



MAKING IT IN TEXTILES CONFERENCE & MILL VISITS



BRADFORD: 15 - 16 OCTOBER 2025
Share your stories! #MiiT2025

MAKING IT IN TEXTILES IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL
Patron: HM King Charles III



THE CLOTHWORKERS'
COMPANY



THE DRAPERS'
COMPANY



THE WEAVERS'
COMPANY



THE WOOLMEN'S
COMPANY

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> DELEGATE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION & SANDWICH LUNCH: MIDLAND HOTEL (13.00 - 14.00)

Please check in and register at the **Midland Hotel** (13.00 - 14.00), where a sandwich buffet will also be available before we begin.

ACCOMMODATION: MIDLAND HOTEL & JURY’S INN

Accommodation is provided by both the Midland Hotel, where the conference takes place, and another local hotel, Jury’s Inn. Printed maps are available from the conference reception desk.

All rooms are pre-allocated, and you will be given your room number when you register. To ensure this event remains free for delegates, some attendees will be required to share hotel accommodation. Tutors have been allocated individual rooms, but may not be in the same hotel as their students. To ensure that the event runs smoothly, we cannot accept requests for changes to room allocations.

HOTEL CHECK-IN OFFICIALLY OPENS AT 14:00

Midland Hotel: Forster Square, Bradford BD1 4HU

Guests staying at the Midland Hotel are welcome to check in before the conference begins, during the afternoon conference break, or after the conference closes and before the evening drinks reception. If your room is not ready for check in before the conference begins, you can leave your luggage in the hotel’s secure room.

Jury’s Inn: 2 Thornton Road, Bradford BD1 2DH

For delegates staying at Jury’s Inn, we would ask that you check in after the first session of the conference finishes and before the evening drinks reception. You can store your luggage under the table during the conference, or in the secure room at the Midland Hotel.

*If you are staying at Jury’s Inn, breakfast on Thursday **must** be taken at the Midland Hotel.*

Please note: There are no accounts open on the bedrooms; any spend charged to the room will need to be met by the guest, and any breakages or damages will also be the guest’s responsibility.

CONFERENCE SEATING AND NETWORKING

This event provides an opportunity to find out more about the textile manufacturing industry and to meet experts who will give valuable insight into different roles within the industry. It is hoped that students will take the opportunity to network as much as possible to gain maximum benefit from the event and build useful contacts for the future.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Lunch on Wednesday and Thursday will be available in the French Ballroom and will be a sandwich buffet offering meat and vegetarian options. If you have made us aware of any specific dietary requirements, there will be a covered plate of food labelled with your name, which can be collected from the buffet table.

Dinner: If you have made us aware of any dietary requirements, then an appropriate meal will be served to the table for you.

DRINKS RECEPTION AND DINNER

A drinks reception will be held in the French Ballroom at the Midland Hotel from 19:00 to 19:45 on Wednesday evening.

Dinner will be served in the Princes Ballroom at 20:00, following the drinks reception. Two courses will be served, and guests will then be invited to return to the French Ballroom for dessert and coffee.

MILL VISITS: THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER

Delegates will be visiting one mill and places will be pre-allocated. Participants from the same institution may be visiting different mills to increase the exposure to different businesses and allow experiences to be shared with peers afterwards. Delegates should have been told in advance by their tutors which mill they will be visiting.

Coaches will depart from outside the Midland Hotel. You will be advised at registration what time the coach will leave; please ensure you are ready and at the Midland Hotel at least 10 minutes prior to your coach departing. **Coaches will leave without delegates if delegates are not there on time.** Coaches will arrive back at the hotel for lunch prior to the afternoon conference session.

To comply with Health & Safety requirements, the mills have already been given a ‘Visitors List’; therefore we cannot make any changes to the allocation.

CHECK OUT AND EVENT CLOSURE

All delegates are asked to check out of their respective hotels and have breakfast at the Midland Hotel before meeting in the foyer of the Midland Hotel in good time to leave for the mill tours. Luggage can be kept in a safe place at the Midland Hotel.

The event closes at 15:15, with delegates collecting their luggage and departing.

WIFI

There is free unlimited WiFi – the hotel staff can provide you with the WiFi code.

> QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, PROBLEMS?

If you have any issues during the conference, please contact any of the event organisers, who will be present throughout. Should you not be able to locate a member of the team, please call either of the following:

Anne Howe (The Weavers’ Company): 07817 991540
Emma Symington (The Clothworkers’ Company): 07725 302421

> WELCOME TO MIIT 2025

Making It in Textiles (MiiT) is a free, two-day conference for final-year textile degree students. First held in 2014, the conference is a collaboration between The Campaign for Wool, The Clothworkers' Company, The Drapers' Company, The Weavers' Company, and The Woolmen's Company. Our aim is to forge stronger links between educational institutions and the UK textile manufacturing industry. We are delighted that over 100 representatives from final-year textile degree courses, and their tutors, are joining us for what should be an interesting and useful event.

The idea of holding such a conference came from feedback received from course tutors, who remarked that students no longer had the opportunity to learn about the textile industry first-hand by talking to manufacturers and seeing industrial production. During the conference, you will hear from experts who work in the sector who will provide an insight into what it is like to work in the textile industry, and from alumni who have forged successful careers after graduation. A visit to a local mill will enable you to see first-hand how a modern textile business operates. We also hope that the event will provide a good opportunity for you to network with the speakers, mill representatives and students from other institutions.

There is a skills and talent gap in the textiles industry. The UK industry is experiencing resurgence, and this is creating jobs. However, there are only a finite number of pure design roles available. Textile companies need young people with a range of skills who are interested in building on their design expertise to work in areas such as supply chain management, yarn sourcing, quality control and production management.

Finally, we would like to thank all the speakers, companies hosting mill visits and those alumni returning to talk about how their careers have developed. Without them giving up their time, we wouldn't be here today.

We hope you enjoy the conference, and that you will take full advantage of the opportunity to learn more about the industry.

> ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL CAMPAIGNFORWOOL.ORG

The Campaign for Wool is a global endeavour initiated by its patron, HM King Charles III, to raise awareness among consumers about the unique, natural and sustainable benefits offered by wool.

 Follow Campaign for Wool on Facebook
 @CampaignForWool  @CampaignForWool

THE CLOTHWORKERS' COMPANY* CLOTHWORKERS.CO.UK

Founded by Royal Charter in 1528, the original purpose of The Clothworkers' Company was to protect

its members and promote the craft of cloth-finishing within the City of London. Today, its mission is to inspire and empower individuals and communities through action, partnership and financial support. It is particularly focused on UK textiles, charity governance and philanthropy – through The Clothworkers' Foundation and beyond. Although few of its present members are directly involved in the textile industry, the company continues to promote textiles, principally through the provision of apprenticeships, educational grants, technical skills development, innovative textile technology, and conserving textiles heritage.

 Follow on LinkedIn
 Clothworkers_Co  @ClothworkersCo

> ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

THE DRAPERS' COMPANY* THEDRAPERS.CO.UK

Founded over 600 years ago, the Drapers' Company has evolved into an organisation that addresses contemporary issues, through its philanthropic role. It continues to strive to be an enduring force for good. Through the careful management of its endowments, it is able to support those most in need across the spectrum of education, social welfare and the textile industry in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The Company's membership fulfils a variety of governance roles and other responsibilities on behalf of the Company in order to meet its many charitable endeavours. This includes the Textile Working Group which identifies charitable activities where the Drapers' Company can support young people in textiles at the start of their careers.

