



ukft<sup>®</sup>

What we've been doing on behalf of our members:

# Q3&4: 2021

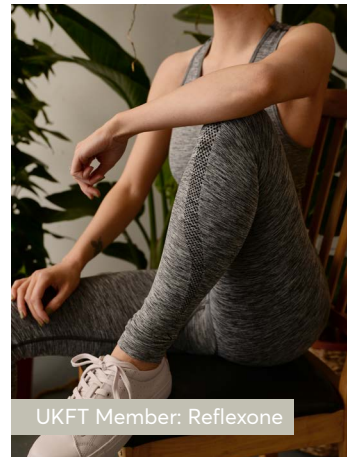




UKFT Member:  
Johnstons of Elgin



UKFT Member: Mackintosh



UKFT Member: Reflexone



UKFT Member:  
Blackhorse Lane Ateliers



UKFT Member: Barrie Knitwear

While it seems unlikely that the challenges and pressures of the last two years are behind us yet, as 2021 comes to a close we remain committed to helping members navigate the uncertain environment and exploring new opportunities. Together, we want to position the UK fashion and textile industry for growth in 2022.

2021 saw UKFT maintain its high level of interaction with the Government, both at Westminster and with the Devolved Administrations. We have met with a wide range of Ministers, MPs and civil servants to push the sector's views and needs on huge variety of issues including the continued challenge of trading with Europe, the importance of new Free Trade Agreements with markets such as India and the USA, and of course the ongoing impact of Covid-19. We've also continued to advocate for reform of the skills agenda and raised the issues of the subsequent impact of jobs shortages, as well as the effects of raw materials price increases and the growth in the Minimum Wage.

We significantly ramped up the number of webinars and surgeries we ran, providing advice and guidance on how to maximise opportunities while sharing best practice from members and tips from fellow companies tackling similar challenges. We held a wide range of sessions throughout the year on topics as diverse as intellectual property, garment labelling, working with suppliers and building a brand, through to staying creative in challenging times, marketing and social media. We covered topics including selling to Canada, the US and Japan, selling on WeChat in China, as well as growing international ecommerce sales, working with agents and distributors, new wholesale models and virtual tradeshow.

Trade shows in general were either cancelled or had very low attendance so to help raise the profile of members we ran a series of promotional events including British Textile Week during which we profiled 75 of the most exciting and innovative UK textile mills, designers and manufacturers. As part of our British Brands campaign we showcased more than 150 homegrown menswear, womenswear, intimate apparel, childrenswear and accessory brands that are changing the face of UK fashion. We also organised a promotion of Scottish fashion and textile companies at Project Tokyo in Japan. Halfway through the year the Government took the bizarre decision to cancel its export support programme but after significant lobbying by UKFT, a new version of the Tradeshow Access Programme has now been agreed and companies will be able to access some financial support as they start to attend shows again next year.

Despite the challenging year UKFT also grew its support for skills and training in the sector. Over £35,000 worth of support was given to 15 students through the Made It campaign and the Drapers Bursary Scheme. As manufacturing reopened interest in UKFT's Young Technician Training Fund grew and UKFT developed new qualifications in Scotland and started work on qualification in Wales and Northern Ireland.

2021 also saw UKFT partner with IBM, Techdata and the University of Leeds through a £1 million Innovate UK funded project to look at how blockchain and AI could be harnessed to help deliver transparency in the fashion and textile supply chain. This project is nearing completion and more detail will be shared in the New Year. UKFT also continues to work with the University of Leeds, chairing the £5.5 million Future Fashion Factory that has helped manufacturing companies access real R&D to improve productivity.

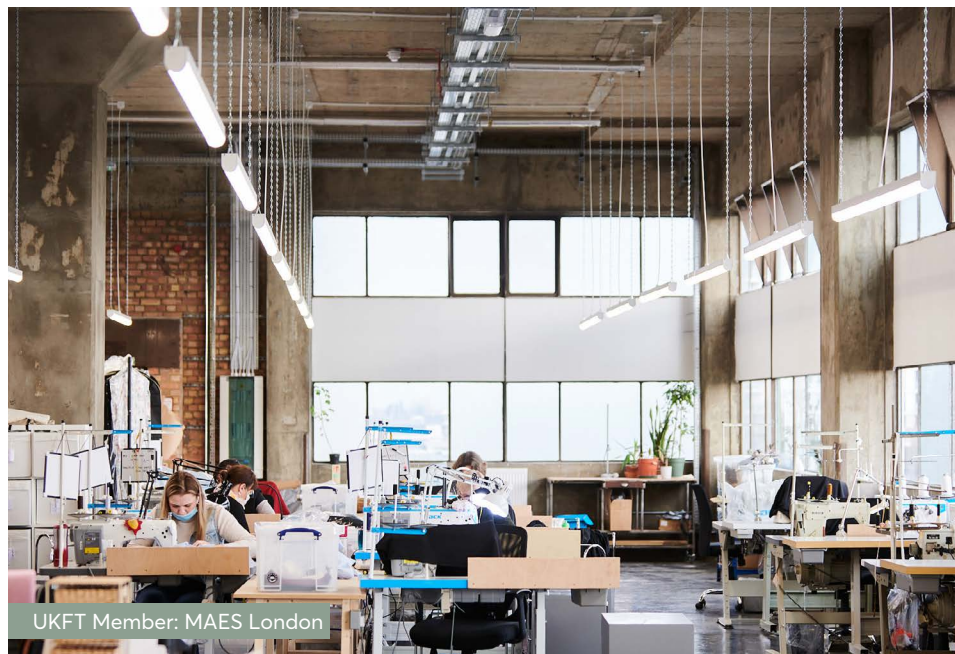
We have some very exciting projects that we will be launching for 2022 and beyond to further support our members and the growth of the UK fashion and textile industry. The team and I hope very much to be able to get out and meet members much more often next year. In the meantime, I'd like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Just drop us a line at [info@ukft.org](mailto:info@ukft.org) – we'd always love to hear from you.

