



ISSUE 18

OCTOBER 2016

# the shuttle

devon weavers workshop

[www.devonweaversworkshop.org](http://www.devonweaversworkshop.org)

# DATES for 2016/7

## MEETINGS

### COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 16 November 10.30am

### AGM 2016

Saturday 19 November 12 noon

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wednesday 7 December 12.30pm

### BLACKJACK 26

Tuesday 7 March 2017 11am

## COURSES

### DOUBLE WEAVE COURSE

Tutor - Mirja Woollard

12 & 13 NOVEMBER 2016

### BEGINNERS - SPRING 2017

Tutor - Jenny Rolfe

18/19 February, 25/26 February &

4/5 March

*£195 (includes materials)*

### ECHO & IRIS

Tutor - MARIAN STUBENITSKY

23 - 25 JUNE 2017

*£255 non-members, £225 associate members, £205 full members/trustees*

### BEGINNERS - AUTUMN 2017

Tutor - Jenny Rolfe

30 September - 5 October

*£195 (includes materials)*

### RUG WEAVING TECHNIQUES

(including Taquete and samitum)

Tutor - GISELA VON WEISZ

27 - 29 OCTOBER 2017

*£255 non-members, £225 associate members, £205 full members/trustees*

*For further details or to book a place on any weaving course please contact us via our website at [www.devonweaversworkshop.org](http://www.devonweaversworkshop.org)*

## EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

### VISIT TO FOX BROTHERS

21 OCTOBER 2016

### BIRDWOOD HOUSE 2016

27 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER

Christmas Exhibition and sale of members' work

### CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

9 - 11 JUNE 2017

## DON'T FORGET THE AGM!

**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 12 noon**

Please bring something for the shared lunch after the meeting. All members very welcome.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2016 has been a busy time with two successful courses tutored by Laura Thomas and Margo Selby, both ex-graduates from Anne Sutton's Foundation. It is very interesting to see the different directions their careers have taken them. Both have such a lot to offer, and we look forward to having them both teach here again. Watch this space! We have a third exciting course with Rosalie Neilson coming up in September, so it's been a very good year course-wise.

We have upgraded the lighting in the Workshop. There are new spotlights down the centre of the room which enhance the wall displays and also increase the level of overall light, and all the strip lights are now LEDs. A noticeable improvement.

You will find an article about student Sarah Craig in this edition of the *Shuttle* (page 10). We are delighted to be able to help her on her way to a career in textiles. Encouraging interest in weaving is one of our core aims and the success of our courses has enabled us to offer her a bursary in the form of a place on Rosalie's course.

Ann Holl

## BON VOYAGE ERDMUNDA!

In March we invited Erdmunda to a lunch at the Workshop, as she is leaving Devon, moving to California and soon to be married. She was a founding member and trustee for many years. Without her we would not be here. When we lost our room at Dartington she very generously gave us the use of her 'Granny Cottage' where we continued to weave and keep together as a group until we moved to Coombe Park eleven years ago. She also hosted many of our dyeing days in her garden down the years.

Erdmunda has been away in America recently so we enjoyed seeing her again and are also enjoying the Burco boiler; books and yarn that she generously donated to the Workshop.

We look forward to seeing her on her trips to Totnes.



# INSPIRATIONAL WEAVING

with Margo Selby

18 - 20 JUNE 2016

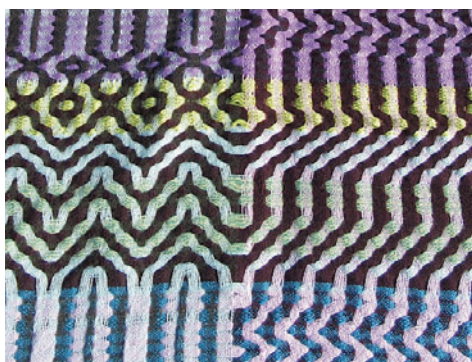
On my first Margo Selby course, I knew very little, but I had had a fun time, and learnt so much. So I was keen and excited to attend another Margo course and decided it was a good opportunity, to tackle deflective double weave, with the help of an expert. I was a fan of Kay's scarves and the work of Elisabeth Hill, a Hand weaver in Western Massachusetts. Her website is called 'Plain Weave and beyond' <https://plainweave.net>. A bit like double weave, it took me a while to feel able to give it a go, and it was good to have a few days to focus on it, and make sense of the structure.

