

2014 Sponsorship update

Shropshire Yarns British Tapestry Group: Support for a workshop planned for later in the year with renowned tapestry weaving tutor, Louise Martin. Maralyn Hepworth, a member of the group, writes:



“Many thanks for your sponsorship for the talk by Louise Martin in Shrewsbury. We had an amazing turnout from around 30 people from all walks of life. The council historian, an MA student all the way from Birmingham who was studying the Grayson Perry Tapestries and had just discovered the BTG website, professional weavers, and people with no particular interest but were still inspired by the wonderful talk Louise gave. This has certainly raised the profile of Tapestry Weaving in our small neck of the woods!!! We had 8 people for the masterclass weekend of all levels, all of whom went away with new skills and enthusiasm”

Katie Russell: Katie is an established tapestry weaver setting up community-based tapestry weaving workshops in Dumfries, Scotland

“Thank you very much for awarding me this. It is going to be a huge help with my workshops.

I have a workshop lined up in March and another in June which will end up with an exhibition of work by those who have attended the workshops. Would it be possible for me to send you images of the work from the exhibition in June? Lots of Weaversbazaar info will be out for people at both workshops. I feel weaving in this region is going to get stronger with help like this and with more communication between areas in the region, which is huge and difficult to get round. But a huge thank you and I know that weavers at workshops will love the wool!

Below are images from the Weaving Samples exhibition at the Catstrand, New Galloway in Dumfries and Galloway. All the weavers used Weaversbazaar yarns, some people mixed these with Shetland, Harris and cottons. There was a good mix of abilities, some complete beginners and some who had done some weaving before. Have had great feedback on the work from visitors to Catstrand. Thank you very much for giving me financial assistance with purchasing yarns. The workshops have been a great success and I'm now in talks with the venue about doing another workshop.”



Thom Hecht: Yarn and equipment to support her personal development as a tapestry weaver in Germany. Thom says:



“Since receiving the 2014 weaversbazaar Sponsorship, I've been working on completing two pieces. A larger tapestry (10 e.p.i.) based on a Hundertwasser painting. Currently, I am weaving the last storey of the building, using a lot of different oranges (e.g. pale peach, bright orange, etc.) to give the piece a 3D look to represent a true Hundertwasser style tapestry. During late Spring, I also attend a workshop at Westdean where I



started a tapestry weaving a "21st century face". As my tapestry is set at 12 e.p.i, the progress is slow, but it allows me to play with a wide range of greys, whites and blues to create a face that is rich in details. My sincerest thank goes to Weaversbazaar whose sponsorship allowed me to explore the full range of colours that they have to offer. Thank you, again, for giving me this opportunity.”

Go'n' Knit Kington: Yarn to support the work of this dedicated charitable group producing woven clothing and blankets to be redistributed by the Hereford Branch of the Salvation Army. Alison Hird writes:

“We are still sending out blankets, rugs, hats, scarves, mittens, hand knitted puppets amongst other items to Romania through the Hope Carrier Trust or delivered to the Hereford Branch of the Salvation Army for them to distribute to the needy. We were extremely grateful to weaversbazaar, both for their sponsorship of wool and also for bringing our group to the attention of other weavers who have sent us surplus wool, which has been gratefully received. Since the beginning of September we have sent 22 blankets, 40 scarves, 15 Hats, and 11 teddies. Some of these items were woven and some knitted. We have completed a couple of floor rugs which will go out in the near future. We received a large quantity of weaving yarn from Mrs E Alexander from West Sussex as a result of your report on our work. Although most of the wool that we received from you or from others has been too thin for our peg looms or ridged heddle looms, nothing has been wasted. We have plied, cabled and hand dyed the yarn and we enclose sample pictures of the work from some of our members.”

KnitnGo mixed the yarn weaversbazaar donated with other yarns and fibres.



Floor Rug. Made on a peg loom



Assorted items



Woven Scarf. .

South East British Tapestry Group: Sponsorship of the South East British Tapestry Group Exhibition entitled “Weather, whether”. This exhibition was held from 17th to 24th April at the Mill House Gallery Angmering, West Sussex.



Jackie Bennett: Yarn and equipment to support community-based workshops in and around Lewes in Sussex which Jackie is organising. Jackie says:

“I was very fortunate to receive sponsorship to enable me to provide materials for my tapestry weaving classes in Lewes. So far 9 people have benefitted from the warp and weft yarns that weaversbazaar has supplied and the usage will be ongoing. This has meant that beginner weavers can try a range of warp and weft counts, learn how to combine a mix of weft shades and supplement their own supplies for specific projects. They have quickly learnt that you can never have enough shades. Also exploring which colours they are most confident to work with and which are harder to combine to create an overall harmonious effect for small samples and larger compositions. I have also started to use weaversbazaar yarns for teaching crewel embroidery work. The range has proved successful for a recent workshop on Bayeux tapestry techniques.”