 @DrapersCompany

THE WEAVERS' COMPANY* WEAVERS.ORG.UK

The Weavers' Company was granted its Royal Charter in 1155; as the oldest of London's livery companies, it has a rich and historic past as a textile-related, charitable and sociable organisation. Today, it is a modern company that continues to fulfil its role of support for the art and skill of weaving whilst actively helping to improve society. The Company encourages excellence in all spheres of the United Kingdom's woven textile industry by identifying, supporting, and nurturing exceptional students training for the industry, as well as young people already working within it.

 Follow The Weavers' on LinkedIn
 @Weavers_Clerk

THE WOOLMEN'S COMPANY* WOOLMEN.COM

The Woolmen grew out of the ancient guild that regulated the wool trade and was originally the body that oversaw woolpackers and wool merchants to ensure consistent standards for wool producers and wool merchants throughout the wool industry. It now combines its ancient history and traditions with an active role with the \$80bn Global Wool Pipeline Industries. Through careful evolution over 800 years, The Woolmen's Company has maintained its unique traditions whilst maintaining close emotional and business affiliations with a modern, vibrant and very environmentally friendly fibre. Through its Charitable Trust, it supports research into appropriate wool-related procedures and practices, provides bursaries for students of wool, textile, design, wool marketing and retailing and it awards prizes and medals for sheep shearing at the major agricultural shows.

 Follow The Woolmen on Facebook
 @TheWoolmen

*LONDON LIVERY COMPANIES

The Clothworkers', The Drapers', The Weavers' and The Woolmen's Companies are among the City of London's 112 livery companies. Livery companies were the first form of trade associations – many of which are hundreds of years old. Today, although not all their members are connected with their original trades, the companies continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the industry, particularly promoting education and skills development.

> AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025

13.00 - 14.00	REGISTRATION AND A SANDWICH BUFFET LUNCH (French Ballroom)
14.00 - 14.15	CONFERENCE WELCOME (Princes Ballroom) Gary Eastwood (Chair, The Weavers' Company Textile Committee)
	INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITIES
14.15 - 14.35	Introduction: Sheila-Mary Carruthers (Carruthers Associates) A design-led consultant, with a global practice. Informed by experience and led by decisions to improve our industry's planet wellbeing performance. Always curious. Innovation Throughout the Supply Chain, the Starting Point of Everything for the Future. An introduction to our first guest, Jodie Padgett.
	SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION
14.35 - 14.55	Sustainable Innovation: Jodie Padgett (Camira Fabrics) Jodie Padgett is the Innovation Manager at Camira Fabrics, where she spearheads long-term innovation strategies across both contract and transport textiles. Her deep understanding of textile processes and sustainability drives her work in developing cutting-edge, eco-conscious fabrics.
	COMPOSITE MATERIALS
14.55 - 15.00	Sheila-Mary Carruthers Thanks to Jodie Padgett and links to AMRC.
15.00 - 15.20	To Weave or Knot to Weave...That is the Aerospace Question: Jody Turner & Thomas Saxby (AMRC, University of Sheffield) The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre is a world-leading research and innovation centre. Jody is a Technical Fellow, whose ambition is to close the gulf between textiles and composites manufacturing and textile engineering. Thomas is the Dry Fibre Technical Lead heading research and technical delivery in advanced dry fibre composites manufacturing whilst also supporting efforts to integrate digital technologies into the 3D weaving process.

> AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025

	MANUFACTURING AT SCALE
15.20 - 15.30	Sheila-Mary Carruthers The toolbox of a designer – knowledge of raw materials.
15.30 - 15.50	Manufacturing at Scale: Amanda McLaren (A W Hainsworth) Amanda is a highly ambitious and driven board-level executive with expertise generated over many years, within both SME and global manufacturing sectors. She is passionate about supporting 'Made in the UK' design and engineering, particularly when products are exported to the global market.
15.50 - 16.10	BREAK <i>Note: A round table discussion for Tutors/Technicians will take place in the Forster Suite from 16.00.</i>
	FINISHING
16.10 - 16.20	Sheila-Mary Carruthers Altered Appearances.
16.20 - 16.40	Finishing the Cloth: Paul Johnson (W.T. Johnson & Sons) It is often recognised that fabrics are created in the finishing, where the aesthetics of handle and drape, and indeed performance are created. Paul is Executive Chairman of this family mill, which supports the majority of northern mills (including Scotland) in this vital last process before delivery to the client. Paul will talk about the link between design and weaving and how the limits of the 'possible' are pushed in the finishing of the fabric.
	STARTING A BUSINESS
16.40 - 16.50	Sheila-Mary Carruthers Becoming the Boss?
16.50 - 17.10	Starting Up a Business: Sarah Turner (Little Beau Sheep) Sarah is passionate about wool, both its qualities and its environmental advantages. In 2015, she left her role as Marketing Manager at HSBC and launched Little Beau Sheep, using British wool to create more eco-friendly laundry products as she searched for an alternative to plastic laundry balls. Since then, she has been recognised by many industry bodies, has starred on BBCs Countryfile, and is a keen vocal ambassador for British Wool.
17.10 - 17.30	Sheila-Mary Carruthers A review of the day and the career prospects. How to Network, Network, Network ...

> AGENDA: WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2025

- INTERACTIVE SESSION
- 17.30 - 18.00

Q&A Session:
Sheila-Mary Carruthers

Sheila-Mary will host an interview and question session. She will interview the technical speakers, and invite questions from the floor, directing them to the appropriate panel member.

Closing Remarks:
Gary Eastwood (Chair, The Weavers’ Company Textile Committee)
- 18.00 - 19.00

BREAK (suggested check in time, if not already done)
- 19.00 - 19.45

DRINKS RECEPTION (French Ballroom)
- 20.00 - 22.30

DINNER (Princes Ballroom)

Two courses will be served in the Princes Ballroom. Guests will then return to the French Ballroom for dessert and coffee.

Keynote Speaker: Adam Mansell (CEO, UKFT)
- 22.30

CLOSE

LET’S GET TOGETHER AND NETWORK

Dinner presents a great opportunity to network with some of our conference speakers and with representatives of companies and our livery sponsors.

Lanyards: Different coloured lanyards will be used to identify students, tutors, industry representatives and representatives from livery companies.

- Gold: Students
- Blue: Speakers, Alumni, Industry Representatives and Tutors/Technicians
- Maroon: Livery Company Representatives

You may meet people from:

- Abraham Moon
 - Alex Begg
 - A W Hainsworth
 - Bill Skidmore Designs
 - British Wool
 - Camira Group
 - Carruthers Associates
 - Chase Erwin
 - Humphries Weaving
 - Little Beau Sheep
- Megan Leech Design
 - Pennine Weavers
 - Pentland Group
 - The Campaign for Wool
 - The Clothworkers’ Company
 - The Drapers’ Company
 - The Textile Centre of Excellence
 - The Weavers’ Company
- The Woolmen’s Company
 - UKFT
 - University of Sheffield, AMRC
 - Wallace Sewell
 - Woolmark
 - Wooltex
 - WT Johnson

> AGENDA: THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2025

- BREAKFAST / CHECK OUT
- 07.00 - 08.15

French Ballroom. Store luggage securely at the Midland Hotel.

Please note: ALL delegates (including those staying at Jury’s Inn) should take breakfast at the Midland Hotel.
- MILL VISITS
- 08.15 - 12.00

Please be ready at the Midland Hotel at least 10 minutes before departure.

