

Lessons in rare rugs and ethical commerce

By Anthony Dearie

adearie@jerseyeveningpost.com

STUDENTS have been learning about how felt rugs from the 'Mountains of Heaven' are made this week.

An exhibition of the traditional hand-made rugs, which have been sourced by the organisation Felt directly from the nomadic peoples of Kyrgyzstan, launched on Tuesday at the Harbour Gallery.

The organisers have invited secondary school pupils at all Jersey schools to see the exhibition and the director of Felt, Tim Mook, has been talking to the students about the making and dyeing of the felt and about what the patterns mean and the use of colour.

Fair price

Pupils from Haute Vallée School attended the exhibition this week and found out more about the rare rugs.

The Harbour Gallery's Pat Robson said that the young people had learned a lot from the experience.

'This exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for coursework and studies,' said Mrs Robson. 'Felt is committed to ethical commerce and not only pays a fair price for each Shyrdak rug, but it returns five per cent of the UK price to the makers.'

The exhibition ends tomorrow.



Tim Mook shows Haute Vallée students his felt and carpet collections from Kyrgyzstan Picture: RICHARD WAINWRIGHT (00519319)