

## 2022 Sponsorship Update

### Heallreif 4 Tapestry Exhibition – Margaret Jones

Once again, we were very happy to have weaversbazaar sponsor Heallreif. The ongoing funding at the last three exhibitions of 'The People's Prize' has helped engage visitors to the shows by asking them to consider each tapestry and think which they like best. Often this is simply an immediate reaction to the one they would most like to hang on their wall at home, although some spend a long time considering their vote. This year we had a whopping total of 858 votes and as you know the prize was won by Elizabeth Chester for her work 'Watcha Looking At?'



This prize also strengthens our Arts Council funding applications as it helps fulfil the public engagement criteria, it has been an integral part of Heallreif since Heallreif 2 in 2017 and we hope we can continue this collaboration with Heallreif 5 in 2024/25.

Heallreif 4 was extremely successful, we sold 7 pieces of work, which for a Heallreif exhibition is good.

Other plus points are that two artists were approached by galleries for representation. We have developed an embryonic model of artists videos (see [www.heallreif.com](http://www.heallreif.com)) and how they can evolve to support future shows. At all three venues the work was incredibly well received, they looked amazing, we doubled the usual footfall at Chichester and tripled it in Birmingham.

We were loaned a 1950's Aubusson tapestry to exhibit with the other work in Chichester, it was a perfect fit to link the modern tapestry with the more medieval work the public are used to seeing and we are exploring the possibilities of borrowing another work for Heallreif 5.

In spite of genuine intentions to make Heallreif 4 the last because the workload is so high, we were invited to exhibit Heallreif 5 at a couple of venues and just couldn't say 'no'. So Heallreif 5 will currently show at Weston park in Shropshire during July to August 2024 and at Farfield Mill, Sedbergh, January through to the end of March 2025. We are currently negotiating with other venues to find one for the intervening dates and seeking input from the tapestry community for any support they may be able to give the organiser.



## Tapestry Touring International exhibition “The Natural World” – Jane Freer-Wyld and Lindsey Marshall

### [Introduction on TTI](#)

Tapestry Touring International is a not-for-profit group. Whose core aims are to provide opportunities for tapestry weavers from different countries to:

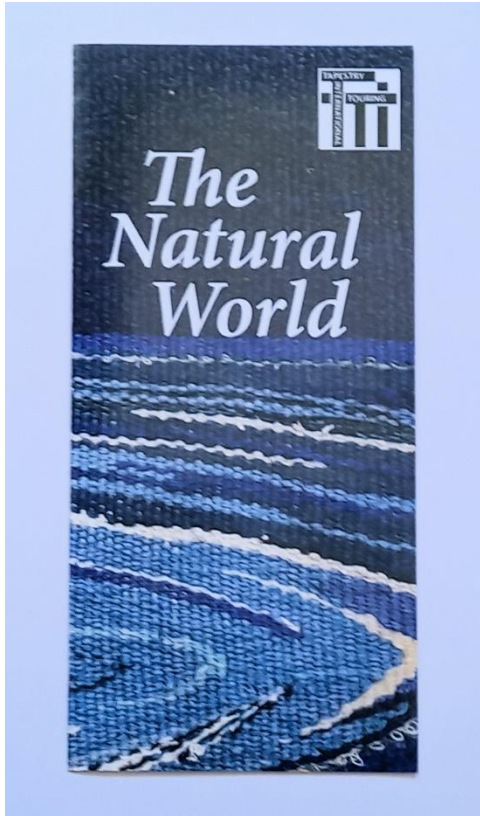
- work together on a theme, creating small format hand woven tapestries measuring no more than 25 x 25cms;
- exhibit together in an international touring exhibition;
- keep artist fees to a minimum.

Tapestry Touring International exhibitions aim to enlighten, inspire and educate the onlooker in relation to the variety and range of approaches to both handwoven tapestry, and a theme.

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Individual artist weavers are invited to exhibit: they come from a diverse range of creative backgrounds and stages in their careers, from novice weavers to those with international reputations.

In 2022 weaversbazaar sponsored Tapestry Touring International to produce a brochure for the Natural World Exhibition



Lindsey and Jane ordered 150 brochures last July. They say “At that point we were yet to receive confirmation of dates for the Kirkleatham Museum, Redcar, exhibition next year, and were still actively looking for a third venue; so it made sense to order enough just for the first venue, The Guildhall, Much Wenlock.