Read on for an update on what we've been doing on your behalf during the third and fourth quarters of 2021.

Stay in touch,

*Adam Mansell*



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# Voice of the industry

*As the collective voice of UK fashion and textiles, UKFT is committed to creating the best environment for our industry.*

## INDUSTRY GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

UKFT represents the industry to the UK Government, campaigning on a wide range of issues to ensure that the needs of the industry are considered at the highest level. This quarter, this activity included providing feedback to the [Bank of England MPC survey](#) on the outlook for the next six months which showed the biggest threat to growth for our sector is skills and the subsequent labour shortage at present.

We provided evidence from businesses in our sector to the [Spain/UK Border Industry Facilitation Group \(BIFG\)](#), which comprises Government officials and industry in both the UK and Spain, focusing on addressing pressing border issues between both countries. Several members were experiencing significant delays on shipments to Spain and were having to compensate customers as goods have missed the intended sell-in season.

We advised members of the latest requirements regarding environmental claims, as the UK Competition and Markets Authority published its [Green Claims Code](#) and are working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to ensure that the future [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\) scheme for packaging](#) meets the needs of the UK fashion and textile industry.

## SHOWCASING THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF OUR INDUSTRY

We continued to share the stories of new and interesting businesses with our broad network, highlighting member successes to raise the profile of our sector and signposting sustainable and innovative developments. In particular this quarter, the focus was on textile traceability, supporting skills and UK manufacturing, with also a

number of UKFT members winning awards and being selected for a sustainable showcase organised by the Department for International Trade in Italy in partnership with luxury retailer Yoox.



- [Lochcarron creates 100% British wool kilt fabric](#)
- [UKFT members feature in Yoox's sustainable UK fashion digital pop-up](#)
- [John Smedley x Katharine Hamnett collaboration to support manufacturing apprenticeships](#)
- [FC Designer Workspace opens in north London to support local fashion talent](#)
- [Harris Tweeds Hebrides and British Wool introduce FibreTrace traceable technology](#)
- [Visible creative mending from Collingwood-Norris](#)
- [Milena & Janet high-end garment manufacturer](#)
- [Boy Wonder donates samples for reuse by adapted clothing charity Dressability](#)
- [Jordan Bespoke luxury leather goods brand](#)
- [Vocational bespoke tailoring school - The London Academy of Bespoke \(LAB\)](#)
- [UKFT childrenswear members win big at Junior and Drapers awards](#)
- [Toogood contemporary British clothing and furniture brand](#)
- [Wrendale Designs by Hannah Dale](#)
- [Blade & Rose fun and funky children's clothes](#)

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Skills Spotlight Textiles All

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**Intimate Apparel Samples triples space in studio move**

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**Halley Stevensons: Innovating textiles in the UK since 1864**

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**Member Spotlight: Loomi trail running clothing**

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**Petit Pli is crowdfunding to expand in the UK and overseas**

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**UKFT update: Innovation funding opportunities for UK fashion and textiles**



UKFT Member: Johnstons of Elgin

## BRITISH TEXTILE WEEK 21

13-17 September 2021

In this year's showcase, UKFT has captured some of the most interesting and dynamic manufacturers, brands and designers throughout the UK textile industry. The week highlighted everything from luxury worsted fabrics to bold tweeds and the finest cashmere, to original prints and eye-catching embroidery, next-generation technical textiles and a wide range of yarns.



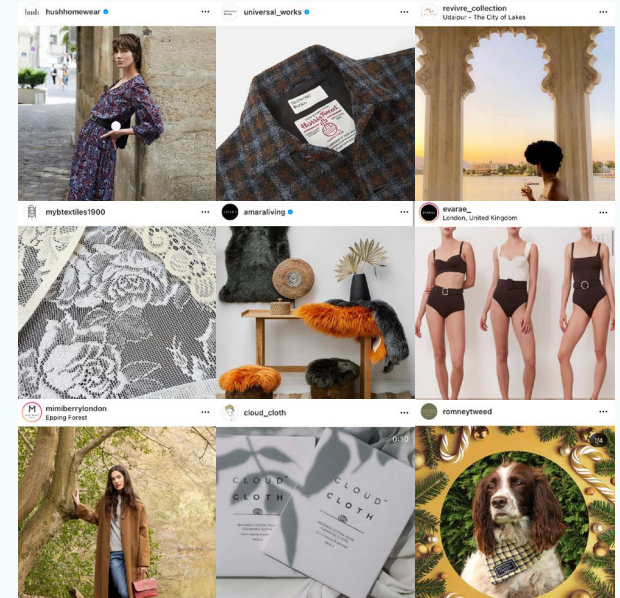
Given the impact of the last 18 months when local sourcing and transparent supply chains have become even more important, we encouraged domestic fashion designers and interior brands to look again at what UK textiles have to offer.

