



# Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers



**WSD** Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers

**ANNUAL OPEN DAY**

**SAT 14TH MAY 2022**

**11-3pm**

## **VENUE:**

Cotteridge Friends Meeting House,  
23, Watford Rd, B30 1JB

Buses: 11, 38, 18, 19, 45, 47,

Train: Kings Norton Station is 5 mins walk to venue.

Contact details:

Facebook: BirminghamWSD

email: Birmingham WSD@hotmail.com

instagram: @wsdbrum

Covid Guidelines in place, including the use of face coverings.

**ANNUAL OPEN DAY**

**SHOWCASING SPINNING, DYEING AND WEAVING CRAFT.**

**FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Exhibitions, demonstrations, and sale of handcrafted work from our Guild members.**

## Chair's Letter

Spring is definitely springing. My dyer's greenweed plant is bursting into life and maybe some of you are planting out woad plants for the joys of dyeing blue later this year? My commute to work now involves alpacas whichever side of the train I sit on - there's even a pair between Hampton-in-Arden station and Birmingham International. I am very grateful to Kate for organising a trip up to the National Exhibition and RHS Bridgewater in September and am hoping all the pieces submitted to the juried section by our Guild will be on display, as well as a good selection of 6" rings in the open section. Our own Open Day next month is our annual chance for us to show our visitors, and each other, just what we can do with our three crafts – thank you to the organising committee and everyone who contributes in whatever way they can, and please do advertise it to all and sundry.

Rachel

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### PROPOSED GUILD OUTING TO THE AGWSD EXHIBITION at LEIGH SPINNERS MILL and RHS BRIDGEWATER GARDENS

#### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd 2022

This would be a coach outing **starting from Birmingham city centre** at 8.30 a.m. and returning at approximately 19.00pm. The general plan would be to visit the exhibition first and then move on to RHS Bridgewater Gardens for another 2 - 3 hours before returning to Birmingham at approx 19.00pm

The exhibition is being held at Leigh Spinners Mill  
<https://www.leighspinnersmill.co.uk>.

There is a cafe there <https://www.themillagecanteen.co.uk/index.php> so it will be possible to get refreshments on site. Bridgewater Gardens <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater> which is about a 20min drive from Leigh also has a restaurant.

The cost is dependent on numbers but would be about £24 plus entrance fee to Bridgewater which is £8.50 (free to RHS members). This outing is open to anyone interested - not just Guild members. I am hoping that there may also be some interest from Coventry, Stratford and Walsall Guilds.

It is a good opportunity to visit the Association of Guilds exhibition which is always a showcase of amazing talent and skills plus visiting the latest RHS garden, Bridgewater, in Salford.

If you're interested please let me know. email [Randk.batchelor@gmail.com](mailto:Randk.batchelor@gmail.com)  
Tel 0121 2473562

Thanks  
Kate

## Jeanette Griffiths



JEANETTE GRIFFITHS died 16th February 2022, aged 92, past Chair of the Birmingham Guild

Jeanette was born in Glasgow, an only child. She left to do her nurse training in Birmingham, as at that time, nurse training had to be paid for in Scotland, but was free in England..After marrying and raising three sons, she returned to nursing, and had a distinguished career in cancer nursing and nurse training.. Apart from returning to Glasgow to do midwifery training, she remained in Birmingham until only a few years before her death.

She joined a weaving evening class at what was then Birmingham Polytechnic, previously Birmingham School of Art, and now Birmingham City University, in the late 1980's, and joined the Birmingham

Guild of WSD in 1993, one month before Brenda Nightingale. They thought that the guild then was rather unfriendly, and only kept going because of the delicious home made bread that was on the sales table the first month. Unfortunately, it never reappeared.

True to her organisational abilities, Jeanette rose to become chair of the Guild, at the time that the ACM( now AGM) was held in Bournville.

It was her initiative to weave the set of cushions marking the Millennium, and she wove the backs of all of the cushions.

I was introduced to the Wednesday Weavers by Jeanette, as were several other people; for some time she was the unofficial weaving representative on the Guild. When I started, she was weaving a tapestry of Andy Warhol's Soup cans. One of her favourite constructions was a name draft, I remember feeling that such complexity would always be beyond my capabilities She was unfailingly kind to less experienced weavers, and generous with her expertise. I am grateful to have been her friend.



- Sheila

# 2022 Programme

Date	Activity
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Open Day & Exhibition
11 <sup>th</sup> June	World Wide Knit in Public Day Meet-Up in Kings Heath Park, jointly with Stitches & Hos
09 <sup>th</sup> July	Talk: How I Wove my Wedding Dress, with Louise Cottey
August	No Meeting
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Workshop: Artist Talk and Paper Weaving Workshop with Nilupa Yasmin
08 <sup>th</sup> October	Talk: Sustainability in Textiles, with Teresinha Roberts
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Workshop: Temari Workshop with Nicola Davis of The Twisted Thread
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party and Bring and Share Lunch

## Talk: How I Wove my Wedding Dress, with Louise Cottey, 09<sup>th</sup> July

'How I wove my wedding dress' is a talk that charts my career in weaving. I'll talk about why I chose the structure, yarn and style of the dress fabric. I'll also talk about the emotional impact of the decision and its aftermath! (It was a very happy day, but the run up was predictably stressful). I'll bring lots of samples of my work to hand around from my early pieces at college to my most recent collection. The talk will culminate with the dress on display so weavers can inspect and understand why I wove it the way I did.

