



The Weaver Incorporation of Dundee

THE DUNDEE WEAVER

The newsletter of the Weaver Incorporation of Dundee

Issue 27

December 2020

Deacon John Fyffe Message to Members

This has been an unusual year to say the least whereby none of us could have expected how our lives have changed and we are some way off seeing the end of this pandemic.

Our fundraising this year like so many other groups has stopped and we will not be able to give out grants to worthy causes but I expect that when we do return to some form of normality that we will resume our activities and I would hope that you will support them going forward.

Some of our member remain active in supporting community groups principally in Mill o Mains and Charleston and many thanks to Alastair Scott, Sandra Thomson and Bob Low for their never-ending level of commitment.

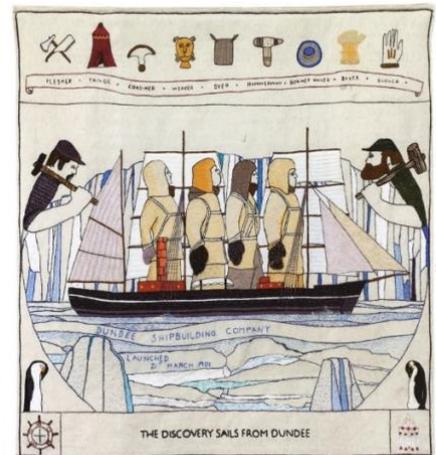
Our AGM was due to take place last September and of course this had to be cancelled.

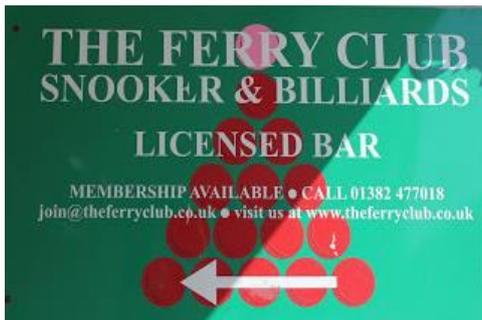
At that time my two years as Deacon would have come to an end and my Boxmaster Paul Leigh would have taken over as Deacon and Jim Smith as the new Boxmaster.

The Deacon's committee has agreed that both Paul and I continue in our existing roles for another year to provide continuity through these difficult times and we are both happy to do that.

The Deacons committee still meet monthly and I would like to thank them all personally for the support they have given me during my two years so far as your Deacon and going forward for the next year.

I hope that you all have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.





Inter-Trade Games Night

A Games Night was held between the Weavers and the Hammermen in the Ferry Club snooker hall, Broughty Ferry on Friday 17th January.

This was the second such event following the inaugural event held last January.

Each craft competed at Snooker, Pool, Darts, Ping Pong, with a putting competition to decide the Final Prizes.

Food was again supplied by the Hosts and with each participant paying £10 with any extra being donated to MND Research.

As per last year, a small but select group of Weavers enjoyed the excellent hospitality of the Hammermen at the Ferry Club during the Games Night.

The evening was a closely fought competition ending with the Hammermen retaining their trophy – just!!

All was not lost for the Weavers as Alistair Scott (pictured right) won the prize for the most points collected over the course of the evening – well done to him, a sure sign of a misspent youth?

Grateful thanks to the Hammermen and the Ferry Club for organising the venue and event and we look forward to next January.



Weavers Team (left to right)

Jim Piggot, Nicholas Cunningham, Jim Smith, Paul Leigh, John Fyffe and Alistair Scott



Hammermen Team (left to right)

Drew Cargill, Kenny Robertson, Hamish Thomson, Andy Taylor and John Sibbald.

The Weavers Bi-ennial Dinner was held on Friday the 6th March 2020 in the Weavers Room within Verdant Works.

This event commenced with a Dinner supplied by and served by Ian Cooke and his helpers. We were honoured by the presence of two guest speakers Sheena Devlin and Simon Hewitt also our own Weaver Craftswoman and renowned Scottish singer Sheena Wellington provided the evening's entertainment. Deacon Convener Iain Murray of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee also attended where he presented an update of the current activities of the Nine Trades.



Deacon John Fyffe with Guest Speakers Sheena Devlin and Simon Hewitt.



Top Table guests (left to right)

Deacon Convener Iain Murray, Simon Hewitt, Deacon John Fyffe, Sheena Devlin, Sheena Wellington.

Deacon John Fyffe welcomed everyone to the evening and introduced the guests at the Top Table which included Simon Hewitt, Sheena Devlin, Sheena Wellington and Deacon Convener Iain Murray.