Delegates will be allocated to coaches for trips to one of the following:
 - Abraham Moon
 - Camira Fabrics
 - A W Hainsworth
 - Wooltex

Coaches will depart from outside the Midland Hotel and will return delegates to the Midland Hotel prior to lunch.
- 12.00 - 13.00

SANDWICH LUNCH (French Ballroom)
- OPPORTUNITIES
- 13.00 - 13.30

Setting Your Path for the Career Trajectory:
Elliot Barlow (UKFT)

Elliot will start the final session of the conference speaking about how to identify career goals and which tools you require to reach the key milestones. He will also talk about understanding how to galvanise your experiences, skills and methods to harvest the best opportunities when navigating your chosen path.
- INTERACTIVE SESSION
- 13.30 - 15.00

Career Perspectives:
Sheila-Mary Carruthers

Sheila-Mary will lead discussions with alumni students who will talk about their experiences in the textile industry and answer questions from delegates.

Those being interviewed are:
 - Becky Bullas (Chase Erwin)
 - Megan Leech (Megan Leech Design)
 - Jonny MacKinnon (Alex Begg)
 - Kate Walsh (Wallace Sewell)
- 15.00 - 15.15

Closing Remarks:
Rebecca Ridley (The Weavers’ Company)
- 15.15

EVENT CLOSE / DEPARTURE

> COMPANY INFORMATION

ABRAHAM MOON & SONS | MOONS.CO.UK



Since their establishment in 1837, MOON has continued to fuse traditional craftsmanship and methodologies with the latest technology to create authentic wool fabrics and accessories for leading fashion brands and interior designers worldwide. As one of a select few in the UK who can perform all processes at a single site – from dyeing the wool and making their own yarn, to weaving and finishing the fabric – they boast remarkable versatility and the ability to control each process to meet their exacting standards.

The MOON business was born from ingenuity and innovation. These same values flow through the company today from beautifully designed products to forward thinking manufacturing driven by a commitment to their team, customers, and the environment. Their ability to respond, adapt, and thrive has defined them as an industry leader, enabling their transition from a humble woollen mill into a premium international brand.

Follow on Facebook @AbrahamMoonSons @AbrahamMoonSons



A W HAINSWORTH & SONS LTD | AWHAINSWORTH.CO.UK



A W Hainsworth & Sons Ltd has been responsible for weaving the look of iconic England ever since the company was established in 1783. Many of the famous images that have been used across the world to celebrate Great Britain are made unforgettable through the use of Hainsworth cloth, including the Striking Scarlet of the Royal Guards, the ceremonial uniforms worn by the Royal Family during state occasions, and the military uniforms worn during the Charge of the Light Brigade.

True craftsmanship starts with the selection of the best possible fibres, a knowledge and skill passed down through the Hainsworth family over 230 years. We carefully select only the best quality fleeces from Britain, Australia and New Zealand, matching the fleece and fibre qualities to the end use of the fabric – ensuring a truly beautiful finish that no other mill can match.

Every single one of our more than 230 years' of experience is apparent in the weave quality of the fabrics that leave our mill. Through the generations we have learnt the best way to craft cloth to make it perfect for its specific end use; be it apparel, furnishings or wall coverings.

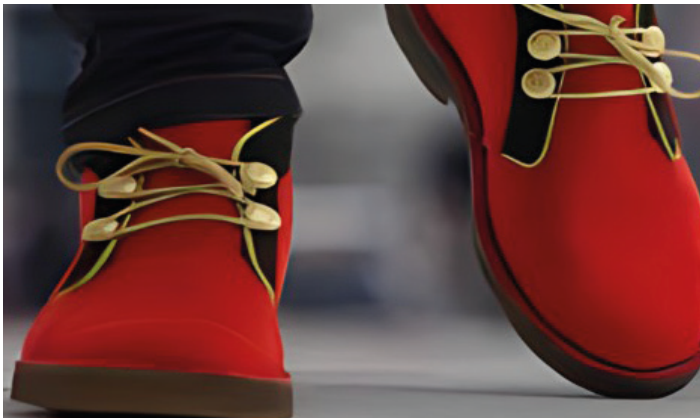
We control the weave all the way down to the placement of individual fibres within the construction, to ensure we optimise the benefits to the end application, including lustre, handle, durability and drape.

The distinctive Hainsworth finish is coveted by mills globally, yet no one can match our quality, structure, sheen or feel. Our attention to detail is pure passion and craftsmanship born of the Hainsworth heritage. Our skill, down to how many brush strokes each piece receives to achieve the striking Hainsworth finish, to the number of cuts for the perfect length of the nap, is second to none; this is what makes our fabrics stand out from the crowd as the first choice for designers.

Our commitment to outstanding quality attracts like-minded designers who want their pieces to benefit from the history, innovation and passion woven into the very fabric of their creation. Top designers with a craving for heritage, and a demand for structure that never leaves their finished piece, collaborate with Hainsworth to arresting effect.

The collaboration of Hainsworth's heritage and the world of modern design ensures beautifully structured pieces that make a lasting impression, with a quality that never fades and appearance that never dulls. The stunning and true colour palette offered by Hainsworth is utilised by designers crafting statement pieces.

Follow on Facebook and LinkedIn @AWHainsworth @AWHainsworthLTD





Camira is a global textile innovator, designing and manufacturing fabrics for a wide range of spaces and places where we work, play, learn, meet and move: commercial office interiors; hotels, cinema and auditoria; universities and colleges; mainline and underground trains; city buses, minibuses and long-distance coaches. Fabrics are woven, knitted, and printed for a multitude of applications, including computer workstations, sofas and pods, acoustic panels and wallcoverings, headboards and sofa beds, curtains and drapery, bus and train seats, and ancillary trims in transport interiors. Clients include Transport for London, Google, Adobe, BBC, Intercontinental Hotel Group, First Group, Lloyds Banking Group and many more blue-chip companies.

Made by Camira is a mark of quality and craftsmanship, which means fully vertical manufacturing from yarn spinning and air texturing, through warping, weaving, yarn and piece dyeing, fabric finishing, lamination, digital printing, technical knitting and specialist upholstery services. Camira is based in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, with manufacturing spanning four sites in the Huddersfield area, one in Nottingham and a mainland European factory in Lithuania. The company operates over 100 looms – Dobby, jacquard, wire woven and face to face – making over 8 million metres of fabric for sale in around 70 countries each year.

Camira is renowned for environmental best practice and product innovation and is a double Queen's Award winner in the Sustainable Development Category. The company has innovated ground-breaking sustainable fabrics made from harvested nettles, hemp, flax and jute, which when blended with wool create inherently flame-retardant fabrics without any additional chemical treatments. Natural fibre fabrics are also complemented by over 20 years' expertise in recycled polyesters, made from post-industrial, post-consumer, and closed loop recycled materials. Camira was recently first to market with SEAQUAL recycled fabrics made from marine plastic waste upcycled from the oceans. In 2022, Camira invested in state-of-the-art wool recycling – iinouio – to develop circular textile products made from high value wool and cashmere from both knitwear and woven textiles.

Follow on Facebook and LinkedIn @CamiraFabrics @Camira



The Textile Centre of Excellence is a private, not-for-profit Group Training Association supporting a range of industries and sectors. The Centre has a Board of Non-Executive Directors who own and run textile manufacturing and processing businesses.

