

From Malcolm

I am an apprentice trained weaver and textile designer, and I work with The Society of Dyers and Colourists in Perkin House, Bradford, an educational charity focused on educating the changing World in the science of colour. I have 46 years experience in the weaving and knitting textile trade and in the field of colouration.

My brand is called The Cloth of Kings, a member of ASWGA, and in March 2014, I was featured , with my 9 year old twin son and daughter Aidan & Zoe, in a BBC Scotland CBeebies programme - Weaver. ( You can see it now on **You Tube - Malcolm the weaver.**)

The programme educates children in the art of wool, spinning, weaving, colour and design, and was focused on the Harris Tweed craft weaving industry in The Outer Hebrides.

In May 2014, I launched an educational book that I have written ' **Weaver of a Life in Colour**', which my daughter Sharon illustrated, and which was published by The Society of Dyers and Colourists.

In May 2015 we launched a second educational book, '**The Rainbow that mixed colours/ The Moon that shone dark**', which introduces environmental issues to the learning programme.

Our target is to get this children's colour education book in to every Primary School and Library in Scotland and England, then to do the same in Australia, New Zealand, USA, India, China, Japan, and Russia.

I am working through sponsorship of the book in to Primary Schools, and I attach a copy of a letter to the schools, where **WT Johnson of Huddersfield sponsored the book in to the 193 primary Schools in the Kirklees region, Williams Bain sponsored 60 in the Harrogate schools, and The Harris Tweed Authority sponsored both books in to the 50 schools and libraries in The Outer Hebrides, The Marquis of Bute sponsored 250 books in Scotland, The Woolmark Company sponsored 750 books in Australia, The British Wool Marketing Board sponsored 500 books in UK, Dystar sponsored 100 books in Germany, Johnston of Elgin sponsored 150 books, and AF White sponsor 250 books to Primary schools in Ireland.**

I have worked on a 4 week textile and colour syllabus with New Park Primary School in Harrogate, and I have also worked with Ripon Cathedral School, Gisbourne Primary and Junior schools, St Peters School in Harrogate, Garnetbank school in Glasgow and Low Field school in Bradford.

The children are hand loom weaving, knitting, paper weaving, and even going on nature rambles to collect wool, berries, roots and barks that were used in dyeing traditional colours.

I have re-introduced textiles and weaving to the syllabus of each of these schools.

I was introduced to her Majesty The Queen at Buckingham Palace in March 2010, at a reception for The British Fashion Industry. I was introduced as ' Mr Campbell, from Holland & Sherry', the company that I worked for at the time. I said, " good evening Ma'am, my name is Malcolm, I am a Scottish weaver". Her Majesty turned to the Duke of Edinburgh and said " **This is Malcolm the weaver**".

I sent her a copy of the book Weaver of a Life in Colour for Prince George of Cambridge, and a copy of 'The Rainbow/ The Moon' for Princess Charlotte.

It was this meeting with her Majesty the Queen that inspired The Cloth of Kings brand, My Story - Weaver, and the book 'Weaver of a Life in Colour'.

The 4 to 8 year olds of today, are the students in 10 years time, the apprentices in 15 years time, and they are the young managers, textile designers and artists, the painters and weavers of 2035 and beyond.

Teaching them about the hue, the value, the chroma, and the emotion of wool, design, colour and textiles now, is a wonderful investment for the future.

My ideal is to encourage companies to sponsor 50, 100, 150, or 200 books within their region, so all the children within all the primary schools have access to a copy of the book.

This would reach between 15,000, and 60,000 children, depending obviously on the number of books that were sponsored.

The Society of Dyers and Colourists would despatch the books to the sponsors in Australia, for distribution to their selected schools, with covering letters acknowledging the sponsorship.

Regards

Malcolm Campbell