Ann had kindly suggested I might like to use the Megado loom for the course, and with 16 shafts and many lifts, I would really be able to explore deflective double weave. The draft Margo sent was a little challenging, and I did need to clarify my reading of it, but as always she was patient and replied with further advice. Once Margo arrived and was in front of the loom, it all became clear, and she set me off on a series of samples.

One tip she gave us was to start and end samples with a few rows of mohair. Once washed, the mohair will felt, and you don't need to worry about fraying ends or finishing the pieces by hand.

After producing two samples, I finished the warp with a wide scarf/stole. On Margo's advice I gave the merino wool a light wash, and avoided felting, keeping it as one piece, rather than cutting it down the middle and creating two scarves. She felt this showed clearly that it was hand woven, and avoided it looking as if it had been created in a mill.

Margo Selby manages to share her energy, skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for weaving during her courses, and I get so much more than a new method or technique. Her talks about her work, journey from college to her current business, and work with different mills



in this country and abroad, are fascinating - few people are so honest and inspiring. I would recommend her courses to everyone.

It is a great compliment to the Workshop, and a sign of Margo's continued interest in hand weaving, that she has bought pieces from members during the last two courses. (You never know who will buy your work if you exhibit in the Workshop!)

Jacqueline Jones



# The DWW Trip to Fox Brothers

Fox Brothers & Co in Wellington, Somerset have been producing worsted and woollen textiles for nearly 250 years. They specialise in top of the market cloth, using British wool as much as possible. I had been hoping to visit their mill since I saw their beautiful men's suit at Devon Guild of Craftsmen's *Fleece First* exhibition in 2011.

Jo, one of the two designers, took us round; she had come to Wellington from her first job at a mill at Gallashiels. With her degree in weaving she is well placed to design the company's collections, making sure that a number of different designs can be woven on the one warp. She was proudly wearing a jacket designed by Margaret Howell made from Fox Flannel cloth - chosen she said, with the thought in mind, that it would have to last her lifetime.

For safety reasons visits are organised when the looms are not operating, and only 8 people are allowed at any one time. However, there was plenty to see and it meant we could look at the warps and the looms up close. We were intrigued by the gadget that feeds the shaft threader one end at a time from a bundle and decided it would certainly speed us up even if we could not match her 1,000 ends per hour!

Possibly the highlight was a visit to the company archives where we could look at some of the ledgers contain samples of the cloth woven over the years. Weaving started in the 1700s and the earliest ledgers are from the 1730s. The coloured cloth looked as though it had been recently woven, not some 250 years ago.



Photos: Jenny Rolfe

Finally, we visited the shop where we bought some yarn and admired the finished cloth. It was a very interesting visit, made more so by Jo who happily answered our many questions and welcomed the chance to show off the beautiful products to weavers who could appreciate the different stages of their creation.

# RULE BREAKING

with Laura Thomas

2 - 4 APRIL 2016

Rule Breaking Weaving was designed to encourage us to break the rules of weaving, and push ourselves outside our comfort zones. That began immediately for us as we selected and wound warps of yarns and fibres that we would normally avoid, and then (with much muttering) dressed our looms. Lurex, polyester and acrylic often of jarring colour combinations appeared on looms. My choice was monofilament and fishing line. Many of you will have wondered at the bird's nest of my warps (on 2 beams) which got twisted round each other - apparently that was not one of the rules we were supposed to be breaking!