Also attending representing their own Trades at the event were Dave Inglis, Deacon of the Hammerman, Steve Flack, Deacon of the Dyers, Bruce Donaldson, Boxmaster of the Bonnetmakers and Raymond Edwards, Clerk of the Hammerman.

Boxmaster Paul Leigh was asked by the Deacon to say Grace which then allowed the meal service to commence.

Dundee Tapestry Project

This Project is about to be launched with a lot of time and effort which has gone into setting out the storyline and agreeing the themes for each panel. **The tapestry is to contain 36 one metre square panels.**

To date three Dundee Community Centres and one church group have agreed to participate in the Project with communications also enhanced by a Facebook Page and a WhatsApp Group.

The Working Group are also in the process of securing the non-financial sponsorship of notable Dundonians or those with a strong attachment to Dundee to be filmed putting in a few stitches into individual panels.

To date the following have been identified to place 'stitches' in the Tapestry Panels:

Lorraine Kelly, that famous Dundee United fan who also has a programme on TV!,

Ged Grimes of Simple Minds, ex Danny Wilson and Deacon Blue has committed as has Gary Clark of Danny Wilson.

Chris van der Kyle the IT entrepreneur is on board too. Attempting to contact Brian Cox at the moment.

Our own Lily Thomson, the oldest working weaver in Dundee has also agreed to put in a few stitches.

Sheena Wellington has agreed tonight to lend her name to this project.

Discussions are ongoing with DC Thomson on two fronts;

1. To get copyright permission to use some of their iconic cartoon images on the panels.
2. A bid for funding of £30k over three years as matched funding from the Nine.

Also employed is a DJCAD graduate on a part time contract to support community and church groups.

An A4 thumbnail which sets out what we are trying to achieve was laid out on the tables to view.

Deacon John Fyffe in his introductory speech stated that he is now well into the Second Year of his Tenure as Deacon and it has been a real privilege to lead the Weaver Craft during this period.

Both Boxmaster Paul Leigh and Deacon John Fyfe set out to continue the legacy that Past Deacon David Edgar has left, in particular the social events that have been staged in an effort to work with other Trades as an important 'coming together' in recognising the Nine Trades Institution here in Dundee.

Over the course of the last 12 months the craft has been very active.

February 2019

A Weavers Supper was held at Discovery Point where the principal speaker John Tavendale, Senior Project Manager on the construction of the V&A gave an illustrated talk on the construction of this iconic building.

Deacon John Fyffe and his wife were invited to the Weaver Incorporation of Aberdeen annual dinner dance in Trinity hall, Aberdeen where they attended representing the Dundee Weaver Craft.

March 2019

The Craft returned to Discovery point for a Gin Tasting night where 25 turned out to sample a range of different gins, cheeses and biscuits. The night was rounded up with Past Deacon David Edgar hosting a fun quiz. We shall be hosting another such event on the 1st May this year in the Weavers Room at Verdant Works.

The Deacon and Boxmaster attended the Hammerman's dinner in the Woodlands where Deacon John Fyffe had the honour of presenting the vote of thanks at the end of the evening.

Just a word of note that Deacon John Fyffe managed to squeeze in his Ruby Wedding celebrations - **congrats!**

May 2019

The Deacon and the Boxmaster attended the Annual Degree Show at Duncan of Jordanstone where they awarded two prizes to the best projects in Innovation in Textile Design. Once more, overwhelmed by the talent on show.

Second Perth Tea Party held in St Johns Church Hall for the local Care home residents, ably supported by young people from St Johns High School, Perth. **Donation of £280 was handed to the Rape Crisis Centre in Perth**

The Nine Trades held their bi-ennial dinner in the Malmaison where a large number of Weavers were present. Deacon John Fyffe was asked by the Deacon Convener to propose a Toast to the Guests at the event.

June 2019

Deacon and Boxmaster attended the Nine Trades charities committee to bid for funding to develop a Dundee Tapestry Project.

Weavers Charity Concert was held in St Luke's and Queen Street Church where we were entertained by a range of local performers including our own Sheena Wellington. **£4600 was raised for good causes.**

Cheques presented were £1000 to Alzheimer's Scotland, £1000 to Help for Kids in Dundee, £250 to Capability Scotland, Dundee, £250 to a Horseback UK charity for disabled service personnel and £1600 to fund our own intergenerational Projects.

Deacon John Fyffe added comment to these generous donations questioning were the Weaver Craft the only trade that raises this kind of money for charitable causes?

