



Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers

Getting out & about with the Guild

An Outing to the AGSWD Exhibition

“Coal, Cotton & Canals”

at Leigh Spinners Mill,

Lancashire WN7 2LB

7th September 2022

Join Kate, Charlotte, Wendy and Carolyn on the 9.57am from New Street to Manchester and then on by bus to Leigh to see the biennial exhibition. Meet up in front of Pret in New Street Station at 9.30-9.40am.

Be sure to let them know you are coming!



A very wet Saturday at CoCoMad in Cotteridge Park



Our exhibit and demonstrations at Yarningham in Birmingham

Volunteer as a Steward

For the Tapestry Exhibition at the
RBSA 4th-11th November

10.30am—5pm.

You can offer half or whole days;
Expenses paid

Take your frame and
weave while on duty
Contact Judy Preston
if you are interested

Chair's Letter

I'm exceedingly pleased that all four of our members who submitted items for the biennial National Exhibition were successful. Items are submitted anonymously and judged by a panel of experts so this is a fantastic external validation of the skills we know we have from seeing our own exhibition. It's a great shame we weren't able to fill a coach to Leigh (near Wigan) for a Guild day out, but I hope anyone who can will be making the trek north (3-18 September at Leigh Spinners Mill. More info <https://www.wsd.org.uk/news-events/agwsd-national-exhibition-2022/>).

Rachel Lemon

Evelyn Berry

We have recently heard that Evelyn Berry has died, somewhere in her 90s. She had trained originally as a nurse in her hometown of Buxton, exchanging experiences with Jeanette Griffiths who was a similar age. Evelyn went onto teach handi-crafts and gleefully told how the boys in the borstal where she worked would fight for the honour of carrying her bags. She could be fierce but had a wicked sense of humour and a taste for sherry. Her great love was teaching and for as long as she was able she came out on Guild demonstrations with her Ashford traveller, carders and washed wool. She was also a member at Stratford-upon-Avon Guild.



Evelyn on left and Mary Leese on right.

Brenda Nightingales's Wheel, tools and books for sale

Wendy Hackney is looking for a good home from some of Brenda's spinning equipment.

It is available as a donation to a good cause or community group who can offer access to using it to learners or individuals who can't afford their own wheel. Alternatively it is available for a donation of £150 to Muscular Dystrophy Research.

If you are interested please contact Wendy Hackney by email at wendy_hackney@live.co.uk.



The next weekend conference will be in 2024, and the Summer School at Harper Adams University (Shropshire) in 2023. I'd encourage everyone to attend if they can.

Guilds Gathering

Kate Batchelor spent 4 years as convenor for this delayed new-format national weekend conference “Guilds Gathering: Colour – the Full Spectrum”, and what a brilliant job she made of it.

Six of us in total from our Guild made our way to the University of Worcester in baking-hot June (Kate, both Rachels, Judith E, Wendy and Charlotte). After dinner we had inspiring talks from the weaver Margo Selby and the head of the Royal Needlework Dr Susan Kay-Williams (who published a book on colour in 2013). Dr Kay-Williams was a lively speaker which is what we needed in the rather hot lecture room, and was wearing a dress of lemon fabric which naturally I admired! Saturday saw us all split into two groups for half-day workshops on colour by Alison Daykin (blending a very limited colour palette of dyed fibre by hand), and Margo Selby (yarn wrapping in different designs). I was impressed that both workshops were suitable for whatever kind of craft we all did – they have set the bar high for future conferences.

The after-dinner speaker on Saturday was another lively one - Daniel Harris who had inadvertently created the London Cloth Company after finding an old loom in a field in Wales in 2011. The final speaker on Sunday morning was Caroline Nixon who does botanical contact printing (ecoprinting) , often combining it with embroidery or natural dyes.

We all had the opportunity see the Graduate Showcase which is a feature close to our current President Jennie Parry’s heart. Three Certificates of Achievement were on display – these are always awe-inspiring as they involve so much work. Janet Crowther updated us on the certificates which continue to evolve.

- Rachel Lemon

Wendy’s Diary at The Guilds Gathering

Friday 17th June 2022

Arrived at Worcester University around 2 o’clock. Decided to drive not catch the train as originally planned. Easy journey through Ombersley like I used to do when I came to Worcester in 1998 to do my degree. Hottest day of the year about 32°! Had to have a shower I was so hot and sweaty.

After dinner we had a talk by Margo Selby a textile designer and weaver. She had some amazing samples of her weaving and was a good speaker. After a short break we listened to Dr. Susan Kay-Williams the chief executive of the Royal School of Needlework talking about the history of dyeing. She was a fabulous speaker and so knowledgeable about dying with lots of little stories which made us laugh! Even though it was still too hot everyone was fascinated and I even went back and ordered her book the next morning. Wi-Fi is very bad in the bedrooms!

By the way the room is the best I’ve ever had on a guild outing. It’s big and has new decor with nothing broken. and even a fridge in the room.

Saturday 18th

After breakfast (vegan sausages were great, but only got a spoonful of scrambled egg) I had a walk round campus. Weather is now cold and trying to rain after yesterday's heatwave.

Workshop with **Alison Daykin** this morning about **colour blending**. If you blend colours to make green for example it will result in a green with more depth. Equipment needed is your hands! Or carders and combs if you have them...

