



SHREWSBURY DRAPERS COMPANY

Royal Charter 1462

THE JACKIE RYAN MEMORIAL AWARD 2023

The **Jackie Ryan Memorial Award** was created in 2016 to commemorate Jackie Ryan the founder and Managing Director of Tweedmill Textiles Ltd based in Flint.

The family of Jackie Ryan along with Gaynor Bowen, a Textile Designer and member of the Shrewsbury Drapers' Company, decided to commemorate Jackie by offering a student prize which would have a commercial application.

The award is a prize offering a two week work placement to a student (aged 16-22) to develop and design a woollen throw which is then woven and taken through into production as a finished product. The throw design is then offered to Tweedmill customers on an exclusive basis or may be included in the Tweedmill collection for purchase.

The prize winner has the added advantage of the final design being exhibited at key home textile shows in the UK such as the Spring Fair in Birmingham, Top Drawer in London and international exhibitions such as Maison Objet in Paris.

The prize has now been successfully running for eight years in association with the Shrewsbury Drapers Company and their annual Textile Design Competition.

Tweedmill Textiles distribute their products to nationwide retailers in the UK such as John Lewis, The National Trust as well as many other individual retail outlets.

More recently the Tweedmill catalogue includes the 'Drapers Collection' to champion the young winning designers who are given the creative freedom to design a product sold all over the world.

The company continues to thrive in the family tradition with Jackie's eldest son Bart Ryan-Beswick, taking on the role as Managing Director.