

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Montgomeryshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, held on the 18th December 2012, at Forden Community Centre.

1) Apologies

Sue Collett, Lynne Geldart

2) Officers Reports

Katherine Barber read out a summary of meetings held over the last year.

Apologies were offered from Dawn Cleaver for the lack of minutes from the AGM held in 2011, none were taken at the meeting due to the lack of a secretary.

It was requested that members check their addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for our records.

Treasurers Report

Affiliation fees had been paid too late in 2011, which is why there is double fees in the 2012 accounts and none appearing in 2011.

We had a refund from Montgomeryshire Street Fair for our stand at the event.

Membership fees are up due to the rise in subscription.

It was proposed that membership fees remain at £25, and there was no objection from the guild. This fee includes tea, coffee and biscuits, Dawn Cleaver offered a vote of thanks to Joanna Brown for organising this throughout the year, and also for providing home baked flapjacks at meetings.

3) Election of Officers

None of the present committee felt able to take on the role of secretary, and no other guild members stepped forward to hold the position.

It was therefore proposed that the guild continue running as it currently does, with committee members splitting the secretary's jobs between them. Joanna Brown will continue to act as the nominated phone contact, and members can use the general guild email address montyguildwsd@gmail.com to contact all of the committee. This was put to the vote and there was a general consensus for this proposition.

Dawn Cleaver was proposed to continue in her role as President by Joanna Brown, this was seconded by Maggie Armstrong, the vote was carried.

Elaine James was proposed to continue in her role as Treasurer by Ann Lawrence, Katherine Barber seconded the nomination, again the vote was carried.

The remaining committee members of Caroline Martin, Katherine Barber, Liz Jones, Joanna Brown, Coral Whiteway and Katie Weston were all happy to remain in their positions for the forthcoming year, this was proposed by Ann Lawrence, and seconded by Angela Robinson. The vote was carried.

Katie Weston was not voted on to committee last year, but after several committee members left, and due to some committee members not being able to attend meetings regularly she was co-opted on to the committee later in the year.

Caroline Martin was proposed to continue in her role as Health and Safety representative by Katherine Barber, this was seconded by Glenys Roberts, the vote was carried.

4) Programme for 2013

The guild were shown a draft copy of the 2013 programme, at several points during the year the committee suggested that we continue in our Christmas tradition of "Bring a plate of food". We have a large number of visiting speakers this year, many of whom are coming along for little or no fee. It was felt that providing them with a communal lunch would show our appreciation, and would foster a greater sense of friendship and community among the guild. No objections to this were raised.

It was suggested that members are emailed a week before the meetings where they need to bring along a plate of food as a reminder.

On the 9th February Amanda Hannaford is running a workshop on handcarding and longdraw spinning. This is limited to 12 places, there is a £10 deposit to book a place, with the total cost of the workshop being no more than £15. Deadline to book a place in January before spaces are opened up to other guilds and local spinners.

The 13th April sees us hosting Rob Harvey-Long who breeds a flock of Cotswold sheep. Rob has been selecting his sheep for fine fleece over the last 17 years, and this year produced a fleece with a micron count of 20. Rob is kindly visiting us free of charge, so it was suggested that we make a donation to the Cotswold Sheep society, it was also suggested that we make Rob a gift of some sort as a thank you for his visit.

The guild accepted the programme, and it was also suggested that in 2014 we hold a dyeing day at Coral Whiteways.

5) Any Other Business

i) Accommodation for guest speakers.

Amanda and her husband will require accommodation the night after her workshop in February. Various members suggested they might be able to help, arrangements will be formalized at the January meeting.

Andrew Johnson will also be visiting us later in the year to give a talk, again various members offered to help, arrangements will be formalized at the September meeting.

ii) Table and Chairs

The President thanked members for remembering to tidy up chairs and tables at the end of meetings, and asked that they continue in their efforts this year.

iii) All Wales Salver

Last year the guild presented the organising committee of the All Wales Event with a silver salver to be presented to the guild who had most successfully interpreted the guild challenge.

We received a letter from the planning group thanking us for our gift, but stating that they wanted the challenge to remain un-competitive and inclusive, and proposing instead that they use the award for the best piece in the individual exhibition.

The committee proposed that we reply that the salver was a gift, and we were happy for the salver to be used in any way they saw fit. This was accepted by the guild, with the addition that we were disappointed in their decision.

iv) Points from the floor

There was general discussion about ensuring the guild remains an open and friendly one, making sure that members introduced themselves to newcomers.

It was also proposed that tuition to new spinners is only going to be available during open meetings. In the past members have had to give up places on workshops when new members have arrived wanting tuition. This was accepted; though members are of course welcome to ask for help during any meeting, from any member. If anyone needs help with a particular technique then they just needed to ask a committee member who would either help, or find someone who could. The policy about tuition will be made clear on the new programme and on the guild website.

v) Guild Website

The website has been maintained by Lynne Geldart's husband David, his ill health means he is unable to continue in that role, so Katie Weston has offered to take over as Web Mistress, and she requested that if any guild members had photographs of any projects they should share them with her.

6) Date of next AGM

Saturday 14th December