



Press Release

13th May 2014

Fourth Annual Textile Fair

The **Warner Textile Archive** in Braintree, Essex, celebrated all things design, craft and 'textiles' at its fourth annual **Textile Fair** on Sunday 11th May. With stallholders, demonstrations, talks, tours and exhibitions located across three historic venues in Braintree, 400 visitors from East Anglia and further afield took part in this tribute to the town's cultural heritage.



Stallholders including John Gillow, Magie Relph, Sally Chang and Vanners Silk Weavers came from across the UK, showcasing unique textiles, yarns, jewellery and clothing from around the world. A pop-up vintage tearoom returned to **Braintree Town Hall** following its successful Textile Fair debut in 2013. Manned entirely by volunteers, the café sold freshly-made sandwiches, homemade cakes, and organic tea and coffee to shoppers taking a well-deserved rest throughout the day.



Acclaimed quilter Sara Impey and local artist Susan Heath demonstrated their respective techniques of machine stitching and spinning at the Warner Textile Archive, where Jan Weavers, a former employee of Warner & Sons at New Mills, highlighted the diversity of the Company's archive with tours of the Archive Store.

At **Braintree District Museum**, visitors enjoyed an activity in printing and t-shirt design, as well as a programme of talks on a variety of subjects, including women's fashion during World War One, and the importance of textile conservation.

Cllr. John McKee, Chairman of Braintree District Museum Trust Ltd. said: "This year's Textile Fair proved a great success, raising awareness of the important work of the Warner Textile Archive and the Trust; a fitting way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Archive's nationally-significant collection of textiles and designs returning to Braintree!"



The Textile Fair supports continued conservation work at the Warner Textile Archive, and will return to Braintree on Sunday 10th May 2015.

For further details and high-resolution images, please contact:

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