

Chairman's Report to The Bradford Textile Society AGM 2021

In 2020 I reported to the Society that the previous year had been "one like no other" and at that time who would have predicted that the world would have made such little progress towards life returning to normal.

Caroline Hodgson took over from Vivienne Bradley as President in September and set out her imaginative and impressive range of speakers for the year with all the meetings taking place as webinars. The result of this necessary on-line change was to see huge benefits with the meetings being viewed by many students who had never previously been able to access our programmes. This is definitely something we may wish to continue, even when we can safely return to physical meetings at the Bradford Club. The work undertaken by Sue, Caroline, and Vivienne to set this up and make it such a success was remarkable and all credit to them for their efforts.

The speakers this year were:

Polly Meynell, Ecclesiastical Textile Artist

Ian Maclean, MD of John Smedley - The P.P. Townend Memorial Lecture

Then we had a panel discussion as a joint meeting with the Woolmen based around the theme "Wool for the 21st Century". The panel were: Peter Ackroyd MBE, Frank Davies, Janet Prescott, and Dr. Mark Sumner.

Juliet Bailey, Director Dash and Miller.

Tami Stewart, Lecturer at Leeds University.

The annual dinner was unable to take place and was cancelled.

Once again, the Design Competition went ahead but with an on-line format for the entries, judging and seminar, and despite all the odds continued to be very successful. There were some minor teething troubles, but they were overcome, and nobody should underestimate the huge amount of work this entailed, Sue, Caroline, Gill and all the team devoted so much time and effort into making this work and without them it could not have gone ahead. Later at the Council meeting we will be asking for somebody to assist with the day-to-day running of the Society to take the strain off Sue who has devoted so much of her time to ensuring we could function as near to normal as possible. The Society will be forever indebted to her and recognises both the work she has done and the need to ease the burden.

Next year we carry on! Caroline will continue as our President and has put together another programme, the Design Competition continues on-line for now and hopefully, in the near future, we can resume our annual dinner.

Thank you to all our Sponsors, Council members, members, students, and speakers for their continued support and we look forward to making this year just as successful.