The Centre employs a team of tutors, assessors, conferencing and office staff who oversee a wide range of professional and technical training programmes delivered to meet the needs of companies and individual learners.

A growing range of DfE/Ofsted-approved apprenticeship programmes are delivered both on company premises and at the Centre's training facility in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. In 2021, the Centre was judged by Ofsted as being a 'Good provider with a number of Outstanding features'.

The Centre works closely with a wide range of local and national partner organisations including sector bodies, councils, combined authorities, schools, colleges and universities to develop and deliver the skills the sector needs and to drive industry-based research activities in key areas.

The Centre's core focus has always been its high-quality apprenticeship training provision. Since the business started in the mid-1970s, it is estimated that the staff have trained more than 6,000 young people in textile and fashion apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are available to anyone of working age. If you are looking for your next career pathway, why not consider one of the many apprenticeship opportunities available through the Centre:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| • Textile Manufacturing Operative | • Team Leader/Supervisor | • Sewing Machinist |
| • Textile Engineering Technician | • Business Administrator | • Product Technologist |
| • Garment Maker | • Textile Technical Specialist (Weaving/Finishing) | • Bespoke Cutter & Tailor |
| • Pattern/Material Cutter | • Textile Laboratory Technician | • Customer Service Practitioner |

Enquiries@Textile-Training.com 01484 346500



UK FASHION & TEXTILE ASSOCIATION (UKFT) | UKFT.ORG

UKFT is the largest network for fashion and textiles in the UK. As the industry’s leading trade association and sector skills body, it is committed to delivering sustainable growth for the entire UK fashion and textile supply chain.

UKFT brings together brands, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, recyclers, educators and innovators to promote their businesses and our industry, both in the UK and throughout the world.

The organisation offers practical advice and technical support to help member companies grow and trade internationally. It provides support to help businesses comply with UK and international regulations, offering guidance on areas including labelling, safety standards, sustainability, trade rules and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

With a growing focus on sustainability and innovation, UKFT is driving meaningful action in the transition to a circular economy.

Working to elevate the skills of the UK fashion and textile industry, it is helping to maintain the UK’s competitive position for the future.

UKFT supports businesses with complex global supply chains, as well as helping to drive a resilient and innovative UK manufacturing sector.

Headquartered in London, the organisation has staff working in Scotland, the East Midlands, Lancashire, Merseyside and Yorkshire.

Its president is HRH The Princess Royal.

 Follow on LinkedIn

 @UKFTorg



UKFT Futures:
An online
careers platform.

WWW.UKFTFUTURES.ORG



**UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CENTRE (AMRC) | AMRC.CO.UK**

The University of Sheffield Advance Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) is a world leading research and innovation network with 100 industrial partners, including Rolls-Royce, Boeing, McLaren, Airbus and BAE Systems. It collaborates with industry and R&D experts to develop and de-risk innovative solutions for companies across the globe, leading manufacturing towards a smart, sustainable and resilient future.

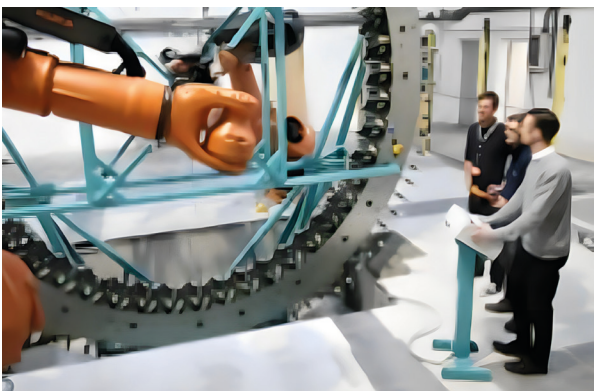
It turns world-leading research into practical improvements for industry, helping to boost businesses productivity and sharpen their competitive edge, while saving time, money and energy. The AMRC fosters collaborations and partnerships between industry, academia and government to deliver cutting-edge research, development and innovation for better products and processes; while driving forward sustainable manufacturing technologies for net zero, creating the vital step-changes need in the low-carbon transition.

The textiles capabilities and expertise are integral within the AMRC’s composite centre, holding a team of approximately 70 people. The wider AMRC (over 600 staff) has specialist expertise in digital manufacturing, machine learning and artificial intelligence, casting, automation and robotics, nuclear manufacturing, subtractive manufacturing, additive manufacturing, design and prototyping, and training; well-placed to tackle manufacturing challenges of all kinds. It has a global reputation for helping companies overcome manufacturing challenges and has become a model for collaborative research involving universities, academics and industry, worldwide.

It has a footprint in Lancashire with AMRC Northwest, and also in Broughton, North Wales with AMRC Cymru. The AMRC is also a member of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, a national consortium of leading manufacturing and process research centres, backed by the UK’s innovation agency, Innovate UK.

  Follow on AMRC on Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube

 @The AMRC





Wallace Sewell was established in 1992, by Harriet Wallace-Jones and Emma Sewell, who both graduated from the Royal College of Art, with an MA in Woven Textile Design; having previously studied for a BA in Textiles at Central St Martins. They made their start in business after winning grants from the British Crafts Council and an award of £500 from the Worshipful Company of Weavers, which enabled them to purchase their first handlooms and design their first collection.

They work closely with the British Textile Industry, with the aim to design inspiring and striking fabrics, exploiting colour and structure with innovation and surprise; challenging the industrial loom's capabilities to create iconic, contemporary fabrics in the form of scarves, blankets, and throws. Products are designed on handlooms in studios in London and Dorset and woven on power looms in Lancashire.

The design process begins with sketches, paintings, and windings for both warp and weft. Ideas are then developed through hand sampling and once finalised, production takes place in a family-run mill, fusing tradition with state-of-the-art technology, allowing flexibility to weave a variety of qualities. Fabric is then washed and pressed at the finishers to give the cloth a luxurious handle before returning to the mill for processing and despatch.

Wallace Sewell has grown over the years, exploring a broad range of projects, including creating fabric designs for Transport for London's Underground, Tram, and Elizabeth Line trains. They have also designed and produced scarves for the Tate gallery to sell alongside key exhibitions including 'Lubaina Himid' and 'Anni Albers' and recently, created a re-edition of a lost blanket design by Gunta Stölzl, to celebrate the centenary of the Bauhaus school in Dessau.

Wallace Sewell work across two main studios; Harriet from Dorset and Emma with the rest of the team out of London. The studio continually embraces new challenges and projects, developing new product ranges and fabric qualities. Their ability to fuse modern technology with traditional textile design processes has enabled them to create a distinctive and vibrant brand, which can now be found in top galleries and boutique retailers in over 20 countries.

Follow on Facebook @WallaceSewell

Located in the heart of Yorkshire's textile industry, WooltexUK has been a designer and manufacturer of textile fabrics since 1996. Wool is at the heart of everything the company does. It prides itself on excellent customer service, the very highest quality standards, and market leading innovation. Wooltex's fabrics are used in office seating, public buildings, concert halls, automotive and electronics.

The company has expanded rapidly since its inception, and its range of manufacturing services has increased in line with this growth. Wooltex carries out its own Warping, Weaving, Mending and Final Inspection. In the past 10 years, it has embarked on a significant investment programme, tailored specifically to its needs, to provide a new state-of-the-art Dyeing and Finishing facility, and most recently its own worsted yarn spinning plant.

The company's strong technical and design team, linked to investment in the latest machine technology, enables it to produce world-class fabrics quickly and efficiently. It continually researches and develops new product areas and production methods to meet the needs of its customers. Staff training requirements are continually reviewed and employee advancement within the organisation is actively encouraged.

