

ISSUE 16

JANUARY 2015

the shuttle

10th
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

devon weavers workshop
devonweaversworkshop.org

DATES for 2015

MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 13 JANUARY 11.00am

10TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Saturday 24 JANUARY 12 to 3pm

BLACKJACK 22

Tuesday 10 MARCH 11.30am

TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday 6 OCTOBER 4.30pm

AGM

Saturday 14 NOVEMBER 12 noon

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

5 - 7 JUNE at Bovey Tracey

BIRDWOOD HOUSE

Exhibition and sale of members' work
5 - 12 DECEMBER

COURSES

BEGINNERS - SPRING

Tutor - Jenny Rolfe

21/22 Feb, 28 Feb/1 Mar & 7/8 March

BEGINNER SPINNERS

Tutor - Chris Hart

18 & 19 APRIL

£70 (plus approximately £5 for materials, payable during the course)

The course will cover the preparation of various fibres and teach spinning using spindles and spinning wheels.

For further details or to book a place on the spinners' course please contact Chris Hart

EXPLORING DOUBLEWEAVE

Tutor - Laura Thomas

28 to 30 MARCH

£185 associate members, £175 full members & trustees

A workshop for experienced single-cloth weavers to make the move into thinking about two layers on 8 shafts or more.

MAGICAL MATERIALS

Tutor - LOTTE DALGAARD

12 - 14 JUNE

£185 associate members, £175 full members & trustees (Plus an additional yarn cost of approximately £30)

Students will learn special techniques for using high twist, elastic and other very fine active yarns, in combination with so-called stable yarns (like cotton, superwash wool or linen) to make fabulous pleated, folded and crinkled textiles.

THE MAGIC EIGHT

Tutor - NANCY HOSKINS

12 - 14 SEPTEMBER

£185 associate members, £175 full members & trustees

A three-day workshop for beginner to advanced weavers on 8-shaft looms.

Explore the wonder of the Magic Threading. One warp can deceive the eye into thinking the loom is threaded for weft-faced twills, point twills, krokbragd, rosepath, taqueté and many others. Weave letters, numbers, doubled krokbragd and other unique weft-faced designs.

For further details or to book a place on a weaving course please contact Ann Holl

BEGINNERS - AUTUMN

Tutor - Jenny Rolfe

7 TO 12 NOVEMBER



THE WORKSHOP is 10 years old!

The last year has been another busy and successful year. Jenny has run two very successful Beginners Courses with a total of ten participants, which also brought us five new members. We now have 51 members, the highest number ever. We have had some exciting advanced courses too, tutored by Jason Collingwood, Jacqui Carey, and Barbara Walker. We are lucky to have such renowned tutors coming to our Workshop to stimulate and inspire us and I know we all appreciate them doing so.

We had a very successful exhibition at the Contemporary Craft Fair in June; generating over £1000 from sales. As usual we ran a weaving workshop in the children's tent which was highly successful, with over 150 woven samples posted out to enthusiastic young weavers after the event. In the first week in December, we held our Christmas Exhibition at Birdwood House in Totnes. It is a good space and was, as usual, a successful and enjoyable experience (see page 6).

Anne, Jenny and Kay spent a long time working successfully on an application to the Ashley Family Foundation for a grant to buy an Octado 90 cm 8 shaft dobby loom. Technically this is a half-way stage between a treadle loom and a computer driven loom. It enables complicated treadling patterns without the use of a computer and is there for all members to use. The Workshop has also bought Rosemary Durant's Mighty Wolf floor loom, so we now have an 8 shaft treadle loom for members to enjoy. I don't think we have room for many more looms!