Deacon John Fyffe was asked along to Balhousie Care Home, Perth when they launched their own tartan. This remarkable achievement was as a result of the Weavers Intergenerational Project where young and old were brought together to design and weave a new tartan. This would never have happened without the support of Craftswoman Sandra Thomson and Master Weaver Ashleigh Slater.

August 2019

Tea Party, Number 8 for Care Home residents in Dundee took place at St Stephens church in Broughty Ferry with 110 people attending. The 'Two Pauls' provided the entertainment which was well received by those attending

January 2020.

The Weaver Craft held a games night re-match with the Hammerman in the Snooker Hall, Broughty Ferry and again unfortunately we were narrowly beaten by pure skill and endeavour!!

Our Intergenerational project goes from strength to strength as we now have around 30 care homes, charitable organisations and schools involved where the activities involved deliver considerable social and health benefits.

At the AGM in September 2019, we introduced 5 new members to the craft. This will be added to through the induction of two more this evening.

The Weaver Craft remains very active and we have a planned programme of activities during 2020.

New Members David Telfer and Craig Smith (see below) were introduced by Boxmaster Paul Leigh and the consequent standing to take the Oath of the Weaver Craft delivered by Deacon John Fyffe after which they were invited to sign the 'Lockit Book' to officially become Members of the Weaver Craft.

Craig Smith also replied on behalf of David and himself to their being inducted in to the Weaver Craft.



New Member Craig Smith signing the Lockit Book

New Member – Craig Smith was Proposed By: Boxmaster Paul Leigh and Seconded By: Deacon John Fyffe

Although no direct links with the industry Craig has been in the past Clerk to Angus Educational trust where he established bursaries for apprenticeships focusing on the trades that operate in the Angus area, which included weaving.

His daughter undertook a Higher National Diploma in Textile and Design and as part of the course they jointly visited the textile producing establishments and art colleges looking at the innovative use of fabrics in the current fashion scene.

Craig was born in Glasgow brought up in Cumbernauld and moved to Liverpool as a child and then moved to Dundee where he has been for the past 48 years.

Craig's education consisted of the attending Harris Academy, Dundee College and through EEF (The Makers Organisation) and undertook his Health and Safety Degree via Warwick University.

His career has seen him in local and central government for the past 40 years, ranging from the Police, Procurator Fiscal's office, Education and currently as the Business Manager for Tayside Contracts, the trading arm of the local councils in Dundee where has previously been employed as a Safety Advisor and his current post will be his last in local government as he looks to move on to volunteering etc.

He is currently the Chair of Angus Association of Duke of Edinburgh Award, Member of RoSPA, and an associate member of IOSH (Institute of Safety and Health).

Craig has been married to Ann for nearly 35 years, have 4 children who are now all adults, but some still at home along with a lively family dog.

His interests and hobbies include cycling - including on holidays in Europe, Hill walking, where he is in the process of completing his mountain leaders award.

Craig takes students on Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions during the summer months and acts as an assessor for the award.

He follows for his sins Dundee FC and for his pleasure Liverpool FC and is attempting to take up golf again!!



New Member David Telfer signing the Lockit Book

New Member – David Telfer was Proposed By: Boxmaster Paul Leigh and Seconded By: Deacon John Fyffe.

Although no direct links with the industry David has worked very closely with Muriel Whitecross to develop links between Verdant Works and Monifieth High School.

His wife is currently the Deputy Head of Braeview School which is involved with the Weavers Inter-generational Project by having one of our handlooms in the school.

David was educated at Grove Academy (1975-1980), Dundee College of Education (1980-1984) and attended University of Stirling in 1990.

His career in education commenced as Assistant Teacher of Technical in Perth High School (1984-1989), Assistant Principal Teacher of Technical at Perth Grammar School (1989-1992) and then moved to Monifieth High School as Principal Teacher of Technical in 1992.

David is married with two young children ages 10 and 12 and his hobbies include Cycling, Keep Fit, Hill Walking, Playing guitars both acoustic and electric, Tennis and Badminton.

Soon to establish - as part of planning for his retirement – setting up a picture framing business.



Sheena Devlin with Deacon John Fyffe

Guest Speaker - Sheena Devlin,

Sheena is currently Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) in Perth and Kinross with responsibility for over 3000 staff but it is viewed she will move upwards in the not too distant future.

Away from work she enjoys playing and listening to music, attending gigs regularly – recent outings have included Dolly Parton, Robert Plant, Michael Kiwinuka, Karine Polwart, Paul Carrack, The Gaels Blue Orchestra, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra and Dundee favourites Sinderins (a band with a former pupil in it!)

