



A party from the Pembrokeshire Friendship Centre spent an interesting and happy day out visiting the last of twenty four mills and eleven weaving sheds that were once the dominant feature of the Teifi valley, and given the nickname “The Huddersfield of Wales”.

This mill at Drefach had been restored and it re-opened in 2004 with extra display facilities, whilst still retaining original working looms, winnowing machines and so on.

The excellent guided tour was given by an experienced loom operator, shown below, who described the complicated setting up process

required to produce complex patterns for the weaving of the various items.

Shirts and shawls, blankets and bedcovers, woollen stockings and socks were all made here.

We were then shown the sheds where washed blankets were hung on “Tenterhooks” to stretch and dry.

Also on display were the large presses in which the partly dried blankets are heated and flattened before passing to another press which cools the blanket for handling.



The static display had samples of

many types of wool from the different breeds of sheep in the area, each lending itself to the production of a finished material, such as Felt, home insulation and others.

Drefach Felindre is near Newcastle Emlyn, and entrance to the National Woollen Museum is free, and has a full range of amenities.

The afternoon came to a close with a visit to nearby Cenarth, the last site of coracle fishing.