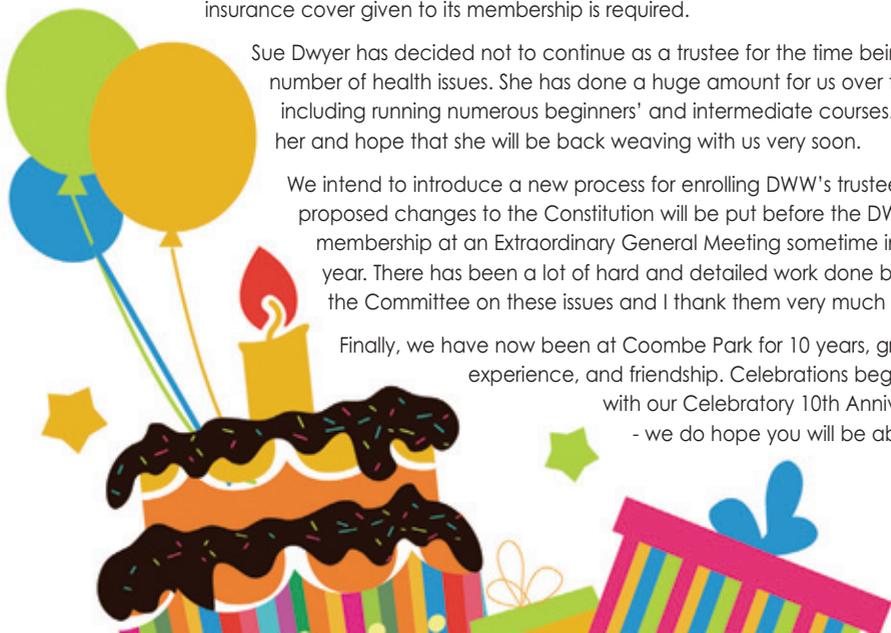
Some time ago we realised our insurance cover was inadequate and Jenny Rolfe has done a wonderful job sorting out what we need and finding someone to fully insure us, but unfortunately at a vastly increased cost. This is a matter we will be taking to the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers' AGM in Spring 2015. We do feel that a more coherent description of the insurance cover given to its membership is required.

Sue Dwyer has decided not to continue as a trustee for the time being, due to a number of health issues. She has done a huge amount for us over the years, including running numerous beginners' and intermediate courses. We will miss her and hope that she will be back weaving with us very soon.

We intend to introduce a new process for enrolling DWW's trustees. Any proposed changes to the Constitution will be put before the DWW membership at an Extraordinary General Meeting sometime in the coming year. There has been a lot of hard and detailed work done by members of the Committee on these issues and I thank them very much for it.

Finally, we have now been at Coombe Park for 10 years, growing in skills, experience, and friendship. Celebrations begin in January with our Celebratory 10th Anniversary Lunch - we do hope you will be able to join us.

Chair - Ann Holl



NEWS IN BRIEF

DWW COURSES 2015 & 2016

Our 2015 courses have proved very popular - if you intend to book a place do hurry, there are very few spaces left (*see page 2, 'Diary' for dates*). The three tutors will each be giving us an evening lecture to which all DWW members are welcome (no charge, dates to be confirmed). Ideas for 2016 courses would be welcomed - please let Ann H know.

BEGINNERS COURSES 2015

The Spring Beginners Course will be held over three consecutive weekends - 21/22 Feb, 28 Feb/1 Mar & 7/8 March. The course is fully booked, so Jenny would like at least three weavers a day to assist her. Offers of help will be much appreciated as usual. If you can't get to DWW to sign up on the noticeboard sheet, but would like to help, please contact Jenny.

BIRDWOOD HOUSE 2015 & 16

Our Christmas Exhibition at Birdwood House this year will be held from 5 to 12 December. We have also booked the same venue for 2016 (3 to 10 December) - please make a note in your diaries!

THE NEW OCTADO

In 2014 DWW received an award of £3500 from the Ashley Family Foundation towards the purchase of an 8 shaft Octado dobby loom. It's a privilege to have this new loom in the Workshop and it's there for all members to use. Do please have a go and enjoy it! If you need help to get started, then ask - there's plenty of willing members around to help.

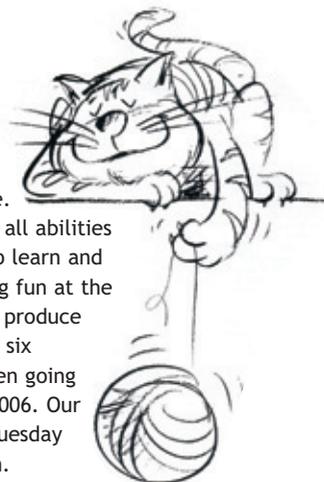
AGWSD AGM

The Association's AGM will be held this year on 18 April 2015 at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. A representative from DWW will be in attendance.

BLACKJACK

All weavers welcome.

This card game suits all abilities and is a great way to learn and have a bit of weaving fun at the same time. We each produce one 8" sample every six months and have been going strong since March 2006. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 March at 11.30am.



MIGHTY WOLF

Thanks go to Rita for kindly supplying us with attachments to fix a replacement raddle to the Mighty Wolf. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of the missing original raddle please let either Jacqui J or Sareela know.