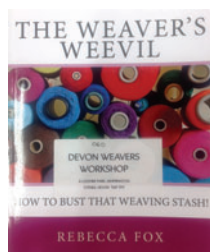
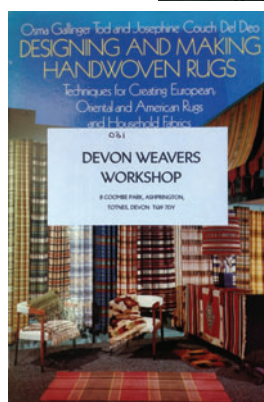
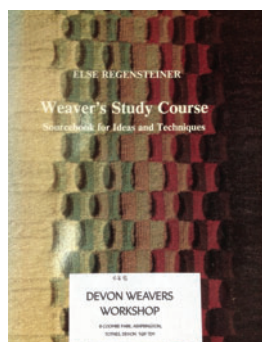
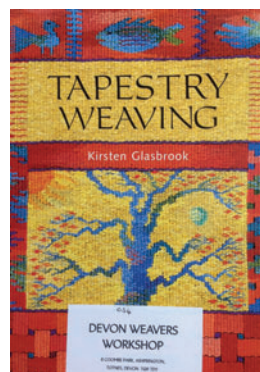
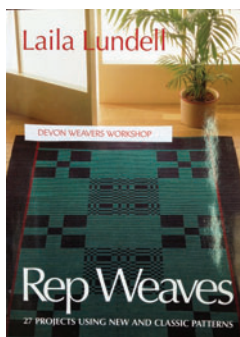
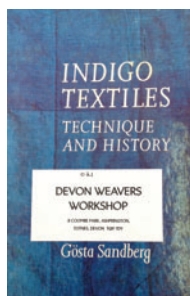
The workshop began with a discussion of what the 'rules' of weaving are. Then, after an inspiring slideshow of Laura's work, we were set loose to take wefts for walks, mix yarns, twist warp threads, vary tensions, knot, distort, pleat, undulate wefts ... and more. We spent half days on a loom before moving to another loom with a different warp. Amazingly, before our eyes, unexpected and often very pleasing combinations were produced. On our final day, we tried various finishing techniques, subjecting parts of our samples to melting, pleating, embossing, foiling, flocking and bonding.

This was a truly fun and explorative workshop. Once again, Laura was inspirational and led a great course. I am looking forward to her next one.

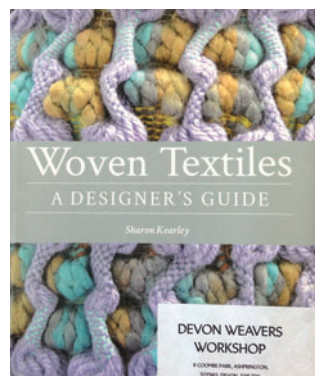
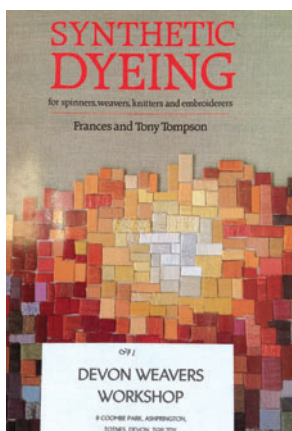
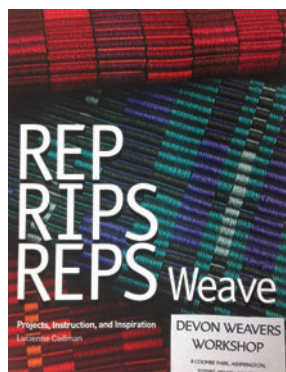
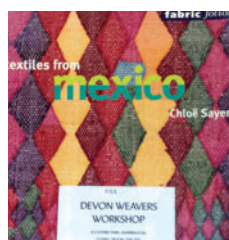
Jill Davies



# New Books in the Library



Here are a few of the new books now in the DWW Library. Please let our librarian, Sareela, know of any other books or magazines you would like to see in the reference or lending libraries.



