

Chairman's Report to the Bradford Textile Society AGM 2017

What a year this has been with many changes within the Society and yet again record entries into the Design Competition.

Our President Pam Brook set out a varied and interesting programme of lectures and visits for the up-coming year in her Presidential address in September. The first of these was the October lecture by Dr Sarah Kettle with the fascinating title "The Electric Corset" all about embedded and networked technologies within garments.

November was the annual dinner at the Midland Hotel in Bradford where the speaker was Bill Macbeth from the Huddersfield Textile Centre of Excellence. A good evening all round with attendance up on the previous year.

December saw a riveting presentation from Ruth Caswell about her life from growing up and working in Keighley to her work as a textile designer for manufacture, film and ballet.

In January the lecture by Andrea Wilde concerned her novel and unusual experimental textile design work inspired by; pest devoured perennials, woven silk archive fragments and home grown products.

The February presentation was at Wydean Weaving in Howarth and the talk was given by their M.D. Robin Wright after a visit round the factory.

The final event for the year in March saw a visit to the Bradford Textile Archive with many fascinating examples of fabrics through the ages being displayed and explanations by Helen Farrer the archivist.

Many thanks to Pam for organising these events and the participation of the speakers but it remains a fact that the lectures are poorly attended and the Society is looking to reduce the number of these lectures for the up-coming year. Pam has kindly agreed to continue in her role as President for a further year with the assistance of Vivienne Bradley and so she gets the chance to do it all again for 2018.

This year's design competition once again broke records for the overall number of entries and the number of colleges involved. Again the presentation took place at Bradford College in the dyehouse gallery and many thanks to Clare Lamkin for organising this and the lunch for sponsors and guests. It really is an excellent venue which supports the prizegiving but also allows the winning entries to be displayed around the room. The speaker at the event was Laura Slater whose talk gave the students an insight into what awaits them in the commercial world.

The competition was well supported by the various sponsors giving so generously the prizes for the students and their time to adjudicate nearly 1,000 entries. Without their help the Society could not continue. Again it falls on me to thank not only the sponsors but the team without whom it would not happen, Gillian Craven, Pam Brook, Vivienne Bradley and especially Sue Geldeard (ably assisted by her family).

All-in-all another successful year but not without its problems. The decision to split the Secretariat between SDC and Sue Geldeard, which initially looked to be such a good compromise, proved to be unworkable. We now have a firm agreement with Sue Geldeard,

for which Barry Smith will draft a contract, to provide the full secretarial services for the coming year.