

2016 Sponsorship Update

Jackie Stevens

Jackie has been awarded a contribution towards a tapestry weaving course she has attended

The Durham Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

Durham Guild are working on their 'Chinese Whispers Project'. Angela Colbridge writes "Following a visit to the now closed, National Quilt Museum, in York, two of our members were inspired by an exhibition called Chinese Whispers.

Twelve quilters, unknown to each other, came together for the project. The first one was sent an image and from that she had to take inspiration to make a small quilt. They were given a specific size to work too. The maker was given a set period of time to make her quilt then she took a photo and passed that on to the next quilter and so on.

Durham Guild have taken the idea and are now in the process of producing twelve images. We have arranged to have our first exhibition at the Durham World Heritage Centre, in May 2017. The Centre is on the peninsular, close to Durham Cathedral and Castle. The centre has requested the first image should be something on the peninsular. It was agreed that each piece should be 30x30cms to fit into deep white frames, so even though each piece was done by a Guild member, they looked like one project. We haven't restricted everyone to tapestry weaving, as not everyone has the skill or interest but we have stipulated they must be yarn/fibre in construction (no fabrics).

The first one was completed in January 2016 and everyone has been given six weeks to produce their work and to then pass on their image. So far we are ahead of ourselves but of course that does give us some leeway for any problems that may occur. We do have some members on standby, should someone be unable to participate. The twelve pieces should be completed by April 2017.

It seems very odd to be participating in a project with eleven other people and yet not be able to discuss, share or show, as no-one must know what has gone before. It is for this reason we cannot photo any of them for public display, until the last one is completed. The York project was amazing and morphed from being a bridge over the River Clyde in Glasgow to a harbour, a beach, recycling and finally autumn leaves. It will be very interesting to see where our project goes; at this point we have no idea. Watch this space!!!

Cos Ahmet

Cos is developing a new body of work: " As with any project, the work evolves and changes,



and can sometimes veer away from the original brief or idea. I always allow for this to happen. It is how I work. I have been working mainly with the cabled cottons and really like the fineness of the 6/16 warp, it weaves really well and almost mimics the very fine linens I am fond of using. I

am about to put new warps up today, which will include the linen you also supplied"



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Janet Phillips Masterclass

The Masterclass students will once again be working with our yarns and exploring their potential in a fabric weaving challenge which focuses on our tonal colour ranges. This project, the seventh her students have done for us, kicks off in the Autumn. The Collections her students will be using are Iris, Graphite, Apple and Sunburst. We are looking forward to seeing what weave structures they use to maximise the impact of each range.



Weaving the Striperstones and Corndon Hill Country



Irene Evison has embarked on a project entitled 'Weaving the Striperstones and Corndon Hill Country'. Irene told us "all is going really well. We were out yesterday evening in glorious sunshine. The group have all chosen completely different interpretations of the landscape, and have made a great start with the absolute minimum of tuition. They're really enthusiastic about tapestry weaving, finding it very calming and meditative. See attached (left) for the piece from one woman who has experience of cloth weaving, but had never done tapestry weaving. She decided she wanted to use some driftwood she had, rather than the

frame." It is lovely!

Julie Taylor

Julie is planning a community tapestry weaving event. In a recent update she told us "I have been in talks with my local neighbourhood community groups sorting out venues and dates for Sept. This has been ongoing since Jan! The good news is everyone I have approached for advise has been really helpful and I now have my venues in place as well as being able to work with an engineer who has offered to build a large loom to the specifications required. Everybody is quite excited about the whole thing and it is being supported by the Kings Hedges Neighbourhood Partnership here in Cambridge. The project should get lots of publicity and have a very wide platform. So far so good.". All sounds very busy and we look forward to further details as the project gets started.



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Wendy Kotenko

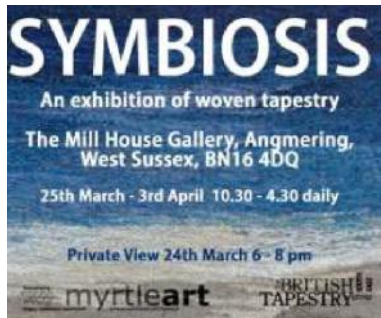


Wendy led a workshop on Kasuri weaving at the start of the year. In her write-up she says: "I prepared the tapestry frames with the warps before the workshop, I set up narrow warps at 4 e pcm of wool and silk mix yarn because of time allowed for weaving. I had prepared natural dyed yarns and also natural indigo resist dyed weft yarns to make the kasuri patterns. The yarns for kasuri were measured so that they would just be a bit wider than the warp- you are supposed to be able to shift each weft slightly as it is woven so that the pattern edge is blurry...this is a characteristic of Okinawan kasuri. The students could choose just to weave with the naturally dyed coloured yarn if they preferred. The weaving on the table looms worked well. One of the looms was set up for kasuri in the warp and the other for weft kasuri. The students said that they enjoyed weaving on the tapestry looms and table looms and a relaxing afternoon outside with the frames was enjoyed by some of the students...the weather was lovely. I left the

frames and yarn at the workshop for the week so that the students could continue with the weave alongside the other workshops taking place each day." Wendy's full report and all the photos she took to illustrate this fascinating technique, will be in the full summary of 2016 Sponsorships which we will release later in the year.

[South East Group of the British Tapestry Group.](#)

The SEBTG held their third Biennial Exhibition at the Mill House, Angmering. Margaret Appa,



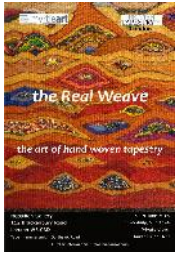
Chair of the Group, writes: "Symbiosis, the third exhibition of the BTG SE group, took place in April 2016, with the Private View generously sponsored by weaversbazaar. Over 100 people attended on this first evening, not just the weavers and their families but also a number of people who have grown to understand the variety and quality of the work created by the group. Once again, the windmill itself was a feature of the show, and thanks were expressed to Margaret

Appa whose generosity allowed the exhibition to take place in such a stunning location. The weavings themselves revealed the imagination and skill of the members of BTG SE, with the comment made by many that over the three exhibitions the standard and quality of work has noticeably risen; evidence of how the group encourages its members to be constantly aiming to reflect and improve their practice. The adjacent studio with artists selling their work alongside the Weavers bazaar pop up shop was an added attraction to the event."



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London Group of the British Tapestry Group.



London group of the British Tapestry group held their second exhibition at the Hepsibah Gallery. Despite very poor weather over 60 visitors came to see the work on show. Weaversbazaar provided a contribution towards the publicity costs. Although a very small gallery, Hepsibah provided a perfect setting for this intimate show.

Dartmoor Tweed



Dartmoor Tweed relocated and renovated an historic loom. They did this through a crowd-funding approach which weaversbazaar were happy to contribute to. You can read the full story of both this remarkable project as well as the specific journey the new 'old' loom made from Cumbria to Devon at

<https://dartmoortweed.org/2016/01/11/the-journey-to-a-loom/>