It is Wooltex's policy to use approved local suppliers wherever possible in the manufacture of its fabrics and yarns, and the company insists products from external suppliers are made to the same exacting standards it sets for itself. The company's local approach ensures fast, high-quality production and minimises costs, as well as reducing the impact of its carbon footprint.





Many textile firms lay claim to being among the world's leading textile companies, but W. T. Johnson & Sons can actually back it up. The craftsmanship and innovation it displays has led to it supplying fabrics to clients all across the globe. In fact, it is a world leader in the craft of fine fabric finishing – and has been since 1910.

The company's team creates the highest quality finishes on an ever-increasing range of fabrics, from the finest gentlemen's worsted suiting to specialised safety clothing and upholstery. Combine this with its expertise in dyeing and producing bespoke finishes to specification and you can see how its reputation has been forged.

Still based in Bankfield Mills, Huddersfield, more than 100 years since its foundation, it is the company's access to soft Pennine water that enables it to produce such luxurious fabrics. Textiles are ingrained in the DNA of people around the local area, and thankfully its 90+ employees agree.

All of the company's processes take place in-house: all aspects of the finishing process, including milling, scouring, decating, drying and cropping using cutting edge machinery and equipment, as well as its very own colour laboratory for dyeing. All of this to produce W. T. Johnson's diverse range of finishes – including three of its very own registered trademarks that are used by some of the biggest names in fashion today.

The company is committed to helping the next generation of skilled finishers make their mark on the industry, and this will help it to maintain its position at the forefront of the industry too. Its policy of continued investment in people and their development makes this a reality.

W. T. Johnson believes in investing in its people and equipment; it believes in innovation and staying ahead of the game; and it believes in minimising our impact on the environment – this has been woven into its fabric since day one.

W. T. Johnson & Sons is a world-class supplier of the finest finished worsted and wool fabrics. It is passionate about what it does, and it will encourage the next generation to share its passion.

 Follow on LinkedIn



> SPEAKER AND ALUMNI PROFILES



GARY EASTWOOD
CHAIR, TEXTILES COMMITTEE
THE WEAVERS' COMPANY

Gary has been the owner and Managing Director at Pennine Weavers Ltd since 2003. Pennine is renowned for producing the highest-quality worsted fabrics for some of the world's finest brands and is immensely proud of having one of the most highly-invested weaving plants in Europe. It is a continued drive for improvement and investment in technology that ensures the business remains at the forefront of the textile industry, manufacturing for the luxury market. Gary joined The Weavers' Company in 2016, and having played a key role on the Textile Committee since then, has recently taken over as Chair.



PROF SHEILA-MARY CARRUTHERS FTI FRSA
CARRUTHERS ASSOCIATES
CARRUTHERS-ASSOCIATES.COM
SHEILA-MARY@CARRUTHERS-ASSOCIATES.COM

A design led practitioner, with a career of some longevity, ongoing in the fashion and textile industry. Global practice has included fibre development and exploitation, yarn design, knitwear design, future forecasting for companies such as Nokia, Microsoft, for media and participation and delivery to global conferences and seminars.

Through this enduring design practices and current consultancy, Carruthers has a strong understanding of today's industry requirements, with a special, in-depth appreciation of the implications of decisions and impact on planet well-being. The desire to educate and inform

continues. Work is delivered internationally. Offering, transformational technologies and opportunities with potential advantages.

 Follow on LinkedIn

 @SMCarruthers



ADAM MANSELL
CEO, UKFT
UKFT.ORG

Adam is the CEO of UKFT, the largest network for fashion and textiles in the UK. UKFT brings together brands, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, recyclers, educators and innovators to promote their businesses and our industry, both in the UK and throughout the world. He chairs the fashion and textiles skills charity, CAPITB, is a Board Member at the University of Leeds School of Design Industrial Advisory Board and sits on a number of other national and international industry boards. He is also President of GINETEX, the International Association for Textile Care Labelling.



ELLIOT BARLOW
MANUFACTURING CONSULTANT, UKFT
UKFT.ORG

Elliot has worked across the end-to-end of industry and his expertise has been forged from: hands-on-experience managing high-end clothing factories in London, his own consultancy business producing for multiple brands and designers in the UK, as well as senior management roles in-house and as a Manufacturing Consultant for the UK Fashion & Textile Organisation (UKFT).

As a Manufacturing Consultant Elliot provides manufacturing and brand members with guidance across a wide range of topics related to the sector. He works closely with factories, textile companies and designers, improving aspects of their practice and enriching the industry as a whole.

Elliot works closely with academic providers across Postgraduate, HE and FE levels, giving masterclasses and lectures on topics such as clothing production, working with manufacturers and quality control. He also manages programmes that support individuals entering into the production side of the industry through funded schemes.

 Follow on LinkedIn

 @BarlowBespoke



JODIE PADGETT
INNOVATION MANAGER, CAMIRA FABRICS

Jodie Padgett is the Innovation Manager at Camira Fabrics, where she spearheads long-term innovation strategies across both contract and transport textiles. With a career that began straight out of school, Jodie has grown through the ranks at Camira, gaining hands-on experience in weaving, design, and product development. Her deep understanding of textile processes and sustainability drives her work in developing cutting-edge, eco-conscious fabrics.

Jodie has led groundbreaking projects such as Revolution, a closed loop recycled wool fabric, and Oceanic, made from marine plastic waste in collaboration with the SEAQUAL Initiative. Her role blends creativity, technical expertise, and strategic planning, as she works closely with cross-

functional teams to bring high-concept ideas to market. Passionate about mentoring and continuous learning, Jodie is a driving force behind Camira's mission to innovate responsibly and sustainably.

Camira Fabrics is a UK-based textile manufacturer renowned for its innovation, craftsmanship, and commitment to sustainability. Headquartered in Mirfield, West Yorkshire, the company designs and manufactures high-performance fabrics for commercial interiors and public transport sectors worldwide. With roots dating back to 1974, Camira has become a global leader in environmentally responsible textiles, pioneering the use of natural fibres like nettle, hemp, flax and jute, as well as recycled materials including post-consumer polyester and ocean plastics.

Camira operates a fully integrated production process – from spinning and dyeing to weaving and finishing – ensuring exceptional quality and traceability. Its fabrics are known for their durability, flame retardancy, and aesthetic appeal, making them a trusted choice for offices, universities, hotels, hospitals, and transport systems across the globe.



JODY TURNER TECHNICAL FELLOW, AMRC

Dr Jody Turner is a Technical Fellow in the Composite Centre at the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre. She graduated with an award-winning PhD. from the University of Sheffield's Material Science department in 2009 and worked in industry as a metallurgist before joining the AMRC to work on metal matrix composites. Since joining the composites group, her professional interests diversified greatly, and the vast majority of her work in the past decade has related to the textile's aspect of Composite reinforcement fabrics.

Working to bridge the gap between composite manufacturing and textiles engineering, Jody has

worked alongside technical textile manufacturers to establish methodologies for creating novel woven components and fixtures for the aerospace and automotive sectors. In 2014, Jody was a critical part of the capability acquisition exercise that led to the AMRC's first piece of Textile equipment, a Dobby weaving machine. Based on the project successes thereof, she then led the activities of 2018 to obtain a variety of textile equipment including the Jacquard 3D weaving machine, 192 carrier radial braider, ultrasonic cutting and stitching robot, tailor fibre placement machine, as well as a selection of fabric test equipment. Jody has also led and supported extensive projects with a textiles focus for tier-one aerospace companies as well as textile manufacturers.