SALE OF YARNS & EQUIPMENT

£1054.20 was raised for Nancy Adams from the sale of her surplus yarns and equipment. Many thanks to all of you who supported this project. We all wish Nancy and her husband Peter good health and happiness after their move north to be nearer to their family.

SPINNING GROUP IN DWW

The DWW spinning group meets on the third Friday of the month, 12.30 to 3.30pm, and is always looking for new members (no charge if you are already a DWW member). Chris H is running a beginner spinner course in DWW in April (*see page 2*) - if you know of anyone who might be interested please let them know.



10 YEARS OLD!

Happy Birthday DWW! Pictures speak louder than words, so here are a few from our past to remind us how far we've come. Much hard work, generosity from friends and families, friendships forged, so much learned, in so many ways, during the 10 years since it all began. It's unique and those of us who started it say a big 'thank you' to those of you who have joined us along the way - we wouldn't still be here if it wasn't for you all. The heart-beat of this place runs on goodwill from all sides. Long may it continue.

Kay Balmforth



Below: Official Opening Event October 2005 (with Totnes Mayor!)



February 2005

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL



The theme for the Children's Tent 2014 at the Contemporary Craft Festival was 'Devon Landscapes'. Jacqueline sourced some vibrant images for us from RAMM which were displayed to inspire our young weavers. Five looms, with extremely long warps, were barely enough to cope with demand and on the last day we had to commandeer the demonstration loom from DWW's stand in order to keep going. A great success all round and many thanks go to all of you who helped out over those three days. Rewarding and fun, but quite hard work!



Our DWW stand was in a less prominent position in 2014 and as a result our takings were slightly down to £1068 - less than 2013, but more than many past years.

Stewarding for DWW at CCF also gives you the chance to have a look around the festival and see really top quality craft. We'll be asking for stewards again this year - 5 to 7 June - so please make a note in your diaries!

BIRDWOOD HOUSE DECEMBER 2014

We always seem to have a good time at Birdwood, and this year's exhibition was no exception. Colleen sold her magnificent rug (made for the black and white challenge) on the very first day and we continued to sell really well all week with sales totalling over £2922, our best yet. The interest in our beginners' courses was fantastic. Jenny is going to need all the help she can get when running these courses in 2015, with an interim course mid-year a possibility in order to cope with the high demand.

Stewarding was fun, as ever - many thanks to all of you who pitched in to help and made this the success it was. It's tricky to find the time pre-Christmas, but the atmosphere was great and it's always good to have the chance to visit the eclectic Totnes shops over the festive period.



Kay Balmforth

THE DYEING CHALLENGE 2015



The next challenge we have for you is to weave anything you like, but using your own hand-dyeing skills. We're hoping that the two members' dyeing days held in 2014 will have inspired some of you to have a go! Either dye some or all of the yarn you use - warp and/or weft, or get your weaving done first and dye the piece after it comes off the loom.



You could try using space-dyed warps or wefts, ikat dyeing, shibori, piece dyeing... any technique you like. There are dyes available in DWW for members use (procion, acid and indigo) if needed and the library has books on all the subjects above.

The closing date is 1 June 2015. We hope to have a lovely range of hand-dyed textiles on display at this year's Contemporary Craft Festival in Bovey Tracey, 5 to 7 June 2015.

THE COLOUR CHALLENGE 2014

The DWW Workshop Challenge 2014 was to weave anything using a colour palette of only black, white/ecru or grey, or any combination of these colours.

Many thanks to all those of you who were inspired and had a go. Between you, you produced a lovely range of attractive and interesting hats, bags, cushions, greeting cards and scarves.

Quite a few items were sold during the exhibition at Birdwood House, with Anne B's hats proving a big hit. (See page 12.)

Left: Some of the Black & White Challenge items on display at the DWW AGM



THOUGHTS ON WEAVING....

Have you ever been caught out? I was pleased that I had wound a warp which was a bit different to my usual things. I put it on the loom, beamed it, fine, then when I began to thread I realised I had put it on upside down - it was an assymetrical warp. So this is really just to say... if you haven't made this mistake, hopefully it will save you making it in the future!

Yvonne Hawkins

WARP PATTERNING

with Barbara J Walker 21 - 23 October 2014

The course was a round robin and there was a good mix of weaving ability. It was the more complex and technically demanding of Barbara's two courses and gave us the opportunity to experience using two warp beams, whilst at the same time experimenting with colour and pattern.