She sings in the PKC staff choir – 'Everyone Can Sing', Reading, films and theatre are fitted in around the gigs.

Deacon John Fyffe met Sheena over 20 years ago and has admired her professionalism and knowledge of all things educational.

He also had the pleasure of working with her and learning from her in Perth & Kinross.

Sheena talked about her family members who had worked in the various mills around Dundee, the Mill humour, the 'stoor', the strong women and how this had shaped her as a person.

Finally, Sheena asked the attendees to raise a glass and toast the Weaver Incorporation of Dundee to which Deacon John Fyffe replied to the Speaker and the Toast

Guest Speaker - Simon Hewitt,

Simon is the current Vice Principal for Curriculum and Attainment at Dundee & Angus College and has been working there for just over 12 years. He is extremely passionate about the power that education and lifelong learning has on our society and communities.

However, this wasn't always the case.

Born in Northern Ireland, Simon wasn't always so passionate about education, in fact, he spent more time avoiding the classroom than being in one!

Where Simon really flourished was on the sports field where he has represented his country in football, athletics (Javelin), cricket and...believe it or not...basketball.

Unfortunately, in the space of 18 months and at the tender age of 17, all hopes and dreams of being a sports star disappeared.



Simon Hewitt with Deacon John Fyffe

Unfortunately, in the space of 18 months and at the tender age of 17, all hopes and dreams of being a sports star disappeared.

After failed trials for Manchester United and Leeds, a ropery 9 months playing cricket in Australia and a disastrous 3 months playing basketball in Atlanta Georgia, all seemed completely lost.

Now Simon doesn't really like stereotypical Irish jokes but, it is quite clear when you see his height that it is no surprise his basketball career didn't flourish!

Simon realised that the only thing that would save him was education so he returned to his local college in Northern Ireland and then onto university in Dundee where he never looked back and discovered a rekindled love for education.

Within 12 years Simon has progressed from a part time lecturer in computing to vice principal of a sector leading college. He also works as an associate assessor for Education Scotland, is on the board of the Dundee Science Centre, the Workers Educational Association, the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and the SQA Advisory Council.

He also plays an active part in the Dundee fairness commission which hopes to improve inequality and poverty within the city.

It is safe to say that the City of Discovery has been kind to him...in the early days his discoveries were £1 pints, lots of laugh and forever friends but more recently his discoveries have been a fantastic career, a beautiful wife and 3 amazing kids. Twin daughters Jessica and Amelia (both 6) and a son Joshua (2).

Simon wasn't born in Dundee but he has been 'made here' and he is here to tell some of the lessons Dundee has taught him.

Simon's talk was about Dundee being his adopted city, how he has spent half his life here and considers this to be his home town, that Dundonians tend to talk down the City when there is clearly a lot to be proud of.

How as a young student he thought 'Ken' was a person rather than a local colloquialism! He talked from the heart about how he had been accepted into the city.

Finally, Simon asked those attending to raise a glass and toast the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee.



Deacon Convener Iain
in his robe

Deacon Convener Iain Murray.

Deacon John Fyfe was delighted that Iain Murray the recently elected Deacon Convener of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee attended the evening where he was asked to reply to the toast to the 'Nine Trades' and give an update on the activities of the Nine Trades.

Iain is managing Director of Towergate Insurance brokers in Perth where he specialises in providing commercial insurance to the business community particularly in the food, construction, engineering and technology industries.

He designs individual solutions to meet clients' needs his latest being PPI.

Iain has a strong sense of humour and when he was googled for the purposes of this introduction it was interesting to note that in his online CV he could speak 'English'!

Seriously Iain has been known as past Deacon of the Baker Trade and the Collector to the Nine, but less known for the range of other professional and charitable positions he has held over the years. Past President of the Insurance Institute of Dundee and Perth, Past Chairman of the Round Table to name but a few.

Deacon John Fyfe then invited Iain to reply to Simon's speech and the toast to the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, followed by an update on the activities.



Weaver Craftswoman Sheena Wellington

Sheena Wellington once again agreed to lead the Members and Guests in the singing of some Mill Songs at another Weavers Event.

Sheena is one of Scottish traditional music's most passionate advocates, an internationally recognised champion of Robert Burns and in her proudest achievement, the singer who will forever be remembered for her stirring singing of 'A Man's a Man for a' That' at the Scottish Parliament's opening in 1999.

She won the coveted Leng Medal with her singing of 'The Winter it is Past' then becoming the chief soloist in the Harris Academy choir.

She went on to sing in folk clubs and pubs. She was also given a trial programme by Radio Tay which led to a six-week run and eventually turned into an eight-year stay.

