in Ashbourne, Derbyshire was a tutor at this years Summer School. Offers lectures on Design for the Terrified (also a workshop), Sustainability, Romanian Textiles, and Colour; and workshops on Colour Blending; Creative Spinning; Funky Fancy Yarns; Spinning Flax; Spinning to the Crimp; Theo Moorman Technique and Colour and Weave.

Email [Alison@alisonyuletextiles.co.uk](mailto:Alison@alisonyuletextiles.co.uk) <http://spinningandweaving.weebly.com>

**Jane Flanagan** based in Bolton gives a lecture on Contemporary Woven Textiles of Peru and Workshops on Double Weave; Colour and Weave; Collapse Weave as well as hand weaving workshops for all levels using looms from rigid heddle to multishaft.

Email: [janesflanagan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janesflanagan@yahoo.co.uk) Website: [www.janeflanagantextiles.co.uk](http://www.janeflanagantextiles.co.uk)

**Jill Shepherd** based in Powys offers workshops on Carding and Blending Fibre – A Walk on the Wild Side; Spinning to the Crimp; Art and Fancy Yarns; Spinning for a Purpose; Spinning (Un)natural Fibres – non-wool fibres; Fibre Jewellery; Colour Theory and Design Inspiration. Email [jillsheep@gmail.com](mailto:jillsheep@gmail.com)

**Patricia Greaves** based in Merseyside. Tutor at Summer School 2015. Gives a lecture on her own work “Journeying by the sea” and several workshops on feltmaking shawls, hats, wearables and Flashing and Squeaking Beings. Contact [patriciamgreaves@gmail.com](mailto:patriciamgreaves@gmail.com)  
[www.art-felt.com](http://www.art-felt.com)

For more details guilds will need to contact the speakers direct.

## **Exhibitions**

### **British Wool Fashion Show**

at

### **The Royal Three Counties Show 2016**

Griffiths' Mill and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust are organising a British Wool Fashion Show which will take place at the Royal Three Counties Show 2016.

This will be a fashion show with a difference as not only will the models be on the catwalk but also sheep of the breeds from which the garments are manufactured.

Knitters, crocheters, felters and tailors are all invited to submit entries for this event. The rules are that all wool used must be British grown and British processed.

***It is not restricted to Rare and Minority Breeds.***

*In the first instance please e-mail expressions of interest to [david@griffithsfarming.com](mailto:david@griffithsfarming.com)*

This should include your name, e-mail address, telephone number and a description of the item(s) that you intend to submit.

In addition to clothing we are looking for accessories, throws, cushions, rugs, toys, ornaments etc. for a static display.

Final submissions should include whichever of the following are applicable:

- (1) Photograph(s) of manufactured item(s);
- (2) Sheep Breed(s) used/ natural or dyed;
- (3) Sheep Breeder(s) name and location;
- (4) Spinners name and location;
- (5) Weavers name and location;
- (6) Knitter, crocheter, felter or tailors name and location;
- (7) Designers name and location;
- (8) Your name, e-mail address and telephone number.

**The closing date for expressions of interest is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**STANDARD INCOMPARABLE**

a collection and dispersal of weavings made to the same parameters:

undyed yarn from regional plant and/or animal fiber,

in two shades, materials, or weights (ply),

in seven stripes the width of the weaver's hand

Dear Friends,

I write to you regarding an ambitious modest endeavour by artist Helen Mirra. The project is attempting to reach weavers all around the world to invite them to make two very simple pieces, with a double aim: to allow an exchange of these weavings between weavers in distant places, and, to assemble a collection for exhibition and publication.

While the weavings are due to be sent in by the end of February, Helen Mirra is asking for people to notify her of their interest in participating **as soon as possible**.

The **call for the project can be found at <http://hmirra.net/si>** in an array of languages, from Arabic to Thai to Wolof, thanks to the generous help of many volunteer translators. I'm very much hoping to reach, via branching branches of friends and colleagues, to folks outside of the U.S. and Western Europe.