With the ground warp tied on to the main warp beam, and the coloured pattern warp tied to the second warp beam, great effects could be achieved using only one shuttle.

Barbara also showed us how to tension the pattern warps without a second beam, using weights of various types. The Workshop's Mighty Wolf, Megado and

Octado looms (none of which have second beams) were all in use and everyone appreciated the chance to weave on these looms - a new experience for quite a few of us.

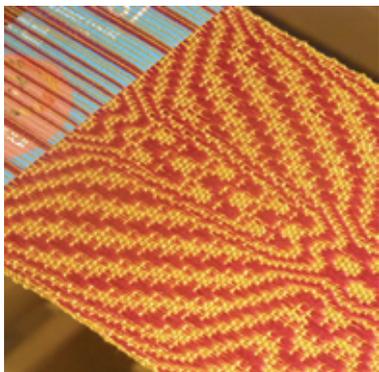
Barbara was a good teacher and brought with her many lovely samples of her own work to discuss with us. There was some theory work as well as practical weaving to be done and Barbara taught us, among other things, how to turn a draft and analyse commercial patterns.

Some of the warps required us to design our own patterns and we each went home with a dozen or so very different samples.

Sareela Salter



Photos: Jacqueline Jones, Sareela Salter & Debbie Carnegie



COLOUR & WEAVE DUETS

25 - 27 October 2014 with Barbara J Walker

'Colour-and-weave is not 'colour in weaving', and has indeed, very little to do with colour in the production of its effects. It is a term used by weavers to describe the way in which patterns 'occur' when one combination of dark/light threads in the warp crosses another (or the same) combination in the weft. The interlacing of the threads, the weave, determines the pattern which will be produced by these combinations.'

Ann Sutton COLOUR-AND-WEAVE DESIGN: A Practical Reference Book, p8.

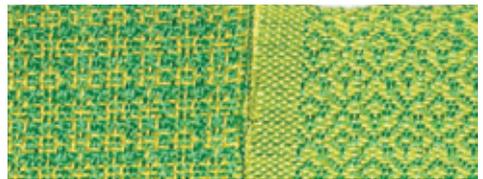
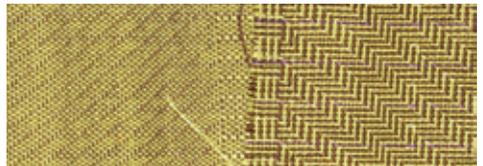
The above quotation from Ann Sutton's book (now in the DWW library) perfectly describes the aims of this course.

The looms were warped in 'pairs' using the same threading, one with a single colour in the warp (A) and the other with two colours (A & B). Lifts were the same for both, except the plain warps were woven using only one colour (B), and the two coloured warps were woven in the same two colours of the warp (A & B). The effects achieved by simply using different combinations of colour were amazing.

We had plenty of colour theory tuition too, looking at the numerical values of corresponding colours (Johannes Itten's book, also in our library) and how to balance various primary and secondary colours in woven textiles. Homework involved winding several colour wraps based on Itten's theory and filling in drawdown worksheets using one and two colours. All our various threadings were explained and on the final day we were encouraged to develop our own treadlings based on colour and weave theory.

For a comprehensive overview of Barbara's colour and weave course visit www.weavezine.com/content/woven-ratios

Kay Balmforth



REACHING OUT

BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Manchester 25 – 27 April 2014

This was the first National conference I have attended and hopefully not the last – it was excellent from start to finish and well worth the long trip to Manchester from Devon! The theme of the conference was 'Reaching Out' inspired by Manchester's close association with textiles.

The city and its neighbouring regions, once christened 'Cottonopolis', have enjoyed a long and rich association with textiles. In C19th it became the international centre of the cotton and textile trade and was responsible for 32% of the world's cotton production. From the beginning it 'reached out' across the country, and indeed the world, to embrace the new technologies of the day and drew workers from their homes to work in the wide array of purpose-built mills surrounding the city. It continued to reach out, building its accessibility with an inland port, canals, rail and air, to reach out all over the world for skills, resources and markets to service its growing textiles industry. It reaches out today as it tries to revive its textiles industry to compete with overseas manufacturers.

On my journey to Manchester I dropped in to the Queen's Street Cotton Mill in Burnley. It is a heritage mill, but still produces 'calico' in significant quantity and has a huge, weaving room full of steam driven looms (the noise was unbelievable). It still has an industrial and dirty feel of a working mill, with all old production processes evident.

