



ISSUE 1

February 2006

the shuttle

devon weavers workshop
www.devonweaversworkshop.org

'The Shuttle' WELCOME TO ISSUE 1

This is the first newsletter produced by Devon Weavers Workshop. We want to celebrate our first year in our workshop, near Totnes, and tell you about the exciting events and courses planned for the coming year.

Thank you to all trustees and committee members who worked so tirelessly during 2005 to establish the workshop, run courses and importantly create the vision for the group to continue to flourish in 2006.

Colleen Pope - Editor

WORKSHOP MEETINGS

Bi-monthly Committee Meetings & Members' Get-togethers

It would be lovely to see as many members as possible at these meetings, which will be held on the first Tuesday of every second month, starting on 7 February 2006 at 12.00 noon.

They are a great opportunity for us to meet, share ideas and suggest ways forward. Please bring something to share for lunch.

Dates of forthcoming meetings for your diaries are:-

7 February

4 April

6 June

1 August

3 October

5 December (Christmas lunch)



2005 • OUR FIRST YEAR AT COOMBE PARK

We moved into our brand new 'permanent home' in Ashprington, Totnes on 2 January 2005. It took a few weeks of hard graft and organisation to transform a basic concrete shell into what is now a carpeted (thanks to a generous donation from Joyce Sherwood), furnished and heated space ready for weaving in.

We celebrated our official opening with a successful open weekend on 22-24 April. By March we were to hear that our application for charitable status had been successful and in May we heard the great news that we had received an 'Awards For All' Lottery Grant of £4860. This money enabled us to purchase eight Louët looms, each complete with stands, double back beams and benches.

Sue Dwyer's courses for beginners followed – the first in May/June and the second in October. Many of these new weavers joined us later as members and are weaving items of a fantastic standard. For the more experienced Sue also ran courses on Lace Weaves and Double Summer & Winter in the autumn. These courses attracted weavers from around the area, many of whom have since joined the workshop as members.

We have taken part in a wide range of events and exhibitions during the year; Totnes Show (July), Avon Mill Garden Centre, and notably as a

venue during 'Nine Days of Art' (September). At Killerton House (October), some of us exhibited and demonstrated weaving techniques as members of Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers.

Many of our members are keen to expand their knowledge of weaving techniques and design and have taken part in courses at the University College of Falmouth on textile screen printing and in Ivybridge and Falmouth, on the Complex Weaving Course with Ingrid Boesel, a Canadian weaver.

Others went to hear Ann Sutton talk at the Riverside Mill in July, whilst some attended Textile Forum SW held in Taunton in March. Sue Dwyer also ran a highly popular and successful 'Summer & Winter' course at the Association of Guilds' Summer School in Chester.

2005 was certainly a year full of excitement, hard work and achievement for the weavers at Devon Weavers' Workshop and we all look forward to 2006 with great enthusiasm!

**DEVON
WEAVERS
WORKSHOP**

WORKSHOPS & COURSES • 2006

*All courses will be held at
DEVON WEAVERS WORKSHOP
10.00 am to 4.00 pm
Tea/coffee provided*

**Further details available from
Sue Dwyer 01548 560648 or
email sue@ddwyer.f2s.com
unless otherwise stated.**

'WANNABE WEAVERS' - BEGINNERS COURSES

**TUTOR Sue Dwyer
21 January 2006 onwards
6 x 1 day sessions spread
over 6 weeks**

Thanks to our recent National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant, brand new 8 shaft Louët looms are available for use. Yarns may be purchased at the workshop for a small charge.

Course Fee: £100



Beginners, Mark & Sarah, modelling their first woven scarves

BLACKJACK WEAVING

Led by Sue Dwyer

Experimental weaving using a card game designed by the legendary weaver, Ann Sutton.

In January 2006 we are beginning a bi-monthly 'Blackjack Weaving Group'. Just for fun, and to build on our creativity and weaving knowledge, we are using Ann Sutton's weaving card game idea from her book 'Ideas in Weaving'. We are hoping to attract lots of weavers, no matter how experienced, to come along and join in. The meetings will last for one to two hours. Players will be dealt a hand of 2 or 3 different 'weaving suggestion' cards. We will all discuss each person's hand of cards and come up with help and ideas for possible weaves. We'll each produce a sample, based on our individual hand of cards - at home and in-between meetings. The plan is to each donate a small sample of each piece produced to the workshop so that in the future a book about the Blackjack Weaving Group can be put together to inspire other weavers in the future.

Why not come along and give it a whirl? It's a totally different approach to weaving and one that is sure to produce many new ideas.

Non-members fee £5 per session

EXPLORING DOUBLEWEAVE

TUTOR Sue Dwyer
27 & 28 February

(8 shaft looms required)

Participants will be sent a draft and arrive with their looms threaded, tied on and ready to weave.

