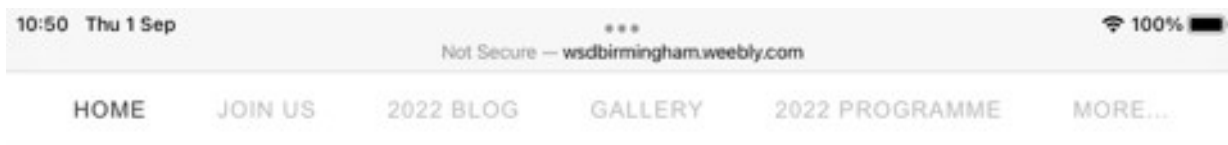




Birmingham & District Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers

The best kept secret of our guild perhaps?



Contact:

birminghamwsd@hotmail.co.uk - for general information and booking for workshops

Welcome to our members and readers. We are meeting face to face now at The Meeting House. Our next meeting is on 10th September

[Workshop: Artist Talk and Paper Weaving Workshop with Nilupa](#)

[Yasmin, 10th September](#)

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

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Next Guild Meeting Saturday 10th September

Workshop: Artist Talk and Paper Weaving Workshop with Nilupa Yasmin

Friends Meeting House,
23A Watford Road,

Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB

Buses 11, 38, 18, 19, 45, 47, 48, 49, 84

close to Kings Norton station

Getting our message out

A small team of our members do try to use different means of communicating our plans and our past events. The newsletter is one record, but the others include two Facebook pages - a private one that can be found but membership is restricted, and the other is a public page open to be seen by anyone although new individuals have to be approved before posting anything. Wendy keeps our Instagram account active as well as a blog recording all our activities on the guild website - www.wsdbrirmingham.weebly.com. Although we have a Twitter account, I confess to not keeping it up to date as I find Tweeter my least favourite social media. In additions our Secretary, Amanda, circulates information and newsletters from the national association and as well as programmer updates from our committee members via email many times in the year.

But I do think the website is probably our best kept secret and wonder how many members visit it? If you are new to the guild and want to know what we have done in the past do visit it as there is a blog that goes back several years.

This extra edition of our newsletter is due to my having omitted reports of several of our recent events from the earlier edition. As no one had sent in reports for these activities I have copied Wendy's reports from the 2022 Blog to keep you up to date.

Our Annual Open Day & Exhibition

Saturday 14th May was our Annual Open Day. It was a great day with lots going on. Our members worked really hard to set it up the night before and in the morning before our visitors arrived. Here are some of the activities going on during the day.

Weaving demonstrations with Janet and Gemma with lots of visitors having a try.

Dyeing activity with Sarah. A great activity for



everyone, using a hammer to pound a flower and transferring an image onto fabric. I love the way Sarah was sticking the flower to wide masking tape to keep it in place while hammering. I saw some lovely images, especially the pansies.

spindles.

We had lovely home made cakes and cups of tea. Also a sales table with wool, buttons, cards, books, plants and seeds for sale.

There was an exhibition of members' work and a competition open to members, with the theme of make do and mend. Everyone voted for their 3 favourites and well done to Sarah, Gemma and Margaret who won the top 3 places.



Ruth and other members were spinning and teaching visitors how to use the wheels and

Open Day Memories



And the three Challenge winners



Knit in Public Day

Here are some of the photos from our World Wide Knit in Public Day in Kings Heath Park. There were about 20 of us there and we stayed for about 3 hours, after experiencing every kind of weather!

Eventually the rain beat us but not before we had a good chat, and saw tatting, knitting, spindling, lucet work and probably lots more. There were people from our guild, Stitches and Hos and the Knitting and Crochet Guild. The chair of the Kings Norton Park Committee stopped to say how lovely it was to see us in the park.



Spin in Public Day Saturday 17th September

Wendy and Tina will be spinning at The Shed in Cotteridge Park 11.00-2.00. So if you are free, bring your spindle or wheel and some fleece and join us!

CoCoMad

Five of us went to CoCoMad this year. This year it was back after a break of 2 years because of the pandemic. Sarah brought her brilliant gazebo, Tina brought her giant trolley and the blackboard sign which she writes with such skill. Carolyn brought her foraged fibre and baskets and created so much interest with visitors who were keen to have a go at making cordage from some of her fibre. Lynne came and joined us too and I had my trusted spinning wheel. Sarah bought her scarf loom and warped it up there and started to weave. We all helped children to make friendship bracelets and we even had one child who loved it so much she kept returning with friends to teach them too! We had some heavy showers but we stuck it out and the evening was lovely. Sarah and I finally let around 7:30 pm after a very long day. We did think it was a good day as we had a lot of interest in our crafts and maybe some new members for September.



Lightwood House Sunday 18th September

Carolyn will be spinning at Lightwood House, Bearwood, so if you want to join her there do contact her to check out the start time.

Yarningham 10th July

Tina spent Saturday at Yarningham and on Sunday Rachel and I went. It was very warm in the marquee but we had a good day. The best part of demonstrations is meeting and chatting to like-minded people. I certainly did that at Yarningham. I will just mention a few of the lovely people I met there. Jo came and spoke to me about coming back to spinning after many years. She had got out her old traditional wheel and wants to spin again. We suggested she come to guild in September for help and advice and in the meantime to treat herself to some fibre (after all she was in the right place to get some!) that she really loves so she will feel truly inspired to succeed.

Then there was Louise who has just decided to treat herself to a wheel from Fibre Hut. She was so excited when she had a go with my Ashford Joy and really got the idea of spinning very quickly- maybe she will choose a Joy instead of the one she had planned to buy.

Jute from The Old Print Works in Moseley came to speak to me too. She said that they have 2 large looms in working order and wondered if anyone from our guild would be interested in using them as it is a shame that they hardly ever get used.

I spoke to Laura from @AdventuresinYarnCraft and she lives locally and she is considering coming to join us in September. That would be great, we look forward to seeing you, Laura.

I must also say hello to Margery and Sylvia who work for the NHS who came to try out our weaving loom. They were so excited to be weaving -see below

And lastly the lady who asked me to help her with the yarnwinder. She then told me about the weaving kit she had just bought and when she showed it to me I said 'Oh its just a piece of cardboard' and she laughed so much when she realised she has paid £15 for a piece of cardboard and we both laughed a lot!!