During the week, **UKFT profiled 75 companies**, covering the full spectrum of the British textiles industry from apparel and interiors, through to textile design, technical textiles and yarn producers. We showcased a series of 60-second videos from mills and manufacturers giving an insight into their businesses, current trends and new developments. We also held a roundtable discussion with leaders from the sector to discuss the future opportunities for UK textiles.



## GROWING THE NETWORK

We are delighted that more and more fashion and textile businesses and organisations are joining the network, expanding the reach and power of our community. This quarter we have been pleased to welcome fashion brands including Hush, Universal Works and Evarae; interior specialists such as Amara Living; textile companies including Romney Tweed, Premier Textiles, Cavalier Carpets and Stanitex; manufacturing members including ASK Trading; as well as education partners the University of Leeds.



# Business support

*Practical advice and technical support to help companies grow.*

## ONE-TO-ONE MEMBER SUPPORT

UKFT provides a wide range of business support to members, working with individual requirements and member needs. Some of the latest enquiries have been around:

- Funding
- Free Trade Agreements
- How SKUs work
- Care labelling
- EU Responsible Company requirements
- Press and promotion
- Exporting to Switzerland
- VAT in Japan

*"Membership to UKFT has been hugely beneficial for us as a business, especially over the last 12 months of very challenging unprecedented trading conditions both within the UK and overseas within our supply chains. UKFT has provided us with a wider community of businesses facing the same challenges as us, allowing us to work in partnership across the fashion and textile community. Our membership has also allowed us to be involved in government consultations, have a voice and view of up and coming legislation. The UKFT have also supported us with in one to one consultations providing expert guidance and best advice to create and deliver the very best products that we can."* **Lucy Panniers, Director of Technical & Product Compliance/Ethics at Seasalt.**



UKFT Member: Seasalt Cornwall

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES: WEBINARS AND SURGERIES

The latest webinars and surgeries attracted a wide range of members from across the supply chain, covering large high street retailers, leading ecommerce players, iconic brands, manufacturers and suppliers. These included:

- Member Surgery: Garment Labelling in the EU post Brexit
- Building a lifestyle brand
- Setting up a UKFT multibrand platform in China on WeChat
- Getting your business ready to wholesale

*"The UKFT webinars are amazing – enthusiastic panel, trying to help and really engaging. It's the most relevant seminar I've been to - there are so many different messages flying at you and UKFT really makes it pertinent, to the point, useable and you feel part of a community rather than a voyeur."*

**Juliette Sherwood, MG Rivers**

For the latest events, visit [www.ukft.org/events](http://www.ukft.org/events)

## NEW RESOURCES FOR UKFT MEMBERS

We are continuing to build our library of resources available to UKFT members, which covers everything from HR and Employment, Terms & Conditions, Brexit, Guides to the latest Free Trade Agreements and Sales Support. The latest updates include:

- UKFT Guide to the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement
- Canada: A great test market for UK brands to enter North America
- The USA: Multiple markets in one requiring lots of time and investment
- Tips and advice on building a lifestyle brand

## SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to share a wide range of opportunities for members to gain recognition, funding or explore new markets. This included the Franco-British Trade & Investment Awards 2021, the Textiles Circularity Centre: opportunity for fashion SMEs, BFTT: New Landscapes Catalyst R&D Grant Scheme and the Drapers 30 under 30 feature.



Encouragingly, in September UKFT members [LR.D](#) and [Petit Pli](#) were selected to feature in a new [pop-up fashion and wellness store](#) at 88 Regent Street by Westminster City Council, The Crown Estate and New West End Company. The brands heard about the initiative from UKFT and decided to apply to the project, which showcases labels founded in the local area that champion sustainability. From now until October 27, each of the six selected brands has been given a dedicated space within the store called The Regent Street Edit which they have customised to communicate the authenticity of their products and the story behind them.

## UKFT EMPLOYMENT AND HR SERVICE

With years of employment relations experience in the fashion and textile industry at local and national level, UKFT can provide guidance to members on a range of issues. Full details on the service and guidance documents available can be found [here](#).

Member queries raised and dealt with recently include the following:

- A factory move, consultation timing and offer of new jobs in a different location.
- Differences between notice and pay in lieu of notice.
- Lack of holiday pay calculation during notice.
- Settlement Agreement following a resignation.
- Mental health problems where an employee is seen as potentially suicidal.
- Employee wanting close relative (also an employee of the Company) to represent him at disciplinary hearing.
- Employee on books for 7 years but not at work for 6 years due to ill health claiming full redundancy payment.
- Difference between being the investigating manager and the manager conducting disciplinary hearing.
- Right to appeal warnings in small company where CEO took decision to dismiss.
- Anonymous "poison pen" letters circulating amongst workforce.
- Claim for hearing loss where records of ex-employees not available.
- Refusal to work "reasonable" overtime – what is reasonable.
- Using the words "full and final settlement" in dismissal letter.