We are all delighted that she is a member of the Weaver Craft and she was welcomed to the evening as an honoured guest.

Sheena performed on two sessions during the Dinner encouraging those attending to join in with some of the 'weel kent' songs which went down well with everyone on the night.



Weaver Craft bowties are available to
purchase

David Inglis the Deacon of the Hammerman was asked to convey the 'Vote of Thanks' which he duly delivered.

Deacon John Fyfe then thanked all for attending and their participation in the successful night and that they have a safe journey home.



Weaver Craft hip flasks are available to
purchase

Members and Guests on the Night



Dundee Tapestry Update by Deacon John Fyffe – June 2020

As you would expect the restrictions around Covid 19 has had an impact on the development of this project, however we have still been conducting weekly virtual meetings and are in the process of issuing stitching packs to a number of stitchers who have expressed an interest.

Included in the packs will be tapestry materials, linen, threads, needles, and instructions. And are also including links to 'You Tube' tutorials on stitching techniques to accommodate the variety of skills of the individual stitchers.

Contact with the stitchers will be through our Community Learning partners and a textile graduate who we are employing as part of the project. If you know of any stitchers who would be interested in creating this legacy project please let me know.

Weaver Craft help out providing Face Masks

It is with pleasure that an article presented in the Dundee Evening Telegraph on April 30th which highlighted the fantastic efforts by the Dundee Weaver Craft had resulted in thousands of pieces of PPE equipment being directly delivered to local front-line workers be included in this Newsletter.



From left: Alastair Scott, Sandra Thomson from Dundee Weavers, with Jim Malone of Mill O' Mains Action Group handing over the PPE to Hannah Anthony, a Staff Nurse at the Orchar Nursing Home in Broughty Ferry.

Thanks to Weaver Craft Member Bob Low's trade contacts in China, PPE landed in Dundee on Tuesday, and in less than 24 hours, 10,000 face masks were distributed to care home workers and food bank staff. The Group has also distributed 200 face shields to local doctors' surgeries. Bob explained the order had been made possible thanks to a private donation – and appealed for the public's help to do more. He added: "There is a shortage of face masks throughout the country and to we set about finding face masks to the care sector and volunteers working in food bank distribution within Tayside and the surrounding area. "The need for more masks is there and we now trying to raise £15,000 to fund even more face masks".

We hope this can be double the amount, so 20,000 masks in total, "It would be great to show to our care workers in Tayside that they have the support of their community."

The Weaver Incorporation of Dundee is one of the 'Nine Trades of Dundee' and dedicates itself to funding various organisations in the area, including those for underprivileged children. The Group's efforts help fund events and activities which promote weaving and skills.

The Weavers are now fundraising to donate face masks to carers, front line workers and food bank staff in the Tayside area – while raising funds for a new Mill o'Mains Pavilion in the process.

Alastair Scott, principal fundraiser, and Sandra Thomson, who has worked with care homes for several years and knows many people in that sector, are also involved.

“We are all members of the Weavers Trade in Dundee,” said Bob.

“We are all working in a voluntary capacity”.

“No-one is taking anything out of the margins – all of it will go to Mill o’ Mains and also to help buy more face masks for carers and care workers.”

Alastair Scott and Jim Malone of Mill O' Mains Action Group handing over the PPE



Grateful thanks on behalf of the Weaver Craft to those involved in this ‘operation’ with Craftsman Bob Low using his contacts and organise the delivery of the much needed masks, Past Deacon Alastair Scott and Craftswoman Sandra Thomson for their compassion for the Care Home communities they have had a long history with over the years.

Also many thanks to the Dundee Evening Telegraph for presenting this article and photographs highlighting the charitable work of the Weaver Craft of Dundee.

Weavers Covid-19 News Updates

Comment from Deacon John Fyffe:-

Weavers have been doing their part during the Covid-19 outbreak through a mixture of private donations and some money from our own funds they have purchased 10,000 face masks and distributed them to care homes, GPS and responded to other requests.

A response has been received from Bob Jack from Hillcrest Housing which is attached below.

This is a good piece to put on the Weaver Craft Facebook page.

STV news filmed them and there was an article and photographs of Sandra and Alastair in the evening telegraph.

Hope you are keeping well during the crisis, John

Hi Sandra,

Thanks again for the Kind donation of Masks and Visors; I've attached a picture of them I had taken after collecting from Donald and dropping into our store.

I will pass on this photo to our Publicity team so they can say a thankyou via our face book page.

