Association Newsletter, November 2016

Association News

Sad News

It is with much sadness that we inform you that our former chairman, Stuart Groom, passed away on 17th November after a long, hard struggle against cancer. The funeral will be held at Brimington Crematorium, Derbyshire on Wednesday 30th November.

New Speakers

Lesley Hordon, who is based in Leeds, and is recommended by Bradford Guild, lectures on the Angora rabbit, sells fibre and demonstrates spinning. Lesley can also bring a rabbit if the distance is not too great. lesley@hordon.fsnet.co.uk / www.skyrackangoras.co.uk

Helen Philips, recommended by Eden Valley Guild, gives a presentation on “The Master Craftsmen of Kashmir…and the Search for the REAL Pashmina”. Helen brings examples for members to handle, as well as handcrafted pieces should members wish to purchase. She is based in Oakham, Rutland. helen@doortothehimalayas.co.uk / www.doortothehimalayas.co.uk

National Exhibition Brochures

Souvenir brochures from the National Exhibition are available to purchase by individuals or Guilds, at the following prices:

Single copies for £1.25, including postage
Ten copies for £8, including postage

Please email Janet Maher (secretary@somersetguildw sd.org.uk) for details of where to send a cheque.

‘Simply Special’ Summer School, 13 - 29 August 2017

Booking is open for the 2017 Simply Special’ Summer School at Sparsholt College (Hampshire, SO21 2NF).

Deposits and booking forms should be with the convenor by 31 December 2016; course allocation starts on the 1 January 2017, a ‘names in the hat’ system will operate for oversubscribed courses.

There is a wide range of courses, with experienced tutors, plus a trade fair, silent auction, fashion show, raffle, CoA exhibition, and a Gala Dinner.
The full brochure is available online (http://www.wsd.org.uk/news.php?id=57). Email Janet Crowther (Convenor) at summerschool@wsd.org.uk if you have any questions or would like further information.

Regional Events 2020 & 2021

Regions that are now working on events for 2017-2019 appreciate how important it is to start doing research well in advance of any event, to not only eliminate any venues that do not meet the criteria, but also be very mindful of the fact that venues get booked up to four years in advance. This seriously impacts on the availability and suitability of venues left to choose from.

**National Exhibition 2020**

This will be held in region C which includes Alsager, Cheshire, Leek & District, Merseyside, Mid Lancashire, North Cheshire, North Shropshire, West Lancs Niddy Noddis and members of the Online Guild in this region.

**National Conference 2020**

This is to be held in region D which includes Birmingham & District, Cotswolds, Coventry & District, Derby, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shrewsbury, Stafford Knott Spinners, Staffordshire Moorland, Stratford-upon-Avon, Worcester and Online Guild members in this region.

**Summer School 2021**

This is to be held in region H which includes Bury St Edmunds, Cambridgeshire, Diss, Lavenham, Middle Essex, Mid Norfolk, Norfolk Countryside, Norfolk & Suffolk, Rampton Spinners, Southend, West Essex and East Herts, Worstead, and Online Guild members in this region.

All information relating to events can be found on the WIP website but should you need further information please contact Angela Colbridge (angela.colbridge@tiscali.co.uk).

**Please Consider Volunteering**

You have by now, received all the relevant information regarding nominations, propositions etc. and you will also be very aware that we are continually make pleas for members to come forward to join the GPC and the JEC, sadly at the moment these pleas appear to be falling on deaf ears.

BUT, the situation is very serious. We have four members on the GPC retiring in April 2017, including Sarah our secretary. At the moment, we have NO-ONE to take her place and without a secretary the Association will cease to function. We have been calling now for over a year and just feel there must be someone, within the 114 Guilds, who would be willing to take on this vital but very rewarding role. Sarah will obviously not just disappear in April and will be there to give a helping hand for a gradual handover, but if someone could start shadowing her now it would make life a lot easier for that person.