## WORKING WITH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

As members continue to grapple with logistics post-Brexit, UKFT signed a formal co-operation agreement on supply chain development and logistics with [Greenway Logistics](#), based in the Netherlands. UKFT has been working with Greenway since the start of the year to help members adjust their EU and global logistics and supply chains after the UK left the European Union. One such company is [Huddersfield Fine Worsteds](#), an internationally renowned cloth merchant, which we worked with to establish a new solution for shipping in Europe post-Brexit.

***"It has been a rough ride but I am pleased to say we now seem to have a workable system for shipping in Europe," said Iain Milligan, managing director of Huddersfield Fine Worsteds. The company is now working through UKFT's partner Greenway Logistics, based in the Netherlands.***

***"It has taken us until now to find what has to be done on a daily basis to get goods into Europe smoothly. We advised our customers of how we are shipping at the start of August and everyone seems to be happy with the method. Hopefully now confidence will return and customers will once again feel happy to buy from the UK."***

We also received a number of enquiries about crowdfunding and referred members to our UKFT member rate with [Crowdcube](#).



UKFT Member: Huddersfield Fine Worsteds





UKFT Rise Subscriber: Femponique

## SUPPORTING FASHION AND TEXTILE START-UPS THROUGH UKFT RISE

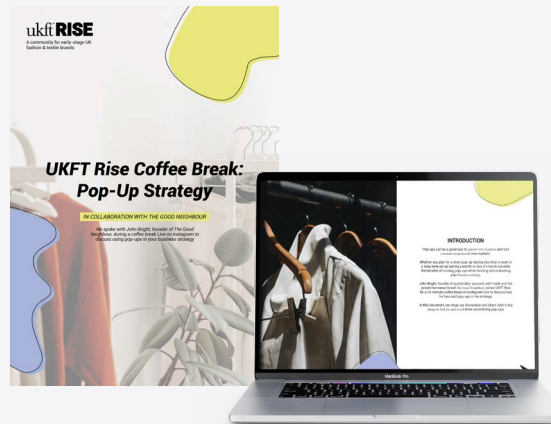
In the UKFT Rise community there are currently 400+ start-up businesses, ranging from womenswear and menswear, baby and kids clothing, to bags and jewellery, and textile/interior designers and print studios.

### Instagram Live

We held our first UKFT Rise Instagram Live with John Bright, founder of The Good Neighbour. The format was a short, 15 minute informal chat where John talked about his pop-up shop strategy, sharing his recommendations on what to look for and what to avoid.

Following the mini-event, we have created a short helpful document for UKFT Rise subscribers and UKFT members outlining the discussion and John's tips for pop-ups.

We are currently planning a regular schedule of Instagram Live talks for both UKFT and UKFT Rise.



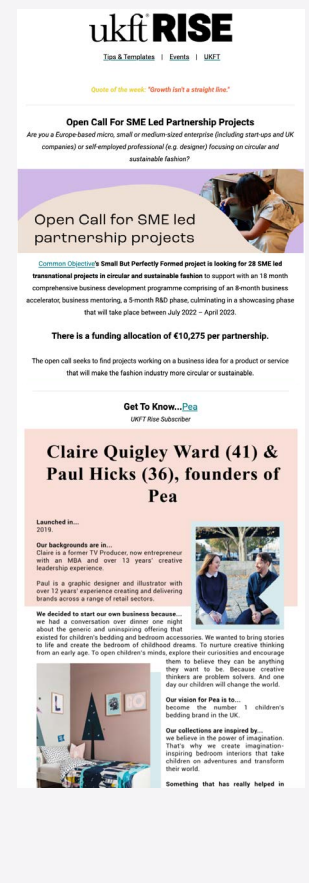
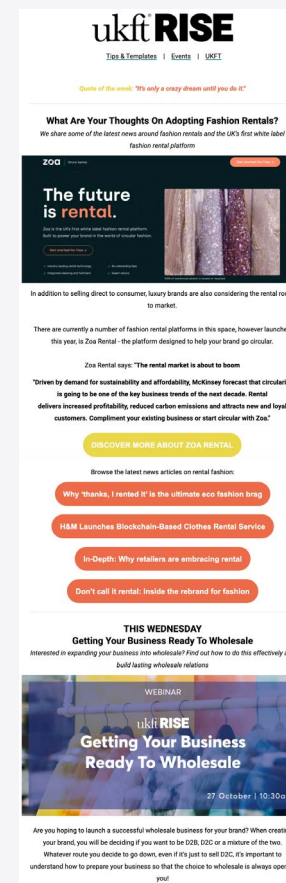
### Feedback

*"Thanks for all your support from UKFT Rise so far, it's been invaluable in helping me to build my brand."*  
Stephanie Pugh, Stephanie Elizabeth

### UKFT Rise newsletters

Throughout 2021 we have been publishing weekly newsletters, highlighting relevant and interesting information, competitions and opportunities for start-ups, features on brands in the community and more!