I will say they were donated from "The Weavers Incorporation of Dundee" (see Twitter Tweet below)

Thanks again, Bob Jack, Head of Hillcrest Maintenance, Hillcrest Maintenance Ltd, Unit 3b 5 Tom Johnstone Road, Dundee DD48XD 07950018480



Below is an email sent by Past Deacon Alastair Scott to Don Low on the 10th of May 2020 regarding the following article.

Well done Don & Low winning a great Contract for delivering the fabric for aprons and masks to be made up for the NHS and Care Home users!

This will keep some of the Company going which is a great boost to Forfar, also the investment help from the Scottish Government towards your new machines and look forward to the Company when it is installed.

The Weaver Trade has had good publicity over the past weeks with yours and our PPE supplies and should make note in our Newsletter and also mentioned to the Nine Trades Fund Court.

It makes you proud to be a Weaver and doing our collective bit – as many did 75 years ago!
 Best Wishes Alastair Scott

Good News for Don & Low.

A deal has been agreed to manufacture more personal protective equipment for health and care workers in Scotland.

The agreement will provide more than half of NHS Scotland's weekly requirement for non-sterile gowns, the Scottish government said.

Forfar-based firm **Don and Low** will supply about 2.8 million square metres of the base material required.

That will be converted into gowns by Glenrothes firm Keela, as well as Lancashire-based Redwood TTM Ltd. Keela will then work with two firms in Livingston - Transcal and Endura - to deliver the equipment.



The deal comes amid supply issues of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, with global demand for gloves and masks at unprecedented levels.

Supplies to Scotland have so far come from a number of areas, including **large imports of face masks from China.**

Weaver Craftsman Dr Richard Irvine who is a Volunteer at Verdant Works, Dundee produced a number of Facebook presentations as his alter-ego Verdant Works Mill Manager, Mr Forrester. Richard is the driving force behind the Weaver Craft Social Media and Nine Trades within Facebook and a member of the Deacon's Committee.

This was a very informative set of presentations during lockdown to give everyone an interest of the past.

The selection below were all available on the Verdant Works Facebook page at the time and on behalf of the Weaver Incorporation of Dundee we would like to thank Richard for his time, commitment and information portrayed through the eyes of Mr Forrester.

29/03/20 - Our ever-resourceful Edwardian Mill Manager gets around the problem of the "Mill Fever" shutdown with the new-fangled electronic telegram. Discover the foundation and history of the Verdant Works

02/04/20 - - Mr Forrester, our Edwardian Mill Manager continues his history lesson series. This time he introduces the topic of jute - the staple of our industrial backbone.

05/04/20 - This time our Edwardian Mill Manager, Mr Forrester recalls the dangers of working in a non-fire proofed mill, with the story of a rather hot summer's day.

15/04/20 - Edwardian Mill Manager Mr Forrester discusses the importance of water to the textile industry in Dundee and reveals the 5 water courses that made Dundee.

22/04/20 - Our Edwardian Mill Manager, Mr Forrester highlights the importance of whale oil to the development of the Dundee jute industry. What is the connection between a great sea mammal and a reed-like plant from India.

30/04/20 - Mr Forrester, our Edwardian Mill Manager, discusses how Dundee's flax and jute industry have stimulated and supported the growth and development of lots of other trades and industry in the city

06/05/20 - Find out what a pukka bale is, and why jute storage is a hot topic, plus new job opportunities at the mill - all from Mr Forrester, Mill Manager.

14/05/20 - Mr Forrester discusses flax dressing and the origins of a familiar activity which owns its existence to local radical textile workers.

21/05/20 - - Mr Forrester is growing flax (the linen plant) in his garden. Here he talks about flax and how the Verdant Works was established as a flax spinning mill in 1833 - one of these new-fangled "Shanks" lawnmowers gets a mention too!!

28/05/20 - This week, our ever friendly, Mill Manager, Mr Forrester talks about just some of the end uses of jute and products made from jute. It could be said that from c1850 to 1950 jute was the equivalent to plastics such as polyethylene and polypropylene in our modern world. Dundee was the world centre for this wonder material.





Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

End of Year Degree Show 2020

Weaver Craft Annual Presentation

Prizewinners



This year Deacon John Fyffe and Boxmaster Paul Leigh had the opportunity to judge the two best students for 'Innovation in Textile Design' virtually!

The Course leader forwarded the details of four young Students work for the Deacon and Boxmaster to consider which was not easy and never is even when we attend the college and can judge the work first hand.

Two young people were awarded the first and second prize of £300 and £200 respectively and these were; Francesca Rea and Adam Komuves (see additional information below).