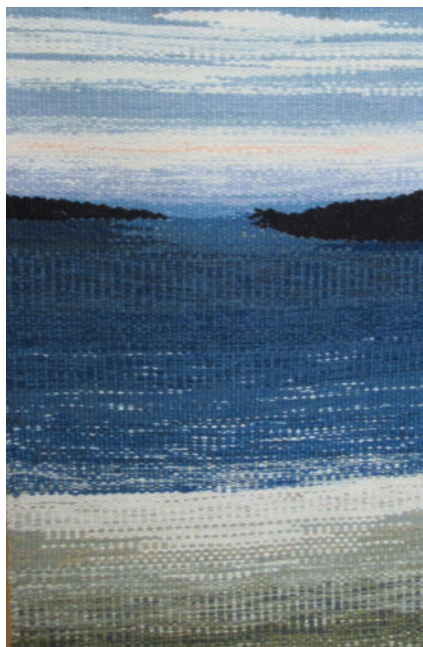
# Yarns from Nancy .....

When our fellow weaver Nancy Adams and husband Peter moved to Northamptonshire to be closer to their family Nancy had to part with much of her weaving and spinning equipment and materials. The Workshop gratefully purchased her Louët 40 loom, bobbin winder and other smaller pieces of equipment.

At Nancy's request, Kay and Sareela brought in much of her stash to DWW, which

included all sorts of yarns and some lovely fibres for spinning, to sell. Some of this has found its way into a number of different weaving projects which we would like to share with Nancy, Peter and their family.

Sareela, Jill and Paula have woven beautiful scarves; Paula's is in pink mohair, which was something she would never otherwise have tried. Christine has made her woven fabric into a cushion and



Clockwise from left: Anne's wall hanging, Christine's spectacle case, Anne's berets, Sareela's scarf, Christine's cushion





# ...and what we made of them

spectacle case, featuring tartan designs. I made three berets with Nancy's yarn including one from her handspun and hand-dyed rare breed wool - it was very cosy to wear last winter!

Mary has woven a lovely rug using Nancy's indigo dyed wool and Gilly has used some beautiful grey and blue yarn in her latest rug. Kay and Sareela wove several tea towels, which they have since been sold,

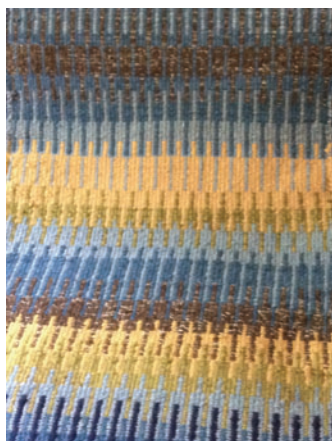
using Nancy's cottolin yarns. I sold a wall hanging of a bay on Bryher in the Scilly Isles at DWW's Birdwood House exhibition last year. It would not have worked without some space-dyed wool of Nancy's which worked brilliantly as the sparkling sea.

There are still many more projects to plan and weave and we will be thinking of you, Nancy, when we use your yarn. Thank you!

Anne Bulleid



Anne's berets, Kay & Sareela's tea towels, Gilly's rug, Mary's rug



## Student Sarah

Sarah completed the one year Keviccs' Totnes Art & Design Foundation Course this summer. She joined us temporarily to learn and practice how to dress a loom and complete some weaving for her final show - like most colleges, Keviccs has little in the way of modern weaving equipment.

Members of DWW gave weaving advice and support and visited Sarah's end of course exhibition at Keviccs in June. They were all very impressed with Sarah's professional display of excellent work.

Subsequently our Committee voted to offer Sarah a free place on Rosalie Neilson's repp weave course and several members helped her by donating yarns and gave help with setting up her loom. She now has a year before taking up an offer of a place at Falmouth University to study for a degree in textiles. She has joined us an associate member in order to continue to improve her knowledge of weaving in the interim period.