Examples:



# UK manufacturing

*Supporting the growth of 'made in the UK'.*

## SUPPORTING AND CHAMPIONING UK MANUFACTURING

The pandemic has had a mixed impact on the UK manufacturing sector, with some businesses reporting unprecedented demand and others (often those within occasionwear or tailoring) experiencing a much slower return to pre-covid levels. For many, skilled labour is proving an issue and we have helped to identify [extra capacity for some knitwear companies](#) which have seen orders come back at a much greater level than they had expected.

We have worked on various profile articles for the UKFT website, social media channels and newsletter highlighting the skills and expertise of various members, including:

[Milena & Janet high-end garment manufacturer](#)

[Halley Stevensons: Innovating textiles in the UK since 1864](#)

[Intimate Apparel Samples triples space in studio move](#)

[John Spencer Textiles: A UK weaver with a forward-thinking approach](#)

[Mackintosh embraces innovation to meet future demand](#)

## UKFT RECRUITMENT SITE FOR UK FASHION AND TEXTILE JOBS

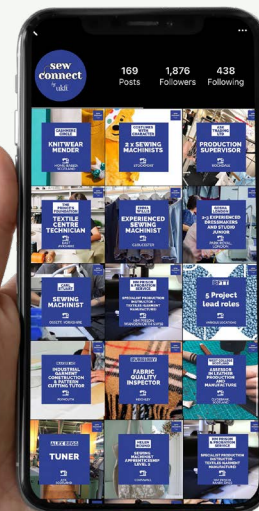
UKFT is working on the launch of a 'match making' recruitment site, specifically for production roles in the UK fashion and textile industry. The site will allow companies to advertise their vacancies and review/access the talent pool via a filtering system on which candidates can promote themselves.

## SEW CONNECT: ADDRESSING CRITICAL SKILLS SHORTAGES AND PRODUCTION VACANCIES

UKFT launched Sew Connect in 2020 to address the skills shortage in our industry, initially focused on sewing machinists and garment makers. The initiative aims to bring together employers and potential workers to ensure the long-term growth of our sector. However, we fully realise the issue is much wider and we are working on a new platform to encompass all fashion and textile production roles soon. In the meantime, we scaled back our outreach on Sew Connect but still posted opportunities for employers including HM Prison & Probation Service, Carl Stuart, Gosha London, Emma Willis and Costumes with Character.

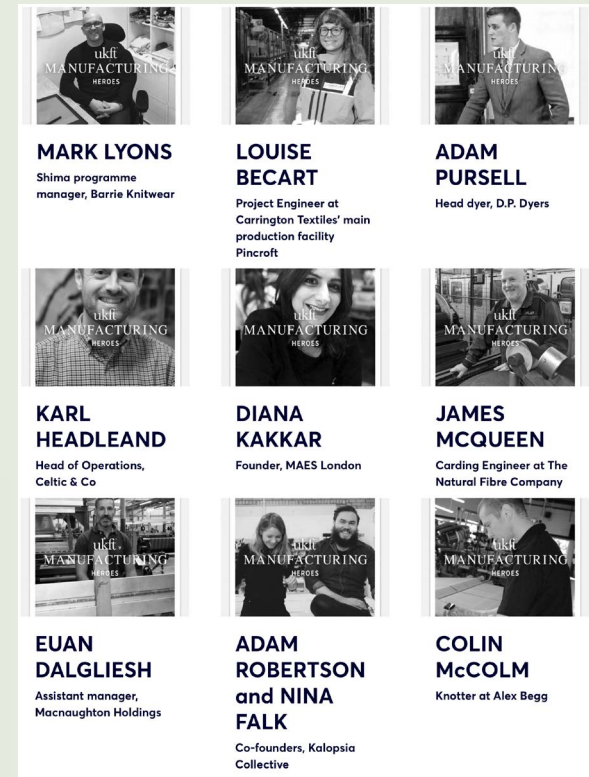
We also helped individual job seekers identify relevant opportunities in weaving and technical textiles.

Find out more [www.ukft.org/sew-connect](http://www.ukft.org/sew-connect)



## SHOWCASING OUR INDUSTRY'S MANUFACTURING HEROES

The UK fashion and textile manufacturing industry is incredible but often goes under the radar. Our Manufacturing Heroes campaign showcases some of the amazing individuals in our rich manufacturing sector. Our latest profile highlights Louise Becart, project engineer at Carrington Textiles' main production facility Pincroft.



# Skills & training

*Addressing critical skills gaps and developing industry-led solutions.*

## MADE IT

All phases in connection with our MADE-IT programme for the 2020/21 have now finished. The following five Universities were part of this group.