We wish them all the best in their future careers.

Deacon John Fyffe was asked to video record a brief message for the prizewinners which was included in the virtual degree show and is online. If you want to see how it should not be done please log in!

Francesca Rea (Bio and samples of work)

For humans, the end of life is a heavily contemplated advent. However, even with the existing sustainable options for burials, the materials that the body is clothed in are not often considered. Around 65% of all fibres used in clothing are made from synthetic material. These materials take hundreds of years to break down, releasing harmful chemicals during decomposition. Using embroidery, I have designed textiles for burial-wear with natural dyes and fabrics that are eco-friendly and 100% decomposable.

Bio-degradable matter, when decomposing, adds to the nutrients which allow for new life to grow. This life cycle connects people to nature and provides the visuals for my design. I have drawn from disintegrated leaves as a reminder of our place in the environment, one that we must look after for the next generations. Some of the techniques and materials used are inspired by traditional Irish crafts and the ancient burial rituals of my predecessors.

Textiles tell stories, provide comfort and play an important role in specific occasions. New life is often accompanied by textiles; the swaddling blanket keeping the baby safe and contained as it adjusts to life outside the womb - equally with the deceased; as a salve and a memorial. My project aims to open the discussion around death and the rituals and practices that surround it. With beautiful, thoughtful textiles in natural materials we can return loved ones to the earth with ceremony that has aligns with the balance of nature.



Adam Komuves (Bio and examples of work).

The way we live and the demands we place on our homes is constantly evolving whether it be the need to work from home or the shifting size of our family units. Accepted normal of previous eras seem ever more constraining to the way we want to live. Mid-century brutalist architecture followed the social change of WW2 as a brave new world of revolutionary responses to the way we should live and produced buildings. Designers such as Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe or Lucienne Day set the scene of social change through design.

The principles of connecting indoor and outdoor space, designing for natural light or using open plan living and communal spaces to provide flexible areas accommodating demands within a new aesthetic. The revolutionary methods and materials fuelled by post-war optimism and recovery had gone through a long period of neglect because of their bold shapes, geometries, construction and materials as well as social stigma.

I wanted to reflect on the mid-century stylistic bravery by studying some of the brutalist buildings in Aberdeen and designing collections that captured their strength of simple forms and dynamic details, sharp lines, textures and diversity found in closer study. The colours are inspired by the light on concrete, textures caught in cladding panels, the colours of staining and on a neglected elevation and the reflections on bronzed glazing between bold engineered forms to create a collection that is both bold and delicate, reflective, yet new.



Retirement Notice

Adrian Stewart has decided to retire from the Deacon’s Committee after many years as Joint -Clerk and also as the Editor of the very informative Weaver Craft Newsletters.

Deacon John Fyffe has been in contact with Adrian thanking him for his service and will be invited to a future Weaver Social Event where others can thank him personally.

On behalf of the Weaver Craft Deacon’s Committee and Members we wish Adrian and his wife Lilian all the very best for the future

Courtesy of Verdant Works Facebook page this is part of an exam paper for Engineers in the weaving trade at Dundee Technical College (Abertay) in 1948.

DUNDEE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

JUTE WEAVING II.

Final Examination.

Tuesday 23rd March 1948.

Attempt not more than FIVE questions.

1. Sketch the top and bottom needle in any one row of the following Jacquard machines, (a) 400's single-lift, single-cylinder;
(b) 400's double-lift, single-cylinder. Indicate on each needle the position of the crank or cranks which control the hooks.
2. Describe the arrangements to prevent damage to a circular box motion when the shuttle is only partly in the box at the time of turning.
3. (a) Using $\frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{2}$ M 1 as weaving plan, work out on point-paper the design which results from the following draft:- 1.2.3.4.5.6.7.8/
1.2.4.5.7.8.2.3.5.6.8.1.3.4.8.7/4.3.2.1.8.7.6.5/
(b) Assuming that the design which results in (a) had to be woven with $\frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{2}$ M -3 as weaving plan, give the draft necessary to accomplish this.
4. With the aid of a diagram describe a double-lift, open-shed, negative dobby.
5. With the woof pattern, 6 Red, 4 Black, 2 Natural, 4 Black, 6 Red, make out on paper the metal cards necessary to weave this on a loom fitted with the Digglo's box motion.
6. Make point-paper plans for:- sacking twill, huck-a-back, 2/2 twill diamond, irregular woof rib, and a block check combining 2/2 hopsack and 2/2 twill diamond.
7. Describe the following:- Devoge's cylinder reversing motion, "Swan-neck", "Duck-bill".

