

A special visitor to the Museum of Carpet.

On Saturday 10th November, the Museum of Carpet in Green Street Kidderminster welcomed 105-year-old Gwen Palmer. A Cookley resident all her life, Gwen has to be the country's oldest living spool axminster weaver and perhaps the oldest in the world!

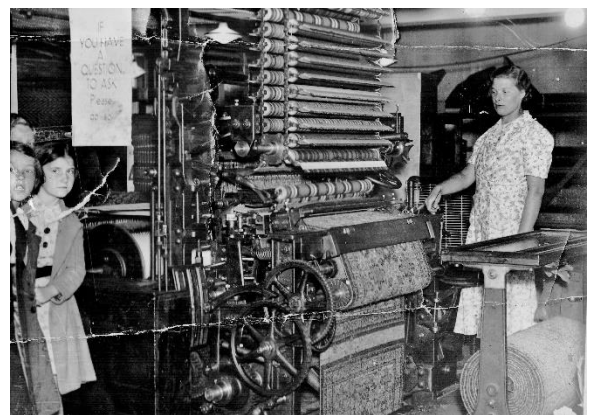
The Museum is fortunate to have the only working 27 inch wide spool axminster loom left in the country and it is identical to the ones that Gwen worked on in the twenties and thirties. The loom was operated by Museum volunteer weaver Audrey Perry with Gwen next to her, and it was soon apparent to the small gathering of Gwen's friends and relatives (including the Museum's youngest volunteers, Callum Walters, 14, and Ella Simmance, 13,) that she still retained most of the technical weaving knowledge that she had used so many years before.



Born in the year before the outbreak of the First World War, she did not have memories from that period apart from the possible sighting of a Zeppelin over Cookley!

Gwen on the front of the Museum's loom with young volunteers Callum Walters 14 and Ella Simmance 13.

Co-incidentally, the Museum, to commemorate the end of The Great War, currently has an exhibition entitled "Into the Firing Line". The focal point of the exhibition is a montage of nearly 500 soldiers from the local area who died in the war. The exhibition is open until November 29th.



Gwen demonstrating her loom at a special promotion at Beattie's Wolverhampton in 1935 or 36.