

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE BRADFORD TEXTILE SOCIETY

2010-2011 Session

2010-2011 remained a challenging year for the industry, in particular in the face of higher raw material prices, but the industry remains quite buoyant and the Society's programme gave members the opportunity to meet, discuss and be inspired by some first class speakers.

The Society was delighted to welcome, as president, Mr. Malcolm Jarvis, former managing director of Naylor Jennings, and would like to thank him and congratulate him on organizing such a stimulating programme of talks and events. These meetings are very much appreciated by our members, as well as providing vital lectures and discussion groups for students of the Yorkshire based Textile Design schools of Leeds, Huddersfield and Bradford Universities and colleges.

The president's theme "The Diversity of Yorkshire Textiles" started the year with an entertaining and stimulating Presidential Address, in particular to those of us members who thought that wool was the be all and end all of the Bradford industry! The Presidents subsequent wide range of high profile speakers who addressed the Society demonstrated that this was clearly not the base. Amongst others, the Society welcomed talks from:-

Douglas Long of Specialised Car Covers Limited

Simon Havis from Tilsa Tec on the increasing requirement for technical and composite fabrics for all manner of engineering and automotive end uses.

Jamie Hawkes from Perachem Ltd

Peter Ackroyd on the Campaign for Wool - patron HRH the Prince of Wales

The Society enjoys a close relationship with the Huddersfield Textile Society, with whom we had 4 joint meetings during the year and continue to build on this solidarity within the Yorkshire Textile Industry. Highlights here included a talk given by Subhash Anand on fabrics for slash and cut protection, and "From Hand loom to Power loom", a talk held by Harriet Wallace-Jones and Emma Sewell.

The Annual Dinner, a highlight in the Society's calendar, was held on 26th November 2010 at the Cedar Court hotel, Bradford, where members and guests enjoyed an excellent meal and enjoyed an outstanding address by the principal guest, Ben Mears, senior menswear designer of Jaeger who told us that Yorkshire fabrics are something to be proud of and are indeed most aspirational and of the moment; I hope Ben can spread the word to his colleagues at other retailers around London!

Another highlight of the year was the Society's annual Design Competition, which continues to grow from strength to strength. This year, the competition attracted an astonishing number of entries, a total of almost 900 from a wide range of 34 different Universities and Colleges throughout the UK. The presentation of Awards took place on 4th May at the Rio Grande and was extremely well attended by over 180 guests, students and tutors. A buffet was kindly sponsored by Bombay Stores, who also gave students a tour of the store.

The Society is indebted to the sponsors of this competition for their continuing support in providing prize money, namely:-

The Clothworker's Foundation

Prestigious Textiles Ltd.

The Dyers' Company

"Twist" magazine

Australian Wool Innovation

Holland & Sherry Ltd.

British Wool Marketing Board

The Association of Fashion & Textile Courses

The Society would, once again, like to express its sincere thanks and appreciation to Jacques Brunel of Premiere Vision for continuing to support the competition and for providing the additional prize of a sponsored VIP visit to the September PV salon in Paris for 4 of their chosen prize winners.

Our thanks are also due to the Company of the Merchants of the Staple of England for their kind sponsorship of the Awards Ceremony.

The success of the Competition has placed a much increased workload on the organisers, and I would like to thank in particular Gillian Craven and Geraldine Clark for the tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work which they do to ensure that the whole event is professionally and efficiently run.

The smooth running of the Society would not have been possible without the input of the secretary, John Lambert, and treasurer, Philip Preston and the society would like to express its sincere thanks to them, as always, for such superb organisation and control of its financial affairs.

Finally, we would like to welcome Geraldine Clark to her year as President. We welcome her as the first lady President of the society since the society's inception 117 years ago, Geraldine has lined up a very exciting programme for us and we would like to wish her every success for the coming year.

Mark Verity

Chairman