Adam's Sampler



Tapestry class in action

The Weaver's Workshop: Yarn and equipment to support the Weaver's Workshop - a non-profit making group set up to promote the craft of weaving and make it accessible to the Coventry community. Diane Wood, one of the leaders of the group, writes:

“The Weavers’ Workshop is a non-profit making group set up to promote the craft of weaving and make it accessible to the Coventry community. We are a mixed group with experienced weavers and complete beginners eager to learn. We offer a public drop in session each week, outreach work with local communities as well as more formal learning workshops. We share our knowledge amongst the group and are continually improving our skills. Our aim as a group is to promote the craft of weaving, its use as a creative medium and its place in Coventry’s history.

For 2014 we decided to skill-up in tapestry weaving both for own development as weavers and with the intention of sharing these newly learnt skills. We got off to a flying start with sponsorship from Weaversbazaar. This provided us with a fabulous range of yarns to play with and to allow delicate blending of colour. We extended our techniques with a workshop from Coventry based tapestry weaver Jane Frear-Wyld. Subsequently we consolidated our new skills, sharing knowledge and experiments, before offering introductory workshops to the general public. Our first public workshop was very successful with beginners blending colour both by preparing yarn butterflies and hatching. This generated much interest with calls for follow-up workshops to explore shape and texture. We have also introduced tapestry weaving in our outreach programme including several participants at a local project supporting young people in sheltered housing. Our members are now confident in the basic skills of tapestry weaving and happy to share these during both our drop-in and outreach activities. Photos show outcomes by a complete beginner exploring the

possibilities of tapestry weave and a more experienced member pushing her blending skills to create a beautiful landscape using weaversbazaar yarns. The Weavers' Workshop would like to thank weaversbazaar for their generous support of our project."



Dumfries Tapestry Group: Yarn and equipment to establish a new community of tapestry weavers in Dumfries. Rita Corbet writes:

"The group began in January this year and meets on the last Friday of the month at the Gracefield Arts Centre in Dumfries. We currently have 12 members of whom 8 are beginners. We have a mentoring arrangement which means that each of the more experienced weavers looks out for two beginners; answering questions, teaching techniques, suggesting solutions to problems, giving information and directing them to resources (books, videos web links etc). This isn't a rigid system; so any member who has ideas or suggestions feels free to contribute. We have kept the cotton (for warps) and the wool (for wefts) which we purchased with your grant in a special box for our beginners and we encourage them to explore the colours and textures which they make possible. In the pictures you will see that Carol chose a palette of your colours for her kelim tapestry. The kelim design was done by me-one of a series from which the beginners can choose to practice basic shapes. We usually have some small event of interest to the group at each meeting: Gwyn explained how she approached the design for one of her weavings; Katie told us about her Jute Exhibition in Dundee in 2013/14; Penny taught us some useful knots; Joyce shared with us her experience of being a participant in Dumfries & Galloway's Spring Fling Open Studios Event 2014. We are beginning to consider taking on some group activities e.g. with Penny's inspiration and tuition we will all make a 'MugRug' to bring to our first AGM in January 2015. We are intending to submit a work each for the planned exhibition of tapestries by Scottish members of the BTG which will take place next summer at the Verdant Mills in Dundee. Some of us are already trying out weaving with Jute, as these tapestries must include Jute in the yarn used. We will have a two day workshop with Fiona Hutchison at the end of November on design for tapestry weaving and during 2015 may have a group outing to somewhere of tapestry interest."

Below are images Rita Corbet sent us of the group's works.





Janet Phillip's Weaving Masterclass: A project using Theo Moorman techniques. Check out full details of all the Project's these students have undertaken with our yarns so far. Janet summarises progress on this project:

"Master Class 5 have just gone home after spending the week learning Theo Moorman. These are the samples woven, which are going to be worked up into final pieces for presentation in January 2015. They will be either weaving small cushions or pictures. As you can see they are all very much learning samplers. They are all using 18/2nm in the warp and various different threads as tie down. Most of the weft inlay yarn is weaversbazaar. Debbie Briggs is using the transparent yarn 'Nigel' as the base cloth and plans to weave a small window dressing with your yarns in the weft. As they were all using your fine yarn as the base cloth I decided to weave a sample of your 6/2nm yarn with the base cloth, with 18/2nm as the tie down and all three weights of yarn as inlay weft. Had just enough fabric to make this tiny pocket bag. This cloth was sett at 12epi with a 2:1 ratio thick to thin in the warp. The thin tie down thread was sleyed additional to the warp sett."

Below are the initial Theo Moorman samples the groups have been working on along with the 'Theo Moorman Pocket' woven by Janet herself.



Alison Sharman



Debbie Briggs



Sue Browne



Sue Wallis



Toni Wilson



Janet Phillips

Chrissie Freeth: Equipment to enable a demonstration of tapestry weaving at the East Riddlesden Hall Project where Chrissie is artist in residence. She says:

"My time at East Riddlesden was a great success - folk came daily specifically to see the tapestry and many came repeatedly to watch it grow. The room stewards and other volunteers subsequently raised the funds to buy her for the National Trust and she is now hanging where she was woven."

As part of the project we had the two tapestry frames you kindly donated in the sewing room, just across the hall from my scaffold loom. They were a huge hit with the kids (as well as the adults!) and I know some spent several hours in there. We put lots of different wools out for them to experiment with and there was always a room steward on hand to help. Hopefully some new weavers have been created!"