The workshop will look at structural aspects of Doubleweave. The workshop will run as a round-robin so colour and weave, as well as two different weaves on each surface, can be explored. Handouts will be available for a small fee.

Course Fee: £50



Sue Dwyer's Lace Weaves Course, held at the Workshop in the autumn of 2005

WEAVING THAT SINGS

TUTOR Nadine Saunders
9 & 10 April

Moorman applications and design for Wall Hangings, Clothing & Rugs. This workshop has been organised by Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers and is to be held at Devon Weavers Workshop.

See Nadine's website – www.singingweaver.com for further information about her work and teaching methods.

All enquiries - please contact
Dorothy Tallentire
01803 617107 or email
d.tallentire@btinternet.com
Course Fee: £50

PICTORIAL SUMMER & WINTER

TUTOR Sue Dwyer
17 & 18 June

Participants will arrive with an 8 shaft loom threaded and ready to weave. Block design will be explored with the Summer and Winter threading used to design simple S&W and polychrome motifs. Each person will work at their own loom. This is similar to the class which Sue taught at the Association of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers' Summer School 2005. A booklet will be available, cost about £1.

Course Fee: £50

NAVAJO WEAVING

TUTOR Hannelore Cole from
California

18, 19 & 20 September

Hannelore has taught weaving all her life and has a special interest in Navajo weaving. You will be taught how to assemble a simple Navajo

loom and then how to warp and weave in the classic style.

The cost of the loom is included in the course fee and the loom is yours to take home.

All enquiries - please contact

Dorothy Tallentire 01803 617107
or email

d.tallentire@btinternet.com

Course Fee: £75 (including loom)

Association of Guilds' **SPRING COURSE 2006**

19 - 23 March

Scarborough, Yorkshire.

Arranged by our own Sue Dwyer with weaving tutors coming from the USA. Several members from DWW will be attending.



The Association's Computer Weaving Course held in April 2005 at Falmouth College of Art

Association of Guilds' **SUMMER SCHOOL 2007**

Advance notice – Summer School next year will take place at Falmouth College of Art. Again, this is being arranged by Sue and details will be announced soon.

www.devonweaversworkshop.org

An exciting event planned for early in 2006 is the launch of our own website.

The website will feature how to join us, how to find us, contact details, membership rates, workshops & courses, exhibitions & events, spinner's group, members and their work, meeting details, links etc.

Huge thanks must go to Kay, who has written a great deal of fantastic information for this site, and to her son, Barnaby, who will design, create and update the site for us.

The workshop will have its own email address, so that members of the public can contact us.

This will be:-

contact@devonweaversworkshop.org

It is planned to give every member their own page on the website on which to display their work. By the time this newsletter is published one photography session will already have taken place. More can be arranged if required. Please ask Kay for details. We'd also like to include a few words about each weaver and their work.

EVENTS 2006

DWW EVENTS 2006

We hope to participate in several events this year. We are still awaiting confirmation and dates for some, but so far we hope to:-

- organise an event to celebrate the workshop's 1st birthday (April)
- have a stand at Totnes Show
- take part in the South Ham's 2006 9 Days of Art Open Studios event
- hold a week long exhibition at Killerton House

OTHER EVENTS 2006

TEXTILE FORUM SOUTH WEST

11 March

SOMERSET CENTRE FOR
ENTERPRISE, TAUNTON

This second TFSW conference features regional and national textile practitioners and looks at the use

of new technologies for colouration of colour and cloth.

DEVON GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN RIVERSIDE MILL, BOVEY TRACEY

ARTTEXTILES3

14 January – 26 February

Touring exhibition of the work of 18 textile artists from Bury St Edmunds.

(www.devonguild@crafts.org.uk)

COLDHARBOUR MILL

A WEAVER'S YARN

27 February – 31 March

A textile exhibition by students of University College, Falmouth

TEXTILE EXHIBITION

2-20 October

Coldharbour Mill weaving Group

SPECIAL OCCASIONS CALENDARS

These are available from DWW for £3.00. We plan to sell as many as possible this year, both locally and nationally. The workshop has 500 copies to sell and after having sold the first 250 the profits will all be going to DWW. They make a great gift, either filled or left blank - ask any committee member for further information.

Thanks are due to Sue Dwyer for dreaming this great idea up in the first place and also for supporting the project for the workshop.



workshop news

TOTNES SPINNERS

Totnes Spinning Group had their first meeting at Bogan House, Totnes in January 2003. In September 2005 we moved to Devon Weavers Workshop where meetings are held fortnightly (monthly in winter), on Friday mornings.