<https://www.facebook.com/LouiseCottey.WovenTextiles/>



## Workshop: Artist Talk and Paper Weaving Workshop with Nilupa Yasmin, 10<sup>th</sup> September

**COST: £22 for Guild Members (plus £2 entrance fee); £32 for non-members (plus £5 entrance fee)**

Come Join Nilupa Yasmin on a talk about her Arts practise and looking at weaving in relation to the Arts and Craft movement. Participants will also be able to partake in a weaving workshop following the technique she uses to create her works.



**Talk: Sustainability in Textiles, with Teresinha Roberts,  
08<sup>th</sup> October**

Have you ever wondered why cotton clothes are so cheap? How sustainable is it to donate clothes to charity shops? Do you know what you can do to make textiles more sustainable? These are some of the topics that Teresinha will tackle in her talk.

<http://www.teresinharoberts.co.uk/>

**Temari Workshop with Nicola Davis, 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**COST: £24 for Guild Members including materials (plus £2 entrance fee); £34 for non-members including materials (plus £5 entrance fee)**

Temari is an ancient and beautiful Japanese craft that involves embroidering the surface of a hand-made ball with stunning designs. Find out more about its history and learn how to stitch this intricate temari in this exciting workshop by Nicola Davis from The Twisted Thread.



## **The Knitting and Crochet Guild**

The Knitting and Crochet Guild in Birmingham now meets at St Martin's in the Bull Ring on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10.00am-2.00pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome—just bring your knitting pins or crochet hooks along and enjoy a chance to meet others and learn new stitches maybe. Several of our Guild members are members there including Janet Collins who is the nation association's chair.

The annual convention is live this year and is being held at Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire 16-18 September.

More information is available on their website at <https://kcguild.org.uk/>

## **Some pointers for Open Day Exhibits and Sales**

Hopefully everyone who is able to is making plans for this day. If you can come and haven't yet signed up to the rota, the rotas will be at the reception table on the day. If you were hoping to do a demo of spinning or weaving or fibre prep and haven't signed the rota then do contact Sarah first to book your slot as we have limited space. If you know you can't make it please do try and get any pieces for display/ your competition piece to someone who is attending.

### **What do you need to bring on the day?**

- Home-made cake, with a legible ingredient list
- Your competition entry
- All the items you are putting on display
- Items for sale labelled clearly with your name and the price, along with the sheet listing all your items
- Your pinny if you're on the rota in the kitchen

### **On the day**

- Marry up the labels from Sarah to your items with the pins provided and ensure they are added to the right section of the displays

## **Open Day Sales Table**

If you want to sell things on the sales table at the Open Day, please would you fill in the forms on page 7 and bring it with your items. Anything for the sales table should be labelled with your name and the price, remembering that the Guild takes 10% of the sale money. This makes it much easier for the sales table volunteers to match up sales and money, and make sure that you get what you should do.

I am expecting to do as I did last year - take all the money from the sales table home and distribute it after the meeting (either by cheque or by BACS), rather than trying to sort it out in a rush at the end of the day.

I am planning to take my card machine - any sales through the card machine incur a 1.75% charge.



## April meeting

Our meeting this month was an informal day. This means we all bring along a project that we are working on and then chat with everyone while working and drinking tea and eating cake! Although I must be honest and say that there was no cake as our cake making members were not there so sadly we were cake-less. We usually have cake and if you are coming along to a meeting cake is always very welcome especially as that will be your subs for the day!

However I thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and we all stayed until the end so I think we all had a good day. I thought I'd include photos of some of the varied activities taking place.

<http://wsdbirmingham.weebly.com/2022-blog>



Amina, one of our newer members was knitting for one of her daughters in a great purple



Tamara and Gemma working on tablet weaving on one of Reg's looms



Ruth brought her spindle and spun some pretty fibre that she was given by her daughter on Mothers Day



Tom and Marie were visitors. Tom was getting to grips with his spindle and Marie spun some shetland on her Ashford Traveler wheel

## Textile Tasters in March

Textile Tasters in March was a very busy day. We welcomed several new members and everyone was kept busy with the mini workshops.

Jackie taught a group how to make Dorset buttons and there were some beautiful examples to aspire to!