Not only do we have dates for Kirkleatham Museum, but we also now have dates for a third venue: Farfield Mill, Sedbergh.

In the New Year, after discussing numbers with Lindsey, we shall be placing an order to cover both venues. This will be much larger than the first order and, obviously, include the two remaining venues and dates

Lindsey and I would like to thank Weavers Bazaar for supporting Tapestry Touring International's third exhibition, The Natural World. “

More information on Tapestry Touring International can be found here <https://tapestrytouringinternational.weebly.com/>

## Waterline Project – Joan Baxter, Anna Wetherall and Irene Evison

In early 2022, weaversbazaar kindly granted Nearly Wild Weaving sponsorship for the Waterline project. They contributed to the costs of the publication we were planning to produce alongside the exhibition, which would not just be a catalogue for the tapestries woven as part of the project, but would also contain information on how the project came about and how it all worked in practice. They also provided yarns for the masterclass we were planning to run with Joan Baxter alongside the opening of the Waterline exhibition. Despite Waterline being an international project, many of the weavers were planning to travel over for the opening, so we wanted to help them make the most of their journey.

For those not already aware, Waterline is a collaborative project, conceived and led by Joan Baxter with support from Anna Wetherell and Irene Evison of Nearly Wild Weaving. An international group of tapestry weavers came together, if virtually, to each weave a tapestry



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of their own design based on the theme of the flow of a river. Each tapestry contains a horizontal silvery-golden line, along which they have all been hung. Part of the collaboration was to liaise with our neighbours along the line, so that the tapestries work together as a whole while retaining their individuality.

The tapestries were collected together in late March 2022, sent from the United States, Canada, the Netherlands and Ireland, as well as from across the UK. We wanted them to be photographed professionally and for work on the publication to begin as early as possible. Creating a publication like this takes time, as we wanted to detail how the project worked in case anyone else wanted to do something similar, as well as providing opportunity for the group to talk about their own tapestry alongside reflecting on the project.

The exhibition opened at Farfield Mill in Cumbria, UK, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, with a 'Meet the Makers' event on 8<sup>th</sup> October. Thirteen out of the total group of sixteen travelled to be here. Some of the group came over early and enjoyed a road trip around parts of the west coast of Scotland, before arriving in Sedbergh for a masterclass with Joan Baxter during the opening week. We rounded off their time with us with a couple of days in Edinburgh, visiting several Edinburgh based weavers as well as calling in at Dovecot Studios (of course) and looking at some of the tapestries in the National Museum of Scotland. It was lovely to be joined by fellow weavers for different parts of the time, with many new friendships being made. It was also fabulous to see each other face to face, not just virtually!

Examples of work from the Exhibition showing the thin silver line running through all the exhibits



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The masterclass was focused on transparency techniques. To support that, weaversbazaar supplied warp thread for masterclass participants to use, alongside a set of graphite medium tresses with a gradient of shades from light through to dark. Joan talked us through the techniques she uses to create the characteristic transparency effects in her tapestries, including showing us a range of images of her work. We developed our own images to weave to try the techniques out and got weaving! Joan also shared with us the way that she samples, using diamonds rather than simply stripes, so allowing for more juxtaposition of different blends against each other. Many other useful hints and techniques were also shared over the three days.

Alongside the core yarns supplied for the workshop, Margaret Jones also brought up a pop-up shop of weaversbazaar yarns, allowing us all to extend our colour palette should we wish, or simply treat ourselves. It was rather like being in a sweet shop! We also appreciated the fact that participants could pre-order what they wanted, supplementing the necessarily limited contents of the pop-up shop with specific items. Many thanks to both weaversbazaar and Margaret for their support of this project.

Anna Wetherell  
Nearly Wild Weaving  
November 2022

<https://nearlywildweaving.wordpress.com/>

## A word from weaversbazaar

We applaud all these projects, the weavers and those sponsored, for their hard work and vision with their chosen projects and are proud to have contributed a little something to spreading the word on Tapestry and to encouraging those who have experience as well as those who are trying out Tapestry for the first time. Long may you all continue.