Pieranna Cavalchini  
Tom and Lisa Blumenthal Curator of Contemporary Art  
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston

## **London Art Fair**

London Art Fair, the UK's premier Modern British and contemporary art Fair, returns to Islington's Business Design Centre from 20-24 January 2016.

### **Armley Mills: A Colourful Past**

11th December 2015 - 13th March 2016

Exhibition at Leeds Industrial Museum

An exhibition exploring the history of natural dyeing at Armley Mills alongside the recreation of 200 year old dye recipes belonging to the Gott family.

Curated by the Heritage Dyers Group.

Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills, Canal Road, Armley, Leeds, LS12 2QF

For opening times, access information and admission charges:

[www.leeds.gov.uk/armleymills](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/armleymills) or 0113 378 3173

### **Macclesfield Museums**

Here at the Macclesfield Museums we pride ourselves on organising a variety of events and exhibitions across the year; coming up in 2016 we have not one but two fabulous costume events from History Wardrobe.

We have a very special offer for groups with tickets for just £8 per person (usually £10) when you book for 10 or more people

#### **History Wardrobe presents 'Story Of A White Wedding'**

**Saturday 11th June 2016. 1.30pm.**

Costume historian's Lucy Adlington and Meredith Towne join us at The Old Sunday School for the 'Story of a White Wedding' costume event. Bringing family history photographs to life, this charming presentation celebrates the traditional white wedding in all its silk and satin glory. Indulge your senses in the gorgeous array of original gowns from every decade of the 20th Century, each with a tale to tell.

For more information on tickets call (01625) 613210 or drop in to The Old Sunday School.

#### **History Wardrobe presents: Fairytale Fashion**

**Saturday 26th November 2016. 1.30pm**

Once upon a time... Step into your favourite stories as we explore the world of magical clothes

and well-loved tales. With wonderful replica gowns and original historical items too, a dazzling fairy godmother dresses Cinderella for all the glory of an 18th-century ball. This is a truly enchanting presentation for all those who love fairy tales and fabulous costumes.

There'll be a rare opportunity to see an original 18th-century silk skirt. The floral pattern is as gloriously colourful now as when it was first woven 250 years ago.

This is an absolutely enchanting insight into a most magical era of fashion.

For more information on tickets call (01625) 613210 or drop into The Old Sunday School.

## DUOLOGU E

Woven dialogues between two textile artists

**Beryl Hammill and Shirley Ross**

**12 December 2015 – 10 April 2016**

**Bradford Industrial Museum, Moorside Mills, Moorside Road,  
Eccleshill, Bradford, BD2 3HP**

Beryl and Shirley have known each other for many years and collaborated on several projects. They are founder members of the **British Tapestry Group**, an organisation that promotes woven tapestry. They have exhibited widely in the UK and overseas and taught in several local colleges. Shirley is the founder of 'Art for Life', a charity to raise money for **Cancer Research UK**.

Their work is very different in design, technique and execution but shares an interest in the same source material. From conversations held over many years they realised that much of the differences found in their finished work are due to their original training and education.

Beryl studied fine art and woven tapestry at **Leeds College of Art**; Shirley was trained at the **Royal College of Art** in the technical and methodical skills needed to produce functional woven cloth.

Beryl uses a very simple 2 shaft vertical tapestry loom and a weft-faced tapestry technique - a way of weaving that has been used for centuries and in many different cultures.

Each tapestry will begin with several preparatory studies, usually drawings or watercolours, but much of her decision making is intuitive and made while the weaving is in progress.

Shirley's work reflects the more technical, methodical and linear approach used in designing and producing woven cloth. She uses a traditional horizontal multiple shaft loom but mixes techniques associated with cloth weaving and tapestry weaving. Her preparatory studies and photographs are translated into very carefully worked out drawings scaled up to the size of the planned weaving.