Master Weaver and virtual learning advocate wins university postgraduate title



On behalf of the Weaver Craft a massive 'Well Done' to our Schools liaison Officer Ashleigh Slater on this latest achievement in his career. The master weaver from Blairgowrie who completed his MA course entirely online and set up a networking group to support fellow creative practitioners during lockdown has been named as the University of the Highlands and Islands 2020 postgraduate student of the year.

Ashleigh Slater (39) recently achieved his MA in art and social practice whilst studying through the centre for rural creativity at Shetland College UHI.

The following article was on the UHI Media:

Ashleigh's achievements include the creation of a community based project to explore the heritage of his home town, through a range of creative workshops offering textiles, printmaking, photography and poetry and, in particular, the life work of one of the town's most famous sons, Hamish Henderson.

As part of this ambitious project he organised an exhibition of artwork created from stitching, cyanotype photography and poetry crafted by local residents which was launched by deputy first minister and local MMSP, John Swinney.

Roxane Permar, reader in fine art and programme leader for the MA art and social practice, explained why she nominated Ashleigh:

"It was fantastic to see Ashleigh's confidence grow whilst studying, and his achievements academically and in our field of practice have been exceptional. His work is ambitious and he is personally committed. He additionally produced a digital version of his final work on an interactive website and, as master weaver at Tartan Caledonia, he designed a commemorative tartan to mark the centenary this year, 2020, of Hamish Henderson's birth.

"Ashleigh is liked by everyone he meets and he displayed enormous compassion and empathy for those he works with. As a wheelchair user, he leads by example, inspiring others to overcoming obstacles and barriers, encouraging others to find their own unique learner journey".

Speaking of his award Ashleigh said:

"Receiving this award is not just a reflection on myself, but the outstanding teaching experience at Shetland College UHI and the university's digital teaching platform. It allowed us to all obtain a real-life experience generating our 'project' and evolving our own creative arts practice".

"I have had an amazing experience. It has been life changing and impacted me in more ways that I had imagined possible. I finish my course not only with a new experience but with a new positive mentality".

"It has also brought my views on education into a new light and I hope other colleges and universities can learn from these methodologies, and allow more disabled people options to access education, and postgraduate degrees without barriers".

Professor Crichton Lang, principal and vice-chancellor (interim) of the University of the Highlands and Islands, added:

"I am delighted that Ashleigh has been selected as our postgraduate student of the year. Our aim, across the university partnership, is to create a supportive and welcoming environment for all and we strive to provide a personalised learning experience for all our students, removing barriers and allowing them to find their own unique learning journey.

"Ashleigh is a fantastic ambassador. He will inspire many and he sets an example to new students that virtual study is as rewarding and creatively inspiring as meeting fellow students face-to-face."



Deacon John Fyffe's Update on the Dundee Tapestry Project

Dundee is one of Scotland's best known but least understood towns. It has a rich and diverse history and through the years has adapted and evolved to meet the challenges and opportunities offered. It is best known for the three J's of Jute, Jam and Journalism and the strength of its women but less so for its rich history in the areas of politics, commerce, industry and the sciences.

Dundee needs its own tapestry where its own people can co-produce the narrative and connect with Dundee's heritage as the project develops. It is our intention to lead on the production of one where we envisage that the tapestry would be added to at appropriate times.

A primary focus is to connect most of Dundee's people with its heritage and changing culture but seen through their eyes.

Getting the right narrative and core story is critical to the success of this project as there is so much that can be included over various periods in Dundee's history.

We have developed partnerships with Duncan of Jordanstone College, the City Council, Design Dundee and many others to develop this project under our direction.

The Nine Trades have granted us funds to get the project started.

Work on the tapestry has been impacted by COVID however we are now back up and running.

We will be producing a tapestry with 35 embroidered panels each being 1m square.

Two of the initial panel designs will be ready by the end of this year. Then the stitching can begin.

Much discussion has taken place on what should be included and a lot of discussion with members of the communities and indeed your good selves needs to take place, we have however decided to set out Dundee's mainly contemporary story into eight themes:

- Dundee's Culture
- Dundee's Industry
- International Dundee
- Dundee's Women
- Dundee's Communities and institutions
- Creative Dundee
- Dundee's Nature
- Academic Dundee

We have set up a;

Website: TheDundeeTapestry.com, and would encourage you to visit this and if you use other forms of social media we also have a presence on;

Instagram ; @thedundeetapestry, on Facebook: Dundee tapestry, and on Twitter: @dundeetapestry

I will keep you informed as the project progresses.