Carolyn showed some members how to make cordage from natural materials. She brought some little baskets that she had made during lockdown using fibres from her garden

Janice introduced some members to needle felting and even taught some children how to make simple shapes safely. Rachel showed members different methods of casting on and off





## Day out at Lightwoods House, Bearwood

I reckon with my odd working arrangements it has been at least six years since I joined a Guild spinning demonstration. Due to Mandy's contacts with the chair of the Friends of Lightwoods House (Bearwood), the Guild was invited to spin at their Heritage Open day on 26 March. Mandy, Carolyn and I spent a pleasant few hours in a very sunny room there.

Although the park was full of young families, not a great deal of people came through the House. We did have long conversations with some, and with each other, which is one of the joys of days out. As my travel wheel has been neglected for 6 years (I spin at home on another one), I managed to break the connector from the footman to the treadle. Thankfully both Carolyn and Mandy had spare spindles so I borrowed one and spun and plied 10g. One visitor did ask why we weren't wearing anything we had knitted, and we had to point out it was Really Hot in the room. We all had knitted items on display.

As we were next to the Smethwick Local History Society who had an 1828 map on display, I discovered where I live used to be a Great Reservoir for the canal, replaced by the Edgbaston reservoir in the 1830s. Despite being at the bottom of a valley I haven't (yet) been flooded!

- Rachel Lemon



Carolyn at Lightwoods House

## Online Guild workshop – a posy of felted flowers

In February the Online Guild (WS&D) had a workshop to produce 3-D felted flowers. I was a bit late joining in, as I was ill at the end of January, but I had fun making the flowers – I have a good collection now (which you can see at the Guild Open Day in May).

- Sarah Cage

Here are a few of them



Week 1 – basic flowers but with an attached stem



Week 2 – flowers with a resist, giving 2 layers



Week 2 – flowers with a resist, giving 2 layers

## Our Guild Library has moved

Our library has moved....granted not far....but it is out of its former home in the rolling box. The books, magazines and other printed materials are now on shelves in the former men's cloak room. The books are available for loan at 50p per month or longer if we have no meeting the next month. Do have a look through, especially if you are starting a new craft and need an introduction or help with getting started.

The former library box is available to a good/useful home. It would be good to have it rehoused before the Open Day. If you are interested contact Tina via email—[tinahuk2@gmail.com](mailto:tinahuk2@gmail.com) or telephone 07802413143. If no one offers a new home by 7th May it will be recycled as wood.



## Craftspace free workshops

Wendy and Janice enjoyed a day with Craftspace making welcome gifts for athletes who will be coming to Birmingham this summer for the Commonwealth Games. Craftspace has a full schedule of craft activities and events for anyone to attend in the different areas of the city. So look out for them and go along to meet other craftmakers and help support the city as it hosts the games.

Craftspace <https://craftspace.co.uk/4600-gifts-volunteers/>



When it is warmer in the car park than the hall we go outside. Remember to wear layers in case the heat is turned off.

# Ramadan Wool Club 2022

In 2020 I saw an advert on Instagram about a Ramadan Wool Club....I didn't see it in time to join but I did keep an eye out last year and signed up to join in this year. Like a spinner's advent calendar you buy into a club... which in this case is hand dyed yarns made by five independent Muslim women. There are two levels—a 30 skein pack of 20gm skeins—one for each day of Ramadan. The other is 10 skeins of 20 grams so each dyer contributes 2 skeins. In addition to the wool are other gifts and I especially like the Crescent Moon stitch markers, sweets for you and inserts explaining the different ceremonies and traditions of Ramadan. I have found participating enlightening and informative and I am also enjoying opening the daily parcels to discover what it contains each day. I wish to thank the five women who created the club and contributed the dyed wools:

- Tina



Fatima of Abuelita Fiber Company  
@abuelitafibercomany on Instagram

Fatima of Aquarius Make from Michigan US  
@aquarius\_make on Instagram

Ishrat of Fruitful Fusion in Nottingham UK  
@fruitfulfusion on Instagram

Corrine of Hawari Bazaar Yarn Company  
@hawaribazaaryarnco on Instagram

Kelcey of Knitting Niqabi  
@Knittingniqabi on Instagram



## 2022 Committee Members

**Chair:** Rachel Lemon

**Secretary:** Amanda Davis

**Treasurer:** Sarah Cage

**Assistant Treasurer:** Ruth Weston

**Programme Secretary:** Charlotte Powell, Carolyn Arber

**Librarian:** Judith Evans

**Demonstrations Co-ordinator:** Wendy Simpson

**Newsletter Editor:** Tina Helfrich

**Public Social Media Editor:** vacancy

**Other members:** Judy Preston, Janice Price, Cyndi Husband



Carolyn's been busy recently using plants from her and Wendy's gardens to make bags and baskets.

## Staying in Touch



[BirminghamWSD@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:BirminghamWSD@hotmail.co.uk)



[www.wsdbrum.com](http://www.wsdbrum.com)



[@BirminghamWSD](https://twitter.com/BirminghamWSD) (Twitter)



Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers  
(private group)



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