

19.5.24

A visit to the weaving studio of Steve Attwood-Wright

There were six of us, Alice and John from Beguildy who had walked from their car on the Ridgeway, Joanne from Llandeilo, Claire from Llanfyllin, Valerie from Norbury and Elinor from Rhayader. We were greeted by Steve and Lisette with a welcoming beverage.

After a quick introductory chat we went into the studio of a remarkable weaver who has 50 years of experience having worked for industry, as a university tutor and still undertaking commissions along with his experimenting with fibre combinations and colour.

Steve showed us examples of his most recent work. The vibrant colours were zinging out and the use of an array of motifs; use of twill, honeycomb and bird's eye to name but a few was mesmerising. He went on to explain the winding of the metres of fibre to be put on the loom as a warp and the use of his victorian winder to load pirns for the fly bobbins with fibre. The preparation of the loom would take three days. Steve explained the use of the computer in the compiling of his designs however he also showed us the preparation done on squared paper to work out the motifs he requires for some of his work, which were then uploaded onto the computer and incorporated into his designs.

The poem The Poverty Knock was recited to us by Steve as he recommenced weaving on his current piece, a cloth combining yellow, orange, pink, and green. While watching him work we realised that although Steve had a computer to assist him in many ways including the raising the reeds in the correct order he still sends the fly shuttle through the shed manually and counts the throws!!! The piece would probably take a week to complete incorporating various colours and motifs worked by the weft fibre.

Steve then went onto explain the process of completing an item – the cleaning, drying, and stretching to ensure the softness and smoothness of the finished item. This can be a throw, a hanging or cut into scarves or baby's blankets.

After a convivial picnic lunch we were taken on a walk around the wildflower meadows and enjoyed the expansive views stretching to the Aran mountain range near Bala lake.

We left having had an enlightening and inspiring time at Steve's studio which will be the basis of our own interpretations while working on our creations or just to have given us time to marvel at Steve's work and the beautiful environment within which he works.