One of Jody's key ambitions is to close the gulf between textiles and composites manufacturing and is thrilled to be speaking with you at the 2025 MIIT conference.

 Follow on LinkedIn (Jody Lee Turner)



THOMAS SAXBY DRY FIBRE TECHNICAL LEAD, AMRC

Thomas is the Dry Fibre Technical Lead at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) – Composites Centre, where he leads research and technical delivery in advanced dry fibre composites manufacturing. His expertise spans 3D Weaving, Tailored Fibre Placement (TFP), and Braiding, with a focus on developing industrially relevant processes that deliver high-performance, sustainable composite solutions.

At the AMRC, he has been involved in establishing new dry fibre capabilities and leading projects that address both process fundamentals and digital transformation in composites manufacturing. A key area of his work has been investigating the effect of critical process variables in 3D

weaving, such as shed geometry and shed profile, on preform quality. By systematically studying their influence on fabric thickness and active warp yarn tension, he was able to generate new process knowledge that led directly to improvements in the configuration of the AMRC's jacquard loom. These changes have enhanced the control of key variables and improved the consistency and integrity of woven preforms.

In parallel, he is supporting efforts to integrate digital technologies into the 3D weaving process. This includes retrofitting sensors for real-time process monitoring, developing automated data acquisition pipelines, and applying data analytics to establish a digital infrastructure for manufacturing. By creating a data-centric framework, AMRC aims to enable full traceability of process parameters, improve repeatability and quality assurance, and lay the foundations for digital twins of composite manufacturing processes. Together, these innovations are helping industry partners accelerate adoption of advanced dry fibre technologies with improved reliability and reduced risk.

Thomas' career began at McLaren Automotive, where he spent four years managing a team of composite technicians in the production of high-quality, low-volume composite components. He holds a BEng in Motorsport Engineering and an MSc in Advanced Materials Engineering, and he remains driven by a passion for advancing composite manufacturing technologies through the combination of hands-on expertise, process understanding, and digital innovation.



AMANDA MCLAREN
MANAGING DIRECTOR, A W HAINSWORTH
AWHAINSWORTH.CO.UK

Amanda is a highly ambitious and driven Board-level Executive with extensive expertise gained over many years in both SME and global manufacturing sectors. She is passionate about supporting 'Made in the UK' design and engineering, particularly when products are exported to the global market.

The textile sector has been the cornerstone of Amanda's professional career, and she leads premium brands in this industry with infectious enthusiasm. She places great importance on understanding customer behaviours, the competitive landscape, and industry market trends, all of which are essential to her success in strategic leadership.

Developing strong people strategies is both a professional passion and a personal belief for Amanda.

A W Hainsworth is the woollen mill behind some of England's most iconic looks, dating back to the scarlet uniforms worn during the Battle of Waterloo. With over 241 years of expertise, the knowledge and skill passed down through generations is reflected in the exceptional quality and craftsmanship of every roll of fabric produced, evident in the fabric's lustre, handle, drape, and durability.

As a proud British fabric manufacturer, Hainsworth's roots are steeped in history, yet the company remains committed to innovation and investing in its people. As one of the last remaining truly vertical woollen mills in Britain, Hainsworth processes each product from raw fibre to finished cloth entirely on-site in West Yorkshire. This allows full control over production and positions the company to reduce its carbon footprint, a responsibility it takes seriously.

Describing itself as a small company with a large presence, Hainsworth operates in a diverse range of industries. From its Yorkshire mill, the company produces fabric for fashion, ceremonial garments, interiors, snooker and pool tables, premium aircraft interiors, protective garments, blankets, musical instruments, industrial belting, and more.



SARAH TURNER
DIRECTOR/FOUNDER, LITTLE BEAU SHEEP
WWW.LITTLEBEAUSHEEP.COM

Sarah Turner is the Founder of Little Beau Sheep, a Yorkshire-based brand championing the magical properties of British wool. A former Marketing Manager at HSBC, Sarah swapped corporate life for creativity, launching Little Beau Sheep in 2015 while juggling family life.

What began at her kitchen table has grown into a six-figure business based in the historic International Wool Secretariat building in Ilkley. Using pure British wool and lanolin, Sarah and her team hand-make a flock of eco-friendly products — from dryer balls for a fluffier, faster tumble-dry to felted soaps for an invigorating bath or shower.

Sarah is an award-winning entrepreneur, recognised by Theo Paphitis's Small Business Sunday and winner of the Wool Innovation Prize. She is a British Wool Licensee, a supporter of the Rare Breed Survival Trust and the Campaign for Wool, and a proud member of The Worshipful Company of Woolmen. Her work has been featured on BBC Countryfile, and she has shared her story as a TEDx Speaker.

 Follow on Facebook or LinkedIn

 @LittleBeauSheep





BECKY BULLAS
PRODUCTION & DESIGN ASSISTANT,
CHASE ERWIN AND thesign®

After graduation from Manchester School of Art with a textiles degree specialising in weave, Becky completed an internship with the Bristol Weaving Mill and then went on to become a production technician at Fermoie. These first two roles in industry gave her an excellent foundation in understanding textile manufacturing in the UK and introduced her to the world of luxury interiors.

Becky was fortunate to be offered a position at Chase Erwin in 2024, supported during the first six months there by The Worshipful Company of Weavers. She has been with them for over a year now and her

role continues to evolve as does the brand; it's an exciting time to be part of their team. It's an incredibly fast-paced environment, but the amount she has learnt about design and production in such a short time has been invaluable.

Becky specialises in designing understated, elegant fabrics that prioritise using high-quality natural fibres. She has to ensure the designs adhere to budgets, understand compositions and the impact certain constructions can have on fabric testing. She also has to take into account industrial manufacturing lead times, marketing production and global distribution when launching a new collection. Becky says the highlight of her role is being able to closely collaborate with mills from around the world and attend trade shows to gather inspiration for future collections.

 Follow on LinkedIn

 @Becky.B.Textiles



MEGAN LEECH
TEXTILE DESIGNER
WWW.MEGANLEECH.COM

Megan Leech is a London-based woven design studio providing fabric prototyping, R&D services and bespoke commission weaving. Combining traditional woven craft with modern design, the studio produces a wide range of unique textiles.

With multiple years of experience working within technical research and development at one of the UK's largest mills, Megan's expert understanding from yarn development to industrially woven and finished fabrics provides a strong expertise enhancing her approach to all projects.

Combining a strong interest in technical woven theory with a playful approach to design has led to a varied body of work. Her use of painting and mark making is evident through the composition and movement of her designs. And her research into woven theory is expressed through the varied techniques she uses when developing collections. From handcraft to industrial, fashion to technical, Megan's experience provides a unique understanding of materials and manufacturing, enhancing her ability to work on projects for a range of different industries.

 @MeganLeech.Design



REBECCA RIDLEY
THE WEAVERS' COMPANY

Rebecca is the Immediate Past Upper Bailiff of The Weavers' Company and follows in the footsteps of six previous generations of her family to be members of The Company, the first four of whom ran a London business weaving floor cloth, a precursor to lino.

She is proud to continue the family connection with The Weavers', and of The Company's ongoing support for textile education and the industry.

