

## Review of the summer season

**We were delighted to welcome more visitors to the Museum in 2018.**

Every month we had busy days with **weaving and spinning demonstrations**. It was great to see so many visitors, including children, who came to watch and to try out various things. We will be hoping to offer even more opportunities for our visitors next summer.

We participated in a DrawnTogether day, with some wonderful results. See their website at: [http://drawntogether.wales/index.php/2018/08/22/textiles\\_museum/](http://drawntogether.wales/index.php/2018/08/22/textiles_museum/)

Rory Evans has been to the Museum with several groups on **Ghost Walks**. By all accounts, they are a great success, and Rory is planning to repeat the event as often as there is demand. Check out his YouTube videos and Facebook site. Rory is very generous with his time and donates the proceeds to help us maintain the Museum. A wonderful gesture and a great evening's entertainment.

The normal season ended on a high note for us as the Wonderwool Curtain of Poppies Exhibition attracted some additional visitors, and most of them took the opportunity to look around the Museum at the same time. Visit

<https://www.wonderwoolwales.co.uk/show-events/curtain-of-poppies.html> to see more about it.

**Other news from the summer:**

### **Clogs**

At the Museum we have a great collection of clog making equipment including tools, and workbenches together with finished clogs and patterns.

In August, - the resident clog-maker at St Fagans, Cardiff came to visit. Geraint worked in the courtyard showing us how to turn a log of sycamore into a pair of clogs with the traditional tools of the trade. He dyes the leather that he uses and puts the whole thing together in a variety of styles.

He provided a wealth of information and all our visitors were enthralled by his work. We are already planning for a similar day in 2019 and encourage you to come along next year for a similar great experience. Thanks to St Fagans for allowing him to come to us, and you can see him at work when you visit there, a very worthwhile day out.

Clog dancing originated from the patterns weavers made as they moved their feet on the loom pedals and the word clog derives from the mud accumulating on the footwear of the workers.

## **Tours and schools**

We have had a steady stream of groups who come for tours in the museum. Our expert guides tell the groups all about the industrial history of Newtown as well as point out some of our special exhibits. Find out how to organise a tour for your group [here](#).

We have started working with local schools. Some of the children of Penygloddfa school visited us in May to learn something of the social history of the area. They were wonderful in raising some money for our funds, and a group of the children visited the Museum in September to present us with a cheque. Later in the summer, children from Hafren School also spent time in the Museum as did a group of students from the Newtown College.

We plan to encourage more schools to take part in 2019. If you think your school might be interested, do contact us at: [admin@newtowntextilemuseum.co.uk](mailto:admin@newtowntextilemuseum.co.uk)

## **Special event to finally wrap up the 2018 season**

### **NEWTOWN'S WATERWAYS - PAST AND PRESENT**

The Museum was open for one final weekend where, in conjunction with our partners for the event, a special exhibition had been prepared as part of Welsh Museums Festival Week.

The Museum had a special exhibition of information and photographs relating to the canal, together with maps showing how the river was diverted to drive mills associated with the woollen industry. In addition, there was a special display in the courtyard of the work involved with 'fulling' - one of the steps the woollen cloth went through.

Our partners for this event, whose displays were located in a pop-up shop next to Glansevern (The Market Hall), were: River Severn Custodians, Open Newtown, Newtown Paddlers, Walking Newtown, Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, Shropshire Union Canal Society and Newtown Town Council's Canal Regeneration project. We were very glad to be associated with them and thank them for their participation.

These displays were alongside additional material from the Museum which was on show, and focused on the current uses of the river and future plans relating to the canal. A woollen mermaid, called 'Polymer' was also on show whose purpose was to draw attention to the plastic polluting our waterways and oceans.

A historic guided walk was held on each day at 11.30, starting at the Market Hall entrance, which told the story of the canal and the river and their impact on the history of the town. We hope this will become a regular event, helping to tell the story of Newtown's rise to prominence through the woollen industry.

Lots of visitors to both locations ensured it was a successful weekend, and our thanks go to the volunteers and other organisations who helped make it so enjoyable for the visitors.