The Northwest Guilds should be congratulated for organising a superb conference, which was held in a Grade II listed mansion with beautiful gardens, just south of Manchester's city centre. The conference ran from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and incorporated the annual AGM of the AGWSD.

There was a fantastic programme of speakers, starting with Jenny Balfour Paul who spoke amusingly about her love of indigo and of her experiences travelling abroad researching her



Above: Queen's Street Cotton Mill, Burnley

two books on this dye. She is involved in research into dyes in shipwrecks, promotes revivals of natural dyes worldwide and the use of natural dyes in education. She told us about her plan to write a third book, relating her adventures with a Victorian traveller and indigo planter. Somehow, amongst all this she has found the time to become our new President of the National Association of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. Part of her lecture focussed on how we (the Association and 'we' as individuals) should 'reach out' to everyone – share our skills and especially share our knowledge to younger people before it is lost.

Emma Sheldon was the second guest speaker. She is a Colour and Materials Designer researching innovative material design and is the 2013 winner of the Textile Society Postgraduate Bursary Award Winner and the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality Award. It was inspirational to hear from a 'young' textile artist, recently out of college with a PHD, who has managed to forge a successful career from her trade and now works with Jaguar Land Rover, designing interior and exterior materials for their new Aston Martins. She brought along many samples, the design and construction of which, amazed us all.

On Sunday, Paul Crookes, our third speaker, had us rolling in the aisles! He established Halifax Spinning Mill in 2009 after his fourth

redundancy from the rapidly diminishing textiles industry. Having been in textiles from age 16, he wanted to utilise his (increasingly precious) skills and knowledge of textile processes. He became aware of a great demand for a mill which had the ability to produce small batches of commercial quality spun wool in the north west and set about buying a building and equipping it with machines from redundant mills. He brought along many samples of his products and wools for sale.

Finally, on Sunday morning, Jan Garside, a renowned weaver and member of Design Nation and Design Factory, spoke to us all. Her work was amazing, being made up of woven pieces comprising multiple translucent layers of polyfilament thread with surface embellishments (such as fishing weights), Jacquard woven, stitched, printed and laser cut pieces. I found the conference to be an inspirational

event and thoroughly enjoyed it as did the 150 and more weavers, spinners and dyers who attended from all parts of Great Britain for the whole weekend and it was lovely to see familiar faces and chat during the many breaks for tea and cake!

Colleen Pope

Below: Sample of Emma Sheldon's work



The DWW Library

We have had several new additions to the DWW library during the last year (see below). Please make good use of it and remember that books should be returned within one month of borrowing. Don't forget to sign in the book again when returning them.



- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Colour & Weave Design | <i>Ann Sutton</i> |
| Woven Textile Design | <i>Jan Shenton</i> |
| Woven Textiles | <i>Sharon Kearley</i> |
| Weave | <i>Wendy Cartwright</i> |
| Varp och inslag
<i>(Donated to us by Mirja)</i> | <i>Mariana Eriksson</i> |
| Rug Making | <i>Dorothy Drage</i> |
| Woven Carpets & Rugs | <i>Ann Croot</i> |
| Fair Isle Knitting | <i>Shelia McGregor</i> |
| Book of Braids | <i>Jacqui Carey</i> |
| Creative Kumihimo | <i>Jacqui Carey</i> |
| Fibres to Fabrics | <i>Hazel Clark</i> |
| The Bag Making Bible | <i>Lisa Lam</i> |
| Japanese Book of Kumihimo Patterns | |

TRIP TO THE NATURAL FIBRE COMPANY

Last July a group of us went to Launceston to visit the Natural Fibre Company and then on to the nearby Cowslip Workshops for a browse and some lunch.

The Natural Fibre Company pride themselves in the quality of the wool they produce. They are also rare in that they will spin smaller quantities than other mills, a minimum of 8kg of fleece. This means that they are able to produce top quality yarn from mainly local rare breed sheep.

We were taken up onto the gallery from where we could see the whole process spread out in

front of us. Not much of the machinery was working at the time, but it was impressive all the same. The company takes great pride in its machinery, which is often salvaged and bought from other mills; it is then lovingly restored and or adapted to meet their needs. Getting spares can be a problem!

I was fascinated to see that the fleece is carded and then drawn out to a fine roving. This is stored in drums before being twisted and wound onto cones. It is at this roving stage that blending occurs, skilled staff can 'mix' wool to improve the final yarn. They draw on their own extensive bank of fleece to bolster the amount, improve the handling or achieve consistency in colour of rare breed wools.

