



# THE ASSOCIATION OF GUILDS OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS

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

## Association Newsletter, March 2017

### Association News

#### **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.

#### **'A Touch of Silk' Exhibition Submission of work**

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](mailto: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](mailto:hfseddon@btinternet.com)) or by phone (01946 861515).

### **The Certificate of Achievement Show at Summer School**

If you want to see what sort of work is produced for the CoA there will be a great opportunity at the 2017 Summer School at Sparsholt College. If you are attending Summer School you will be able to go to the 'private view' on the Friday evening. Otherwise, you can visit the show during the Open Day on Saturday 19th August. This year there will be work in spinning, weaving and tapestry, and there will be the chance to talk to some of the candidates.

### **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/>

#### **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.

#### **Cautionary note!**

We have recently been advised that one of our classified advertisers nearly fell victim to fraud, whereby she was advised that, as a cheque had been sent which erroneously represented a large overpayment for goods, the sender requested a substantial partial refund. Prudently, the advertiser decided to wait until the cheque cleared before sending the refund, to find that her bank returned the unhonoured cheque. Advertisers beware - sadly even our small textile community is not immune to fraudsters!

#### **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](mailto:rigglands@gmail.com).

### **Recent News from Guilds**

**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](mailto:cheshireguildwsd@gmail.com)

**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](mailto: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/](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**

**Dyeing Now: Contemporary Makers Celebrate Ethel Mairet's Legacy**, until 16 April 2017 at Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, Ditchling, East Sussex

A project to catalogue every natural dye recipe from Ethel Mairet's influential publication with the help of artists, craftspeople and students from across the country and beyond.

<http://www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk/event/dyeing-now/>

**Manchester Antique Textile Fair**, 30 April 2017 (10:00-16:00) at Armitage Centre, Manchester, 2017 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Manchester Antique Textile Fair, plus the 100th Anniversary of Lucienne Day, who was President of the Textile Society

<http://www.textilesociety.org.uk/events>

**World Textile Day South**, Saturday 06 May at Wickham Centre, Hampshire

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

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

**Josef Frank Patterns–Furniture–Painting**, until 07 May 2017 at Fashion and Textile Museum, London

Explore the work of designer and artist Josef Frank (1885-1967) in the first-ever UK exhibition of his textiles.

<http://www.ftmlondon.org/ftm-exhibitions/josef-frank-patterns-furniture-painting/>

**Festival of Textiles 2017**, until 07 May 2017 at Fashion and Textile Museum, London

A series of displays, talks and workshops.

<http://www.ftmlondon.org/ftm-exhibitions/festival-of-textiles-2017/>

**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>

**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.

**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>

**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/>

**'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>

**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**

- [House Style: Five Centuries of Fashion At Chatsworth](#) opens at Chatsworth.
- [The London Loom](#) has moved to Hackney Downs Studios.
- [Kniterate's Kickstarter appeal](#) for a Digital Knitting Machine raised \$150,000 in 24 hours.
- There are a series of free events to accompany the 'Katagami – the Craft of the Japanese Stencil' exhibition at The University of Leeds; [register here](#).

- The Essex House Tapestries, a pair of large-scale tapestries by Grayson Perry, which tell the story of fictional character Julie Cope, an Essex everywoman, [are now on tour](#).
- Australian artist Maryanne Moodie has [built a successful business](#) after taking up weaving about five years ago.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk)

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