In August, she retraced the journey made by the first member of her family to be apprenticed to The Company in 1810 by walking 100 miles from Bury St Edmunds to the City of London to raise funds for the Women and

Justice project that is being run to mark The Weavers' 900th anniversary in 2030.



JONNY MACKINNON
DESIGN TECHNICIAN / NPD MANAGER,
ALEX BEGG

At school, Jonny was good at Art and Biology; his careers advisor told him to pursue the science route. When he left school, this is what he did, completing an HND in Biomedical Sciences and beginning a career as a Microbiologist in Food and Water Sciences. He stayed on this path until 2014, deciding it was time to pursue his passion for art and design. Jonny says, ‘I blagged my way onto the BTEC First Art and Design course at Edinburgh College, progressing onto HND Textile Design at EC. Had a baby with my partner in my 2nd year, before completing my BA at Glasgow School of Art (specializing in Woven Textiles). Graduating in 2020 –

the year of COVID – was a bit of a dampener, so I ended up back at GSA to complete a Master’s in Fashion and Textiles.’

Whilst on this course, Jonny was awarded the Stuart Hollander Scholarship from The Weavers’ Company. This supported him in opening his own studio space, purchasing a George Wood loom and paying the rent for a year. He explains the impact, ‘Due to winning the Scholarship, I was then invited to interview for a special commission – to design a wall hanging for The Weaver’s offices, which I was awarded. This came with yet more support to get me through my Master’s, paying off my fees and letting me purchase more equipment.’

After graduating, he continued to work for two years, winning several different commissions, projects and awards. He also joined the Master Court of the Incorporation of Weavers Glasgow and The Worshipful Company of Weavers Association.

In 2022, a position opened at Alex Begg Group for a design technician. There are many facets to Jonny’s role, but he mainly supports the Design Studio by being the gel between siloed departments, driving aligned communications to ensure all new products are qualified within the company’s lean manufacturing capabilities and designed for effective manufacture. During his short tenure, Jonny’s role has developed to oversee the NPD Process – New Product Development. He leads the management of end-to-end NPD process from Idea Concepts to New Product Launches. He manages an agile cross-functional team through the stage gate process to ensure successful delivery of development projects to brand-quality standards, mitigating risk and driving continuous improvement through production by capturing KPIs. Having a helicopter view over the full product life cycle allows him to feed into senior leadership, creating strategic operations for future business growth and development. Jonny says, ‘This all feeds into my inquisitive nature, constantly questioning and learning with a view to development, which has been with me from my days as a Microbiologist, through my textile education, and has now landed me a job which I feel lucky to have and really enjoy its daily challenges.’

 @JonnyMacKinnonDesigns

 @AlexBeggOfficial



KATE WALSH
MANAGING DIRECTOR, WALLACE SEWELL

Kate started studying Textile Design and Manchester Metropolitan University, specialising in woven textiles. She was awarded a scholarship to study at Hong Kong’s Polytechnic University as part of its exchange programme and gained an internship at Coach handbags in Shenzhen, China.

After graduating, Kate was invited to showcase her work at New Designers, where she sold work to the Italian silk design company Ratti. Shortly after that, she started a two-week internship at Wallace Sewell, where she had the opportunity to gain an understanding of how the day-to-day running of the design business worked. After an extended internship, Kate was offered the role of Studio

Manager then over a few years she worked her way up to Business Development Manager. Whilst in this role, she was awarded The Weavers’ Company Silver Shuttle Award.

As Wallace Sewell grew, Kate was able to grow too, becoming Managing Director. After several years, she decided to challenge herself by doing a two-year part-time MBA whilst balancing her business role. She has always been eager to realise her full potential and new challenges have always been a motivation; she developed personally and professionally during this time, including spending time shadowing the Senior VP of Home Design at Kate Spade New York.

After completing the MBA, Kate pro-actively used her newfound business knowledge to help grow Wallace Sewell. She spent a year working remotely in 2018 from 12 different cities around the world, as part of a Programme called Remote Year. Whilst away, she was still very much part of the Wallace Sewell team and this period away allowed her to consider what she could contribute to Wallace Sewell with fresh eyes.

Upon returning, Kate began to take an instrumental role in guiding the business in new directions, confidently seeking out new projects, markets and collaborations.

As Managing Director, her responsibility is to ensure that all aspects of the business run smoothly and business goals are achieved, and to also lead and motivate the team. Kate continues to work together with the two Directors and Founders of Wallace Sewell, Emma and Harriet, to oversee the operations of the company.

 Follow on LinkedIn

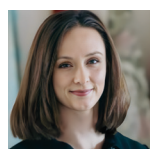
> INDUSTRY & LIVERY REPRESENTATIVES

PETER ACKROYD: CHAIR, THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL



A lifelong champion of wool, Peter has shaped the global natural fibre conversation through decades of leadership – from running the British Wool Textile Cooperative for 30 years to serving as Strategic Advisor to The Woolmark Company and as past president of IWTO. As Chair of the Campaign for Wool, Peter continues to elevate wool's environmental, economic, and cultural value on the world stage. The Campaign has become a powerful movement driving awareness of wool as a natural, biodegradable, and regenerative fibre that supports biodiversity and rural livelihoods.

CHARLOTTE BAINBRIDGE: ACCOUNT MANAGER, HUMPHRIES WEAVING



A graduate of Loughborough University's Textile Design Programme, Charlotte worked for five years in a bespoke weaving business, designing collections and creating textiles for high-end interiors before joining Humphries Weaving as Account Manager. She uses her experience and passion to work with clients to bring their visions to life, whether for luxury contemporary interiors or meticulous historical recreations.

GAYNOR BOWEN: CHAIR, THE SHREWSBURY DRAPERS' COMPANY (TEXTILE COMMITTEE)



Gaynor is a woven textile designer and consultant for furnishing fabrics. She is the Immediate Past Master of the Shrewsbury Drapers' Company.

PHILIPPA BROCK: LIVERY MEMBER, THE WEAVERS' COMPANY



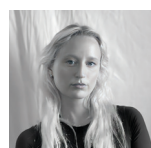
Philippa is known for her three-dimensional woven textile works and research. She is Editor of *The Weave Shed* online resource and blog, and ran the Woven Textiles Department at Central Saint Martins for 22 years.

DAVID COLLINGE: CHAIR, THE WEAVERS' COMPANY



David was the sixth generation of his family to run their weaving business of John Spencer Textiles and their furnishing brand Ian Mankin.

AMY CROOKES: PRODUCT AND EDUCATION EXTENSION COORDINATOR, WOOLMARK (UK)



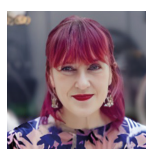
With a background in Design and Product Development, primarily within the footwear industry, Amy joined The Woolmark Company in early 2025. Her role bridges product and education, working across the wool supply chain, with brands, and with students to promote and support the use of wool in design and manufacturing.

JAMES GASELEE: CLERK, THE WEAVERS' COMPANY



After a career in the Army, James joined The Weavers' Company in 2020 as Clerk.

KATIE GREENYER: CREATIVE TALENT AND LEGACY DIRECTOR, PENTLAND GROUP



Creative mind, producer of innovative design, business leader and someone who cares deeply about the creative industry and its legacy.

ANDREW HOGLEY: CEO, BRITISH WOOL



Previously Director of Wool Sales & Producer Services, Andrew was appointed Chief Executive Officer in May 2021. Andrew is also a Livery Member of The Woolmen's Company.