Much of the wool goes back to the owners of the flock but they do have yarn to buy as well. It tends to be fine and principally for knitting, but some can be woven. We have their contact details if anyone is interested.

The Cowslip Workshop was very different. It mostly caters for quilters and the shop was stacked with luscious fabrics. We had an excellent lunch there which gave us time to catch up with the latest news and swap views on the visit. The garden was delightful and the views over the countryside from the gazebo stunning.

Thank you Colleen for organising the trip for us, I for one would like to go back!

Anne Bulleid

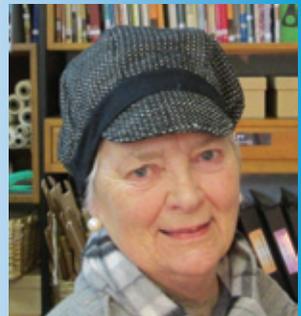


WHERE DID YOU GET THAT HAT.....?



LEFT: 'Tapestry Beret' made by Anne B from a pattern in *Weave - Handmade Style*, page 65 (in the DWW library).

RIGHT: Chris M's lovely cotton-lined hat, woven in 2/2 twill using 2/6s grey, black and white mercerised cotton.
(Thanks for modelling Chris!)



KUMIHIMO

with JACQUI CAREY 12 & 13 JUNE 2014

During the course Jacqui taught us how to make square, round and flat braids. We began by making the warps using warping posts (rather than warping boards or mills). We made 8-strand braids, experimenting with all kinds of fancy yarns to great effect - braidmaking is a great way of using up thrums if you are a weaver. It was a small group which made it a particularly relaxed and enjoyable two days. Jacqui is an enthusiastic teacher and has written several books on braidmaking, three of which are in the DWW library. Other than teaching, she also supplies equipment and materials for braid-making, including Japanese silks.

Sareela Salter



A Weaver's Date

Compiled by Jill Davies

Well, the remainder of the winter months looks to be a time to be weaving, with very little going on in the world of textile events or exhibitions. By March, there are a few things to be considering:

THE SPRING KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW at Olympia, London from **5 to 8 MARCH**, might be combined with a trip to the **CONTEMPORARY TEXTILES FAIR** in Teddington, **6 to 8 MARCH**. Alternatively, on **28 MARCH** the **SELVEDGE SPRING FAIR** will be in Bath at the American Museum, Claverton Manor.

Personally, I am looking forward to the **SONIA DELAUNAY EXHIBITION** at the Tate Modern in London. This starts **15 APRIL** and continues to **9 AUGUST**. It is a retrospective exhibition which includes paintings, textiles and clothes.

May, as usual, sees **SPRING SELECT** at Stroud. This year the lead exhibition **THE POWER OF TEN** includes two Devon weavers: Susie Gillespie and Anne Jackson. **OPEN STUDIO TRAILS** are on weekends - **9 & 10** and **16 & 17**. Details of talks, workshops and other

exhibitions are already on the website - www.sitselect.org/sitselectevents/html

In June we have **THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL** on our doorstep at Mill Marsh Park, Bovey Tracey, **5 to 7 JUNE**. A little further away, but still in the south west, is **STRANDED** - an exhibition of **JO ATHERTON'S FLOTSAM WEAVING** at the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth. That finishes in July. See the *Journal* for more information about Jo's work.

If you are feeling more adventurous, you might like to consider a trip to Holland? The **4th TEXTILE FESTIVAL** will be in Leiden from **13 to 19 MAY**. There will be a variety of textile events including: from **13 to 16**, the **LEIDEN TEXTILE ROUTE** (45 exhibitions and an arts and crafts market); from **16 to 17**, **DUTCH TEXTILE ART & DESIGN**, the **European Textile Network Conference and Tour**; and events and courses at the **Leiden Textile Research Centre**. www.etn-net.org/ten/211e.htm and www.textielfestival.nl/textielroute.php and www.trc-Leiden.nl/trc

devon weavers workshop

www.devonweaversworkshop.org

TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE 2015

(Trustees marked with an asterisk)

Chairman, Intermediate
& Advanced Courses

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Secretaries

Jacqueline Jones & Jill Davies*

Treasurer

Colleen Pope*

Beginners Courses

Jenny Rolfe*

Newsletters & Website

Kay Balmforth*

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Sareela Salter*

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Gail Bryant

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