1. Salford University
2. Winchester School of Art
3. Plymouth University
4. DeMontFort University
5. Bucks New Uni

The five finalists interned at the following businesses;

- NEXT – Garment tech role
- Bristol Weaving Mill – Textile weaving
- Gosha London – CMT manufacturing high-end womenswear
- Mackintosh – Design and manufacturing inhouse
- LAB 'London Academy of Bespoke' – Bespoke tailoring and teaching studio

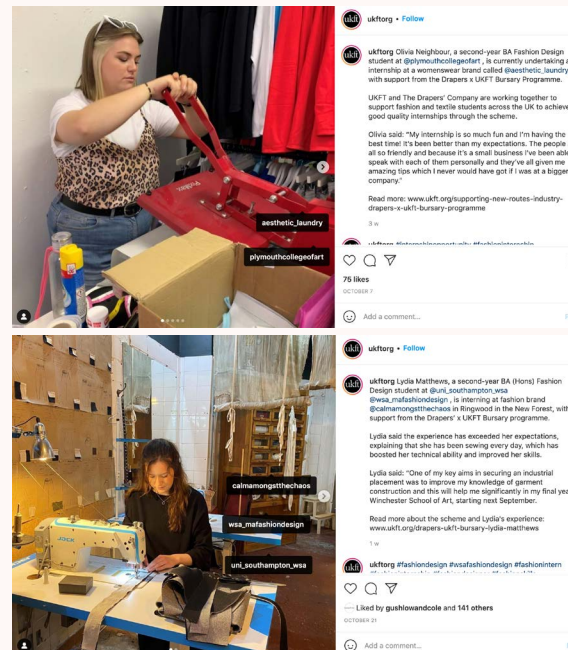


## DRAPERS X UKFT INTERNSHIP BURSARY PROGRAMME

Across the 3 universities (below), the 10 placements have now been successfully completed and the individuals have completed their 12-week internships across all manner of Fashion and textile related UK businesses.

- Plymouth University
- Winchester School of Art
- Salford University

This project will continue into the next academic year of 2021/2022 and the UKFT will be offering this exciting scheme to the next cohort of students from universities that we partner with, through our Education Partners membership.



## UKFT'S ONLINE PRODUCTION SEWING MACHINIST COURSE

UKFT is developing an online training programme designed to support the growing demand for industrial sewing skills. The course is designed to be flexible to allow learners to fit it around busy schedules. All modules are pre-recorded and available to complete on-demand.

The production sewing machinist course will deliver the foundation skills and knowledge required to become a competent production sewing machinist, in an accessible and affordable format. The course introduces and integrates lean manufacturing theories and methods within the content and highlights the value of production sewing skills. It will establish best practice and demonstrate a commitment to a career within the stitching industry. The course is scheduled to be launched in January 2022.

## OCCUPATIONAL TRAINEESHIP PILOT (GREATER MANCHESTER)

Following ongoing reports from employers across Greater Manchester regarding problems with recruiting young people, and the lack of external training provision, UKFT is working with Greater Manchester Combined Authorities to develop and deliver a new occupational traineeship which reflects manufacturing sewn products and textiles skills. We also aim to attract local training providers, who can deliver the programme and progress to apprenticeship delivery in time.

The trainees will complete a Level 1 qualification that covers an introduction to the sector, health and safety in the workplace, introduction to industrial machines/equipment and industrial sewing/textiles manufacturing techniques. The traineeship includes 70 hours experience with an employer and must result in a job or apprenticeship interview. We want to get this delivered quickly so employers can take advantage of the current cash incentives to take on apprentices.

## UKFT'S YOUNG TEXTILE TECHNICIAN FUND

The UKFT Young Textile Technician Fund will cover 50% of the costs of in-depth training for young textile technicians, thanks to the generous support of The Worshipful Company of Weavers, The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and The Worshipful Company of Drapers.