This exhibition has been planned to reflect these differences and similarities and to help viewers appreciate the many ways of producing a woven tapestry. We hope it reflects the dialogues they continue to have about their work and the wonderful art of tapestry weaving.

Dewsbury textile artist Shirley Ross, who is president of LFA, description of how she came to develop the work offers an insight into the creative process.

She said: "I was sitting at home thinking about the next piece of work and staring at the set of

our couch, upholstered in a dark grey, suede-like fabric, where the pile had been disturbed by the previous sitter.

“There was an image left behind, a landscape. In the landscape there were familiar shapes.

“The more I looked the more shapes I saw and that was the start of it. Sketches were made, developed, redrawn, scaled into a working drawing and there it was.

“All I needed to do was make it exist as a woven tapestry, which took roughly the next eight or nine months.”

### ***Photo opportunities:***

**Look out for Shirley Ross in our gallery on the below dates – see her at work on her loom!**

Free, all welcome.

Wednesday **17 February 2016**, 11am – 3pm

Wednesday **30 March 2016**, 11am – 3pm

**Responses to Art: Tapestry Workshop**

Thursday **7 April 2016**

10.30am – 2pm

Textile artists Beryl Hamill and Shirley Ross use woven tapestry in combination with mixed media to create stunning natural landscape pieces with a painterly effect. Shirley will introduce the show and explain the thinking behind the title “Duologue”. The exhibition includes mounted preparation work which will enable Shirley to explain more fully how an idea develops and becomes a tangible thing. After a short demonstration of how and where to start, participants will use weaving cards and looms to try out some of their own ideas. Materials provided but please bring a large darning needle with a big eye.

Historical objects from the social history collections of Bradford Museums and Galleries will be on show alongside the artwork. From Jacquard card patterns to card cutters to looms – if you love tapestry, weaving or textiles – you need to visit this exhibition, and what better than in a real textile mill.

Book by phone: 01274 435900 Cost : £10

For other events relating to the exhibition please view [www.bradfordmuseums.org](http://www.bradfordmuseums.org)

For further information and images, please contact Sonja Kielty, Curator (Exhibitions), tel:

01274 436027 or [sonja.kielty@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:sonja.kielty@bradford.gov.uk) or Neil Hinchliffe, Museums Manager, tel:

01274 435900 or [neil.hinchliffe@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:neil.hinchliffe@bradford.gov.uk)

## **Links to other groups newsletters**

RE access: Some of you have contacted me saying you cannot access the links. Although set up as hyperlinks, it is possible, depending on the security on your own PC, that they may not work. If you copy the address in the bracket and paste it into your internet browser you should be able to access these newsletters. On my PC I have to press control key and click the mouse to find them. I hope this helps.

[Voluntary Arts 17/11/15](#)

(<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=de9d9ee5724c687d10140b436&id=604c09ab86&e=4ff6748986>)

[Crafts council maker news](#)

(<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a47fc1f38d7b79f55813e2e48&id=35fae2bd2d&e=04b68d99c8>)

[Crafts council weekly round-up 4/12/15](#)

[\(<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a47fc1f38d7b79f55813e2e48&id=a6b0d20dff&e=04b68d99c8>\)](http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a47fc1f38d7b79f55813e2e48&id=a6b0d20dff&e=04b68d99c8)

[Crafts council weekly round-up 11/12/15](#)

( <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=a47fc1f38d7b79f55813e2e48&id=abb9817ba1&e=04b68d99c8>)

[Crafts council weekly round-up 18/12/15](#)

(<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a47fc1f38d7b79f55813e2e48&id=099d6e794a&e=04b68d99c8>)

[Voluntary Arts Scotland Email/Newsletter](#)

(<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=de9d9ee5724c687d10140b436&id=100600c243&e=4ff6748986>)

**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](mailto:info@wsd.org.uk). Please note the subject box “guild newsletter”**