



Welcome to the June newsletter, especially to our new members!

Next meeting: June 15th – AGM!

Our next meeting is on Saturday 15th June, and will include the AGM at 11am. A formal notice of the AGM, including agenda and details of proposals to be voted on are attached to this email.

Please do come to the AGM if you can – your vote counts!

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Treasurer

We are seeking nominations for the role of treasurer. The Treasurer is a vital role for the Guild, and is responsible for keeping track of the Guild's finances. This includes ensuring invoices are paid and income from events is banked and accounted for, and preparing an annual report for the AGM and the Scottish charity regulator OSCR.

Current Treasurer Nicola Stock is very happy to support the new Treasurer to find their feet in the role, and recent moves to online banking and card payments have simplified things quite a bit.

If you think you might be interested in being nominated, you can email edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com or chat to us at the meeting!

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Wheel for sale

Guild member Sheila Syrett has an Ashford Kiwi for sale for £250, or nearest offer. If you are interested, please contact Sheila directly – we can put you in touch if need be!

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May meeting – Open Day

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the open day and made it such a huge success. Without your amazing cakes, brilliant makes, exciting demonstrations and above all, passionate enthusiasm, the day would have been drab indeed.



Programme 24/25

The Committee has assembled the following programme for 24/25. We hope it meets with your approval!

We are seeking suggestions for workshops. Let us know what you're interested in – broad topics or specific people – and we'll see what we can make happen!

September 21st	De-stash	March 15th	Talk
October 19th	Workshop	April 19th	No specific theme
November 16th	Talk	May 17th	Workshop
December 21st	Christmas event	June 21st	AGM
January 2025, 18th	Spinning the Blues Away	July	Visit
February 15th	Workshop	August	Broughton Gathering

Workshop spaces are limited, and subject to charge. On days where there are workshops, members not taking part continue to meet for a general craft-and-socialise. Talks are open to everyone.



Fleeces for sale

Guild member Karon Gilhooley has knowledge of some freshly clipped Castlemilk Moorits, Zwartbles, Blue Excels, and Texel cross. Prices for raw fleece range between £5 and £7. If you're interested, contact Karon for more information!



Loomspoke – request for information

We have received the following request for information:

“I am compiling a list of unusual words that have occurred in works of fiction, and attempting to give their etymology, evolution, and history with examples. The word I am currently working on is loomspoke. This appears in an 1824 novel called *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* by the Scottish author James Hogg.

In the scene where this word appears the central character has gone to visit a weaver in his cottage, and they get into a dispute [...] and the weaver bashes the other fellow with this loomspoke. The text reads as follows:

“...the destructive weaver seized a loomspoke, and began a-beating me most unmercifully...”

The trouble is that I am struggling to learn what a loomspoke is or was. It would appear from the context to be either part of a loom or a tool used in the operation of a loom and sufficiently robust as to be useful for use as a weapon, but beyond that I have no idea. I have consulted a number of dictionaries, including Scottish and slang dictionaries, and searched online where references to this word all point back to this same novel.”

If anyone has information pertaining to loomspokes, please let us know!



National Exhibition 2024

Information regarding the National Exhibition accompanies this newsletter. In essence:

“There are two parts to the exhibition:

- The first part is for items that are put forward for the selection process. These items may be your own ideas or may be based on this year's theme.
- The second part, the non-selected part, is open to any guild member. This year we ask that a removable book cover, on a slimline A5 or A6 notebook, is created to the theme of, 'Battles, Borders, Books'.

Items for all parts of the exhibition must include spinning, or weaving, or dyeing or a combination of these. Other textile techniques may be used as part of the item, though spinning, weaving, dyeing must be the predominant techniques.”

Please see the accompanying document for more information. The Guild is keen to support any member who wishes to submit pieces for either part.



Summer School 2025

The Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Summer School 2025 will be hosted at the Queen Margaret University campus near Musselburgh.

The Association is seeking individuals to take on various roles for the Summer School, including Convener, Financial Records Keeper and various other smaller roles. Expressions of interest are sought by mid-June.

There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting, or you can email edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com. All expressions of interest will be passed to the Association, who will then take things forward.



Association AGM

The Association of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will have their AGM on 8th June. Our president, Isabella Rossi, will be our representative at the meeting. If there is anything you would like asked or discussed, please contact the Guild email before 8th June.

Contributions

The next newsletter will be distributed at the start of July. Items for inclusion can be sent at any time to edinburghguildwsd@gmail.com. Show us what you've been working on, share the name of the book or website you found really useful with everyone, tell us about really cool exhibitions or events you've been to or you've found out about!