Alison thought most spinners don't try this but quite a few people said they do. Use micro scales (these are vital too if you are going to be accurate and scale up) and start with 0.01 so she explained about weighing very accurately. We started with red, blue, yellow and black and white. Alison said if we stick to these or any other three colors then all our results will blend together. We had a picture- I had a rose- and we had to mix colours from it. For light colours start with white. For dark colours start with colours. Important to record your samples.



Liked by allhandcrafts and others

wsdbrum Six of us from our guild attended the Guild's gathering in Worcester this weekend. Here are some photos from Alison Daykin's workshop. We started... more
18 June



This kind of activity makes me excited and I can't wait to start but Alison is still talking....

I loved this workshop- 2 hours to play with fibre and colours.

Lunch was chicken piri piri - not like we have in Portugal and now we have another colours workshop with **Margo Selby**, also about colour.

'This workshop is about enjoying colours' Margo said at the beginning. We can make a traditional colour wheel, or start with cyan, magenta and yellow. Or we can use a wooden block and wrap it with our own choice of colours however we

like. We all chose to make blocks. I loved this activity too.

There was an exhibition of work produced by members for their Certificate of Achievement and also work by graduates to look at. We are now looking forward to our dinner served in the Conference Suite not the dining room- a special meal with wine. It's been raining here all day so we haven't missed much outside.

It was an excellent meal and Daniel Harris from the London Cloth Company was an entertaining speaker- not what I expected- young and funny and I hope his venture is successful.

Sunday 19th

Last day and it looks sunny again. We have breakfast and a talk by Caroline Nixon, an eco dyer, to look forward to. I did quite a lot of this in lockdown, following the online guild workshop with Debbie Tomkies. I'd like to try some more. Also looking forward to seeing rest of Certificate of Achievement work especially Ada's from the Highland Guild. She sat with us at dinner last night and talked about her work with natural dyes and it sounded amazing.

Caroline Nixon likes to combine eco printing with natural dyes. She initially wanted to use natural dyes for health reasons. She wants to prove that natural dyes can be vibrant colours not dull and boring as some people think. She likes the surprise and the challenge and it's mostly more environmentally friendly than using chemical dyes.

Tannins in leaves give detail, pigments give colour.

Cloth needs scouring, mordanting first, then dye cloth if you want to. Before rolling up cloth with leaves inside. Printing can be immersed in water or steamed.

Caroline loves working with vintage and recycled fabrics and encourages experimenting with local leaves.

Good ones are;
Eucalyptus
Walnut leaves
Maple
Coreopsis flowers
Virginia creeper
Cotinus**

When you pre dye your cloth you need leaves that will remove the colour when steamed. Some leaves won't do this. Or you can use a dye blanket on top for the background colour(maybe madder, logwood or iron)
She mentioned her 3 day workshops - I would like to go to one or could she come to guild? Good idea to go on her mailing list to get details of workshops before they are all booked up.



Our examples from the workshop

How I wove my wedding dress by Louise Cottey



Louise second from right

This was our guild talk on 9th July. It has been long waited for after several postponements. However it was well worth the wait. She told us the story of her weaving life. After her degree she worked and volunteered at Cold Harbour Mill in Devon and she went to New Zealand and lived there for some time and had a chance to work with a weaver there. She's been involved in many different art projects which sometimes used the environment. She has designed woven fabrics for numerous projects and people.

She wanted to weave her own wedding dress and she talked about the long process of sampling and eventually choosing the weave and fibre she wanted. She showed us her samples along with samples of her amazing weaving. She showed us a photo of her wearing it on her wedding day and also brought the dress for us to see. It was beautiful and obviously worth all the blood, sweat and tears that went into it!

She started her business called The Loom Shed just before lockdown but she has made it work and now has a lovely weaving space with space for teaching. She doesn't weave to sell at the moment (could this be because she now has a 4 year old son?!), but makes an income from teaching which she really enjoys.

From the blog at www.wsdbermingham.weebly.com

What a tour de force. So understated. Lovely work. Thank the Programme Secretary.

- Judith Joseph



September's Speaker and workshop



Workshop: Artist Talk and Paper Weaving Workshop with Nilupa Yasmin, 10th September

The talk is open to all members and visitors. The afternoon workshop has to be booked and paid for.

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.

October's Speaker on Sustainability in Textiles



Talk: Sustainability in Textiles, with Teresinha Roberts, 08th 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.

November's Workshop



Temari Workshop with Nicola Davis, 12th 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 handmade 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.

<http://thetwistedthread.co.uk/>

2022 Committee Members

Chair: Rachel Lemon

Secretary: Amanda Davis

Treasurer: Sarah Cage **Assistant Treasurer:** Ruth Weston

Programme Secretary: Charlotte Powell

Librarian: Judith Evans

Demonstrations Co-ordinator: Wendy Simpson

Newsletter Editor: Tina Helfrich

Public Social Media Editor: vacancy

Other members: Judy Preston, Janice Price

Keeping busy this summer



Carolyn has been making cording and baskets from the plants (maybe weeds?) in her garden.



Wendy's been weaving willow wigwams at Littleheath Barn Studio



Staying in Touch



BirminghamWSD@hotmail.co.uk



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