We also need more GPC members if we are going to set up regional reps, so that each region has a name, a face and a generic email. This is not an onerous job but again vital, so we can reach out to all members. There are some members & Guilds who tell us they feel the GPC are remote, elitist, old fashioned, unconnected etc. Some don’t even know they belong to The Association, some think there is a head Office, that GPC members get a salary, company car, etc. We are told we are competitive, pursuing a professional career and use our position to boost sales of our own work, that we always get our work chosen for the National Exhibition. The urban myths are endless but also untrue.
GPC members are like all of you, just Guild members who belong to Guilds and, like you, love their spinning, weaving, dyeing etc. but want to ensure that these skills are there for future generations to enjoy, so they willingly give their time. They also love the fact that we belong to a much wider group than our own Guild, that there is a ‘family, or community’ of like-minded people, right across the UK and beyond.

Could you give a little of your time? You will gain much more than you give.

If you feel you would like to join the GPC or the JEC and ‘free wheel’ for a while, until you get to know how it all functions and maybe take on a role at a later stage, you would also be very welcome. Your secretary has the nomination forms and your Guild will sponsor you. You get paid your travel expenses when attending meetings but there are no ‘free lunches’, you do have to buy your lunch and pay for your tea and coffee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Journal

The Journal is also produced by Guild members just like you, in their spare time! We know that many Guild members do not take the Journal and that many Guild secretaries do not promote the Journal because, for them, there is a lot of time required to order and distribute copies at Guild meetings.

BUT, you can order your own copy online, on the Journal website. You can either choose the paper copy, the digital copy or, best of both worlds, order both.

If you are interested in seeing the textiles enlarged, so you can really see the structure, or if you find the font in the paper copy a little too small, then with the digital version you can zoom in or enlarge to suit you.

Don’t like shopping online? Someone in your Guild or your family will happily do this for you, if you ask: http://www.thejournalforwssd.org.uk/Product=SUBUKONLY

The Campaign for Wool, Wool Week

If you were at the AGM this year, you will know that it was decided to swap from the May week of spinning and weaving to the October Campaign for Wool, Wool Week.

Now is the time to start planning what your Guild will be doing during Wool Week.

You can post your events on the CfW Love Wool Website: http://www.campaignforwool.org/love-wool/

Many Guilds already have excellent relationships with their local National Trust properties, but if you are one of those trying to ‘get your foot in the door’ then please tell them about the amazingly successful National Exhibition at Killerton House in September this year. We increased footfall at Killerton by 135% on the previous year, and also increased retail sales and sales in the café by approx. 45%. Killerton House are absolutely delighted, and already working with the Guilds in that region on events during Wool Week.

The National Trust are huge landowners, with countless numbers of tenant farmers breeding sheep, they are also dedicated to preserving our cultural heritage and traditional skills, so we are the perfect partners for them.
The British Wool Marketing Board also has a fascinating website with lots of ideas you might be able to use when you go out demonstrating. You will need to keep going back to it, as it is regularly updated: http://www.britishwoollearning.com/

Sourcing Fleeces

It is appreciated that there are many members who would like to source good quality fleeces, and with this in mind we have contacted some 43 Sheep Breeding societies offering them a link on the Association website.

To date, we have only heard from WoolClip, who were instrumental in bringing us Woolfest, and who have written to say:

*We have a wide range of fleece available from local flocks. In the shop we only have washed fleece and also carded fleece in natural and dyed colours. However, we also have access to raw fleeces. The main breeds in Cumbria are Herdwick, Swaledale and Blue Faced Leicester but there are also flocks of many other breeds that we have access to from time to time.*

*We are also the organisers of Woolfest which is held in Cockermouth at the end of June every year. We have a fleece sale there which is extremely popular with spinners. Each year we sell in excess of 500 quality fleeces of all breeds direct from the farmers to the buyers. The fleece sale details can be found under the what's on section of the website: http://www.woolclip.com/*

Journal News

Journal Vacancy: Treasurer

Next year our current Treasurer, Gretchen Roth, will be retiring from the Journal Editorial Committee, so we are looking to recruit a volunteer to shadow Gretchen for the next few months, with a view to taking over the role in April 2017. You will need to be organised & computer literate for this interesting and important role. Training will be given and all out of pocket expenses, including travel costs to the quarterly meetings held in Central London (Saturdays, 11am-4pm) will be reimbursed. If you would like to find out more please contact Christina Chisholm (chair@thejournalforwsd.org.uk) who will be delighted to hear from you!