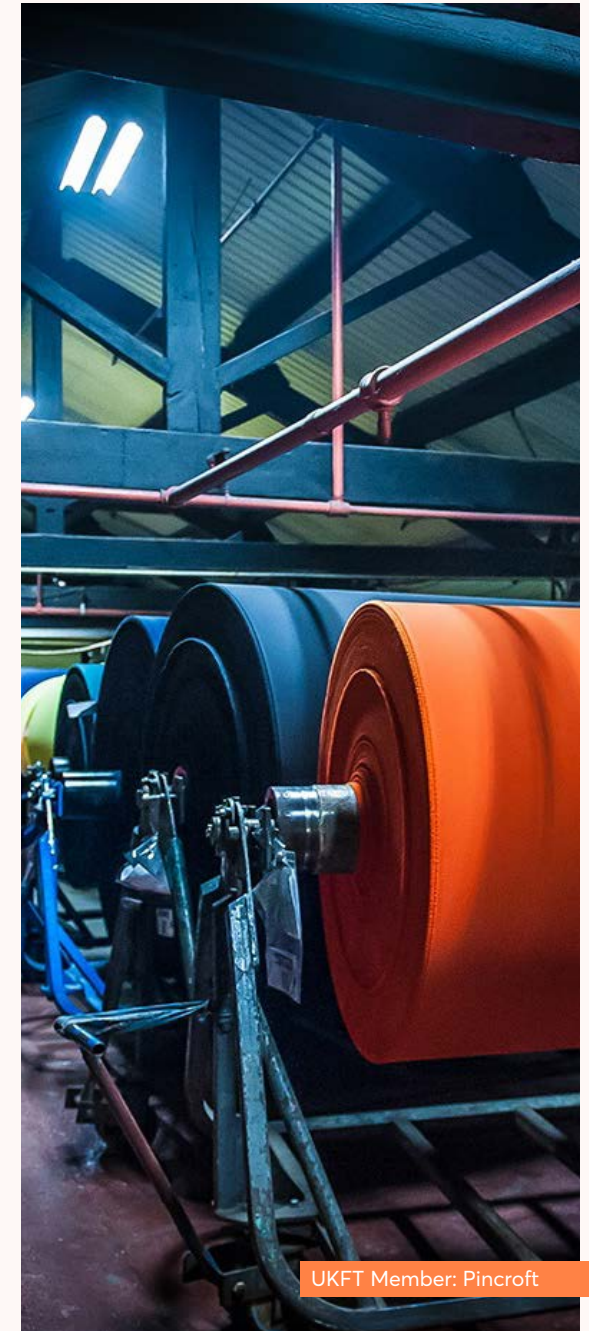
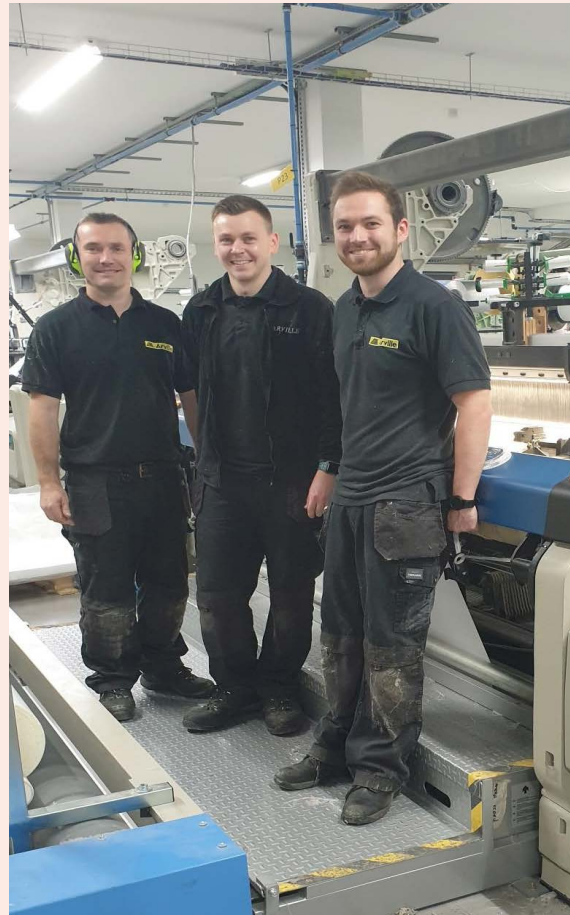
Our most recent case study highlights three young textile technicians from Arville Textiles in Wetherby who gained in-depth weaving training on Picanol looms to facilitate the company's capacity expansion, with support from the fund.



Ben Freeman, Ryan Byrom and Simon Dixon attended a two-week residential course at the weaving machinery supplier in Belgium to ensure Arville's new machines could run at an optimum performance level, produce quality fabric and deliver prime plant efficiency.

The Young Textile Technician Fund is now open to businesses applying to train textile technicians under the age of 30.

To find out more, email [paula.mcilwraith@ukft.org](mailto:paula.mcilwraith@ukft.org)



UKFT Member: Pincroft

# International business

*Helping UK companies reach new markets overseas.*

## UK FASHION AND TEXTILE EXPORT UPDATE

2021 has been a challenging year for fashion and textile exporters. Almost a year into the post-Brexit period, the industry is still faced with a fair degree of uncertainty and companies still have many detailed, complex and far reaching questions about their business models for 2022 and beyond. With the exception of UKFT's standout presence at Project Tokyo in March 2021, which we expect to repeat and build on in March 2022, most of our "traditional" export work for companies has given way to much more complex sessions with members about how they adapt to the UK's new trading relationship with the EU and the rest of the world.

The government is moving ahead swiftly with its plans to secure trade agreements with Australia, New Zealand, India, CPTPP etc and is launching a consultation on potential accession to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and is looking to update the Generalised System of Preference, the UK-Canada and UK-Mexico arrangements.

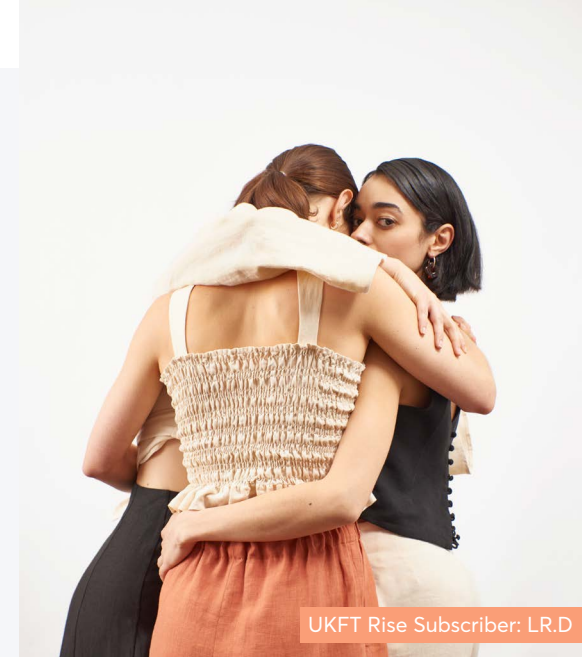
UKFT is in close dialogue on all of these agreements, as we were on the UK-EU agreement, but it is clear from the private feedback from larger companies we have spoken with that they are less engaged with this process now that the bigger agreements have been done. Whilst UK-Canada, UK-Japan and UK-Korea are generally working well for UK manufacturers and we are finding workarounds into these markets from the EU, the ongoing dispute between the UK and the EU over the Northern Ireland Protocol has the potential to undermine this. The ambitious trade agreement with the US seems to remain elusive.