We are spinners of all abilities and anyone, especially beginners are welcome to join us. Equipment is available free to use at the workshop, or can be hired for a monthly fee. Beginners will receive help in learning to prepare wool and other fibres for spinning and will be taught how to use a drop spindle and a spinning wheel. Why not join us and learn a new skill?

Visitors – £2.50 per session.

For further details contact:-
Liffy Robinson on 01548 560342

PARKING

Please remember that parking is only permitted in our two designated spaces in front of our workshop (see workshop notice board) and at the rear of the workshop – up the sloping track to the car parking area. Other spaces around our workshop are allocated to the other workshops.

LIBRARY

We have a small library of books in the workshop. All members are welcome to borrow books and magazines at any time. Please remember to sign the red book

when you borrow *and* return them. We are looking for volunteers to catalogue the books/mags for us. The workshop subscribes to 'Handwoven' magazine and back issues are also available to borrow.

YARNS

We have a good selection of yarns for members to choose from. Full members can use most yarns belonging to DWW free of charge. We have recently purchased a good selection of colourful, thicker wool – suitable for rugs, mats etc – which are available for purchase at £6.50 per kilogram.

SALES DISPLAY

A few members have suggested having a permanent sales table or display area set up within the workshop, the idea being that any time a visitor is passing and drops in there would be items for sale and weaving for them to look at and thereby see what we do. Probably something for late spring/ summer, with our A-board displayed by the road to attract visitors. Anyone fancy acting as coordinator for this?

THE JOURNAL

The Association of Guild's quarterly magazine 'The Journal' can be ordered through the workshop for £11.50 per year. Ask our treasurer, Rosemary or see the Association's website for 'Journal' details – www.wsd.org.uk

members' news

Many of our members are involved with projects outside the workshop.

Erdmunda has recently completed a commissioned tapestry on the theme of the monkey puzzle tree. On 19 January 2006 she exhibited three tapestries as part of Devon



Monkey Puzzle tapestry by Erdmunda Symon



One of Erdmunda's tapestries displayed at Devon Artsculture's birthday celebrations.

celebrations at The Barn, Higher Ashton, near Newton Abbot.

Sue has had another article published in the December 2005 edition of The Journal. The topic this time was 'A Weaving Challenge' and it featured examples of her 'Summer and Winter' weaves –



Sue Dwyer's complex weave Christmas tree

motifs for Christmas cards. The famous Christmas tree in this article also features in the showcase section (December 2005) of the Complex Weavers' website:- www.complex-weavers.org

Sue and friend Paddy Bakker from Somerset Guild will be making their way to Convergence in the USA (Grand Rapids, Michigan) in June to take part in workshops and attend the international textile conference and exhibition. We look forward to hearing all about it. For further information about this year's Convergence see:- www.weavespindye.org

DWW

New membership rates for 2006

Membership Renewal

Current membership expires at the end of March. You can then choose the type of membership which best suits your needs.

Existing members will be contacted in late February about the renewal of membership. New members please contact Colleen Pope, our membership secretary, for a membership form (email - colleenpope@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01548 560336) or collect a form from the workshop.

Membership has been restructured as follows;-

Full Membership

- No yearly fee
- £20 per month paid by standing order in advance (3 month's notice must be given if you wish to cancel your membership)
- Heating in winter extra (October to April inclusive) £1 per day or 50p per half day when you are on the premises

As a full member you will be entitled to:-

- * Serve on the committee
- * Have open access to the workshop 7 days a week (except occasionally when the workshop is

being used for other purposes)

- * Have your own set of keys to the workshop
- * Free workshop newsletters twice a year
- * Use most of the yarns stored in the workshop, free of charge
- * Park your own small loom at the workshop for free, space permitting
- * Free use of any workshop loom, if available
- * 50% discount on any of Sue Dwyer's workshops held on the premises

Associate Membership

- Yearly fee £15
- Plus £5 per day or £3 per half day
- Heating in winter extra (October to April inclusive) £1 per day or 50p per half day when you are on the premises

As an associate member you will be entitled to:-

- * Access to workshop when a keyholder is present
- * Free workshop newsletters, twice a year
- * Hire workshop loom for £1 per week (plus £10 deposit), if available
- * 5% discount on any of Sue Dwyer's workshops held on the premises



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TRUSTEES

Kay Balmforth, Rosemary Durant, Sue Dwyer,
Ann Holl, Colleen Pope, Erdmunda Symon

COMMITTEE 2006

Chairman	Kay Balmforth
Secretary	Ann Holl
Treasurer	Rosemary Durant
Workshops & Courses	Sue Dwyer
Membership	Colleen Pope
Catering	Erdmunda Symon
Equipment	Janet Thomas
Publicity	Dorothy Tallentire Sarah Mitchelson

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