Journal Vacancy: Social Media Manager

Our current Social Media Manager, Lorna Lindfield, is regrettably having to give up her role due to pressures of work, so we are also seeking a replacement for this role. Lorna has significantly developed our Facebook and Twitter presence over recent years and we would like to recruit someone familiar with Social Media in order to continue this work and also develop our basic presence on Pinterest and Ravelry. All practical details are as described for the Treasurer role, so if you are interested, please contact Christina Chisholm, e-mail as above.

Journal Diary: Reminder

If you would like your Guild event to be publicised in our Diary pages, please remember that we work several months in advance of publication date, and send us details as soon as possible to Colleen Pope at diary@thejournalforwsd.org.uk

Current Issue of the Journal

The current issue of The Journal, issue 260 Winter 2016, contains articles on the following:

- Nuair bha mi og’ (When I was young)
- The Peruvian Textiles Study Group
My Everything Skein
Turkey Red
Cloth Finishing (Free Download)
Spin and Dye – or Dye and Spin – to Weave

Recent News from Guilds

York and District Guild annual weekend away will take place 02-04 June 2017. It runs from Friday evening until after Sunday lunch, and is held at the Cober Hill Conference Centre in Cloughton, north of Scarborough. It is a lovely weekend away, where you can immerse yourself in your craft/s, surrounded by wonderful scenery, comfortable accommodation, and like-minded people. Member from other Guilds are welcome to attend. Please contact Guild Secretary Madeline Evans (m.evans104@gmail.com) for more information.

Mark Cullen of Devon Weavers Workshop is exhibiting several rugs in Devon Guild of Craftsmen’s New Year exhibition, Get Fresh 2017.

Current & Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

Made in the Middle, touring exhibition launching at The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in December 2016
Touring exhibition of contemporary craft from across the Midlands.
http://craftspace.co.uk/made-in-the-middle-2016/

Knit 1 Bike 1 - Janet Renouf Miller, until 23 December 2016 at Borders Textile Towerhouse, Harwick
A cycling adventure in knitting and crochet.
http://www.heartofhawick.co.uk/g_heart/events/event/26/knit_1_bike_1_-_janet_renouf_miller

Soft Engineering, 11 November 2016 – 08 January 2017 at the National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
Brings together the work of three well established textile artists for the first time; Deidre Wood, Alison Ellen and Ann Richards. Having pursued separate careers in knitting and weaving, the artists found many common threads that have inspired this joint exhibition.
http://www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk/whatson/#soft-engineering

shift Works by seam collective, 11 November 2016 – 08 January 2017 at the National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
A celebration of the shift dress by 12 textile artists.
http://www.nationalcraftanddesign.org.uk/whatson/#shiftworks-by-seam-collective

Here & Now, until 15 Jan 2017 at the National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford, Lincolnshire
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 display of haute couture and ready-to-wear fashion from 1919 to 1929.
http://www.ftmlondon.org/ftm-exhibitions/1920s-jazz-age-fashion-photographs/

Guild Meeting & Visit from John Arbon Textiles, 21 January 2017 at York and District Guild of WSD
Alice layers up print and stitch to make contemplative artworks that embody particular locations. 
www.yorks-guild-wsd.org.uk

Explore a selection of the most outstanding examples of English Medieval embroidery. Featuring surviving examples of exquisite craftsmanship, this exhibition reveals the artistic skill of the makers and the world in which they were created. 
https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/opus-anglicanum-masterpieces-of-english-medieval-embroidery

**Weaving Futures**, until 18 February 2017 at London Transport Museum
Highlighting the importance and potential of woven textiles to the London Transport system. Resident artists and designers will explore the role of textiles in modern transport now and in the future. 
http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/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/

**Elsewhere on the Web**

- A whimsical animated history of hand spinning
- Luxury brands feed demand for return of UK’s cotton and knitwear mills
- A new 100% made-in-the-UK yarn

**Other Newsletters**

- Crafts Council Latest Newsletter
- Voluntary Arts Scotland Latest Newsletter
- Craft & Design Latest Newsletter
- Craft Industry Alliance Latest 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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