

Exhibition Link Event

A Celebration of Making

Saturday and Sunday, 20 and 21 June 2009

Coat in a Day



New Brewery Arts held a 'Celebration of Making' weekend in conjunction with *Sheep - from lamb to loom*, our exhibition in the main gallery. Events included a re-enactment of an event called 'Coat in a Day'.

In a contemporary 'spin' on the [Throckmorton coat event of 1811](#), the sheep are sheared at sunrise, the wool is spun and woven into cloth by the afternoon and the garment is finished and ready to wear by the evening of the same day. Originally done as a wager, the Throckmorton coat was completed in 13 hours and 20 minutes.

At 5.20am on Sunday morning, the summer solstice, the first of three Jacob sheep was shorn at New Brewery Arts. By 5.30am the spinners were spinning the yarn. At ten minutes to midnight that same day, the handloom weavers threw the last shuttle on their three metres of woven hound's-tooth twill cloth.

The original challenge was to get the fleece off the sheep and washed, the wool spun, the cloth woven and a gentleman's hunting coat cut, stitched and lined in the span of a single sunrise to sunset.

Fiona Haser, artistic programmer at New Brewery Arts says, "the original wager would have been an industrial-sized challenge to match. On our smaller scale we were delighted to be able to complete our cloth in the day." Instead of sticking slavishly to the original style of the coat, our resident textile designers Dorothy Reglar and Liz Lippiatt designed a thoroughly modern garment.



Twenty-five members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, led by ace spinner Frances Taylor, combed and spun the fleeces for a solid thirteen hours in front of a crowd of fascinated onlookers. Exhausted but happy they left at 8pm as the weavers, Sarah Beadsmoore and Tim Parry-Williams, continued their task into the night.

We demonstrated these ancient textile processes in front of a public audience and our coat will be finished and shown in the main gallery at New Brewery Arts from 29 August until 10 September when it will be auctioned as part of our Charity Arts Auction.

Events planned for the weekend included:

- felt making - try your hand at felt making
- extreme knitting - get in a tangle and have fun with giant knitting needles
- sheep talks - experts talk about the history of sheep and the textiles industry
- a woolly market - where shoppers can browse a selection of market stalls



'Coat in a Day' was sponsored by:

[The Worshipful Company of Weavers](#)

[The Bingham Library Trust](#)

[The Odin Charitable Trust](#)

[The Clothworkers' Company](#)



Worshipful
Company of
Weavers



The
Clothworkers'
Company

The New Brewery Arts *Make It* celebration was held in partnership with Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, Cirencester Town Council and Our Future Cirencester as part of the [I Love Cirencester](#) weekend.



Photographs courtesy of Alma Haser.

Sunday 21 June 2009

Coat in a Day

