



SHREWSBURY DRAPERS COMPANY

THE JACKIE RYAN MEMORIAL AWARD 2021

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 five years in association with the Shrewsbury Drapers Company and their annual Textile Design Competition.

The winner in 2016 was Lauren Davies who went on to study textiles at Birmingham City University. The winner in 2017 was Amelia Roe who also studied textiles at Birmingham City University and graduated in 2019.

The winner in 2018 was Rebekah Longland an A Level Student at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College. Rebekah is due to start her final year at Birmingham City University and is planning to specialise in embroidery.

The winner in 2019 was Sarah Mills who is currently studying textiles and has just started her second year at Birmingham City University. Sarah is planning to develop her skills in both printed and woven textiles.

The winner in 2020 was Averil Weaver who is due to start at Edinburgh University to study Textile Design in September 2021.

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.

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