DAVID HOPKINS: MASTER, THE WOOLMEN'S COMPANY



David qualified as a Chartered Accountant working initially with Price Waterhouse for 33 years. After leaving he was involved in running a number of small businesses and currently acts as a self-employed financial tax consultant to a few small companies and private individuals.

MARTIN JENKINS: TEXTILE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Martin is the Director of Training at the Centre. He has worked in industry education and curriculum development for over 27 years and leads the Centre's training operation, overseeing all funded and commercial training for the sector. He is also a qualified Teacher, Tutor/Assessor, IQA and Ofsted Nominee for qualifications offered by TCoE.

PAUL JOHNSON: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, W T JOHNSON



Paul is the fourth-generation of family-run textile finishing firm W.T. Johnson & Sons, which was founded in 1910 and works with predominantly wool and wool-blended fabrics for apparel, accessories, interiors and furnishings to improve appearance and performance.

IAN MACLEAN MBE: COURT ASSISTANT AND CHAIR, THE CLOTHWORKERS' COMPANY (TEXTILE COMMITTEE); MANAGING DIRECTOR, JOHN SMEDLEY LTD



Ian is the eighth generation of his family to run the business since its founding in 1784. Last year, John Smedley celebrated its 240th anniversary as a family company.

BILL SKIDMORE MD: BILL SKIDMORE DESIGN



Bill has spent 65 years working in Textiles, Apparel and Education. He is a Consultant in Textile Design and has served as President of both Huddersfield and Bradford Textile Societies. He has written over 100 published articles on wool and textile related subjects and is passionate about mentoring both undergraduates and postgraduates. Bill is a member of The Worshipful Company of Woolmen and has recently been awarded the Society of Dyers and Colourists Silver Medal.

THE HON MARY ANN SLIM: MASTER, THE CLOTHWORKERS' COMPANY



Mary Ann began her career working in the film industry before moving into the music industry and becoming part of BMG's global management team. She has also worked within the interior design business and is a third-generation Clothworker, following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather, both previous Masters.

JOCELYN STUART-GRUMBAR: CLERK, THE CLOTHWORKERS' COMPANY



Joss spent many years with Dyson. With Clothworkers' since 2015, he has worked closely with other livery companies to form the Textile Livery Group, and also with the University of Leeds, to establish LITAC (Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour).



> USEFUL RESOURCES

ARTS THREAD

ARTSTHREAD.COM

A creative graduate website that aims to bridge the gap between education and industry, providing a hub from which design students, graduates, universities, schools and the creative industry can network worldwide. At its core is a database where recent graduates can upload their CVs and portfolios and connect with creative clients worldwide who are looking to recruit new graduates, interns and freelancers.

BRADFORD TEXTILE SOCIETY

BRADFORDTEXTILESOCIETY.ORG.UK

The Bradford Textile Society is the oldest textile society in Britain, if not the world. Its monthly programme of meetings from October to April provides an opportunity for everyone with an interest in textiles to meet and discuss a range of textile-related topics with an invited speaker, whilst the Society's annual Design Competition is one of the longest-standing student textile design competitions in the UK. The Competition is unique in its breadth of coverage and attracts over 1,000 entries from students throughout the UK.

COCKPIT ARTS

COCKPITSTUDIOS.ORG

Cockpit Arts is an award-winning social enterprise that is home to 150 of the world's finest makers across two centres in central and south London. Through their business support programme, Cockpit Arts help craft practitioners at the start of their careers, as well as those who are more established, to grow and build successful and thriving businesses both in the UK and internationally. They work with a wide range of talented individuals, spanning every kind of craft. Highly sought-after, a place at Cockpit is a mark of quality.

FASHION FOUNDRY

CULTURALENTERPRISEOFFICE.CO.UK/PROGRAMMES/FASHION-FOUNDRY

Fashion Foundry is a new business incubator and talent hub for fashion and textile designers based in Scotland. It provides business support for fashion and accessory designers through a tailored programme of practical workshops, advice and bespoke mentoring as well as offering access to sampling and sewing facilities..

MATERIAL LAB

MATERIAL-LAB.CO.UK

Material Lab, is a design resource studio and materials library in London. It was created in 2006 in response to the needs of the architectural and design community and provides a platform for inspiration and creativity for surface coverings.

MAKE IT BRITISH

MAKEITBRITISH.CO.UK

Make it British is the source of information on British-made brands and UK manufacturing. The site founder's aims are, not only to help users find products made in Britain, but to match founders with factories to help those who want to manufacture in the UK, connect with people who can make it for them.

NEW DESIGNERS

NEWDESIGNERS.COM

New Designers has been championing the future of design since 1985. It is the longest running and leading design showcase in the country that since inception has launched over 100,000 new designers into the professional world. New Designers takes place at the Business Design Centre in London each July and brings together 200 flagship university design courses showcasing the country's finest design students.

TEXTILE FUTURES RESEARCH COMMUNITY

ARTS.AC.UK/COLLEGES/CENTRAL-SAINT-MARTINS/RESEARCH-AT-CSM/TEXTILE-FUTURES-RESEARCH-COMMUNITY

Based at the University of the Arts London (Central Saint Martins), TFRC is a community of practice-based academic researchers who explore how materials and textiles can enable more inheritable futures. Research examines opportunities for textile and material developments ranging from social to sustainable, as well as technological and craft innovation.

TEXTILES SCOTLAND

UKFT.ORG/SCOTLAND

UKFT is passionate about the design and manufacturing of Scottish fashion and textiles. Textiles Scotland became part of UKFT in 2019. UKFT keeps you up to date on Scottish fashion and textile news, highlights members and runs interesting events for the Scottish fashion and textile industry in Scotland. As well as helping Scottish manufacturers and brands export around the world, UKFT is also the Sector Skills Body, working with employers, education providers and other stakeholders to raise the skills and productivity of the people who work in the Scottish fashion and textile industry.

THE DESIGN TRUST

THEDESIGNTRUST.CO.UK

Whether starting or growing a craft or design business, The Design Trust, through its specialist online courses and memberships helps professional designers and craftspeople worldwide. It provides practical and strategic business knowledge and step-by-step action plans, that help support both emerging and established designers to create and run a successful business.

THE SLOW TEXTILES GROUP
SLOWTEXTILESGROUP.COM

Slow Textiles Group is an international Sustainable Textiles Design Management Company based in London. Members work to make changes across the global textile industry, and by default those industries that connect with textiles, by pushing the boundaries of textiles practice through new methods of work and working processes.

THE WEAVE SHED
THEWEAVESHED.ORG

The Weave Shed is a website for weave designers with a portfolio practice, payee, mills, independent, designer makers, tapestry, artists, educators, and students. It is a community site that provides a portal to weave resources, alongside an active blog featuring weave-related stories, news, up and coming events and featured weavers.

UKFT
UKFT.ORG

The UK Fashion & Textile Association (UKFT) is the largest network for fashion and textile companies in the UK. We bring together designers, manufacturers, suppliers, agents, educators and retailers to promote their businesses and our industry, both in the UK and throughout the world. We are in a unique position representing the entire UK fashion and textiles supply chain, from spinning, weaving and knitting, right through to the catwalk.

UKFT FUTURES
UKFTFUTURES.ORG

A new and exciting online platform promoting careers in the UK fashion and textile industry. The platform allows uses to explore opportunities and find their path within the industry.

> **SPACE FOR YOUR NOTES**





#MiiT2025

SHARE YOUR STORIES



Tell us what you think! Scan the QR code to share your feedback on the 11th annual MiiT conference.