## CHAMPIONING THE PRESENCE OF UK EXPORTERS AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Although the Department for International Trade's TAP scheme was cancelled during Q2 2021, UKFT continued to promote and champion the presence of UK exporters at events including [Première Vision](#), [Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics](#) and Paris Fashion Week.



We extended our series of guides to the latest Free Trade Agreements for some of the key export and import markets for UK fashion and textiles. More information [here](#). We also explored new opportunities such as setting up a UKFT multibrand platform on China's [WeChat](#).



UKFT Rise Subscriber: LR.D

## TRADE FAIRS AND VIRTUAL TRADE FAIRS

There has been some return to physical trade shows from February and June onwards which have been heavily supported by many EU governments and their exhibitors; the UK has generally been conspicuously absent from them. The cancellation of the UK's tradeshow access programme in July 2021 was a contributing factor.

Ongoing concerns over Covid-19 travel and the impact of Brexit on UK sales also weighed heavily on most UK businesses' minds. Virtual trade fairs have generally been judged to be less effective as a route to new buyers and their budgets.

Pitti Uomo and Pitti Bimbo in June, followed by Milan Fashion Week, Paris Fashion Week and Première Vision in September, all took place in physical format this season. European buyers were in evidence at all shows, as were some US buyers who have begun to travel again. There were some buyers from Russia and Ukraine in Florence but, generally, the UK's main long-haul buyers from Korea, Japan and China were predictably missing, leading most UK brands to conclude they "had not missed much". While the expectation is that Japanese and Korean buyers should be allowed to travel next year, there is doubt around whether their large corporate buyers will be insured to travel and the consensus seems to be that Chinese buyers will not be travelling to European shows for some considerable time.

# Innovation, R&D and Sustainability

*Shaping the future of the UK fashion and textile industry.*

## REPRESENTING UK FASHION AND TEXTILE INNOVATION ON A GLOBAL STAGE

UKFT represents the UK fashion and textile industry on a range of UK and international committees relating to sustainability, innovation and R&D. These include:

- UNECE – Enhancing Transparency and Traceability in the Sustainable Value Chain for Garment & Footwear
- Euratex – Innovation Committee
- Euratex – Sustainability – Traceability Working Group
- Future Fashion Factory – investment board and programme management
- Textiles 2030 - advisory board
- Institute for Positive Fashion - steering committee

## UKFT SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN OPTIMISATION PLATFORM: UPDATE

UKFT is leading an Innovate UK-funded project with IBM, Techdata and University of Leeds to focus on sustainability, traceability and transparency throughout the complex global supply chain. It will build on existing state of the art technologies covering areas such as track-and-trace, smart contracting, customer analytics, IoT and AI, which will be pulled together in a single integrated platform. The solution will enable real-time analysis of current business performance, rapid problem solving and optimisation of business flows in order to drive and evidence both the sustainability and profitability of the business.

The platform has been created, the first full data set collected and a complete demonstration of a fully traced process through the blockchain. This use case was based on organic cotton and our next challenge is with conventional cotton.

We have achieved enthusiastic support from our pilot partners, Next, New Look, N Brown, COS (H & M group) & Laxtons and their suppliers/supply chain. The current focus is on the commercialisation and sourcing a partner to take the platform to the global market.

## INNOVATION, R&D AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT UPDATES

As part of the [Sustainable Supply Chain Optimisation](#), initiative, UKFT worked with IBM for its Think Summit to highlight how the new project is exploring the use emerging technologies like AI and Blockchain to create more efficient and sustainable supply chains, by revealing the entire lifecycle of a specific garment.

UKFT supported Textiles 2030 for [Textile Action Week](#) to highlight how organisations are aiming to of reducing carbon footprint by 50% and water footprint by 30% by 2030.

UKFT established a partnership with the recently established [Smart Textile Alliance](#), with the not-for-profit organisation now based in UKFT's headquarters in Queen Square, London. The aim of Smart Textile Alliance is to support sustainable growth in this emerging industry. One of the main priorities of the Smart Textile Alliance is to support the development of e-textile solutions that are interoperable and reusable in order to reduce waste, whilst also enabling recycling and reduction of costs. The partnership between STA and UKFT will be mutually beneficial, opening up potential for new avenues of innovation in technology and fashion.

UKFT highlighted the opportunity for UK manufacturing as part of the [Circular Fashion Eco-system Report](#) from the British Fashion Council's Institute of Positive Fashion.

UKFT supported the launch of the new [Leeds Institute of Textiles and Colour \(LITAC\)](#), which aims to tackle global challenges in the textile and colour industries through collaborative research and innovation.

UKFT highlighted the winners of the [Manufacturing Futures Innovation](#) prize including a novel plant-based leather alternative, and the 13 fashion and textile SMEs which have received BFTT [funding for sustainable innovation](#).



UKFT Member: Barrie Knitwear



UKFT Member: Ration.L

## Get in touch

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