## A timely reminder.....

When signing up to use a loom in the Workshop please remember the time limit of three months. If you think you might need extra time please speak to the weaver who is signed up to come after you. The borrowing time for library books is one month.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Please join us for the 2016 DWW Christmas Lunch at The Cott Inn, Dartington at 12.30pm on Wednesday 7 December. A two course meal will cost £15.95 and a menu will be sent round shortly. Please leave your £10 non-refundable deposit addressed to Colleen in DWW if you intend to join us. Any queries to Jacqueline Jones via the website.

# A Weaver's Date

Compiled by Jill Davies

## DEVON GUILD OF CRAFTSMEN

Bovey Tracey

### SOUVENIRS FROM HOME

Celebrating Home Ground, a 3 year project exploring the cultural heritage of six English League Football Clubs

Main gallery, open daily. 10am-5.30pm  
until 6 NOVEMBER 2016 (free)

## THE AMERICAN MUSEUM, BATH

### BREAKING THE PATTERN

Colourful and inspiring exhibition of Bargello needlework by Joyce Petschek

18 March – 29 October 2017

*And, if you are travelling to London, one of the following might be of interest:*

## V&A

### UNDRESSED: A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNDERWEAR

Exploring underwear design and its relationship to fashion from the 18th century to present day. The exhibition finishes in March 2017.  
<http://tinyurl.com/vam-exhibitions>

## THE CONFERENCE CENTRE

St Pancras Hospital

4 St Pancras Way NW1 0PE

### THE ART OF CARING

A mixed exhibition, including some tapestry, showing work of themes, thoughts, ideas and feelings relating to this topic, in response to International Nurses Day.

Until 13 October 2016

## THE FASHION AND TEXTILES MUSEUM

### MISSONI ART COLOUR

An exhibition showcasing 60 years of this Italian fashion house, alongside paintings by leading European artists.

<http://www.ftmlondon.org/ftm-exhibitions/missoni-art-colour/>

Until 4 November 2016

## V&A

### OPUS ANGELICANUM

Masterpieces of English Medieval Embroidery

Coming to the V&A from 1 October 2016  
until February 2017

## CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL 2016

2016 was another good year for Devon Weavers Workshop, both in the Children's Tent and on our stand in the showground.

Heartfelt thanks go to all of you who helped man the six looms in the Children's Tent. After the event, Sareela and her team of helpers posted well over 200 samples to the children who had woven them, the logistics of which can be very tricky (see pics right). We've had many appreciative comments and thanks from parents and organisations, so there can be no doubt it is well worth all the effort.

We will be there again - 9 to 11 June 2017, so do make a note in you diaries to join us!





# THREE TARTAN SCARVES.....

I started weaving almost a year ago when a friend of mine who was relocating to her native Austria lent me her Ashford table loom. She helped me warp it the first time and then I was completely on my own. I bought some books and decided to start by re-covering the seats of my dining room chairs in different designs. I made myself keep warping the loom as I knew I would have to master this. I did make a few mistakes, but did learn from them and became more confident. I had completed two of the seat covers when I went on the Devon Weavers Workshop course for beginners. I thought the course was brilliant and Jenny was a fantastic teacher. I was very pleased with the scarf I made; everyone on the course made something they could be proud of and it reinforced some of my previous learning.



*Above: The three completed scarves*

Over the winter I wore my scarf proudly and a friend of my husband's saw it. They are both members of a small men's group which has been meeting for 30 years this year. He asked me to make scarves for the six members to commemorate this anniversary. He was very clear that he wanted them all the same.

I decided that I would use what I had learnt on the course and not be too experimental as making six scarves was quite daunting and I didn't want to make expensive mistakes. I therefore used the same yarn as I loved the feel of it and I knew what sett to use for a twill. I then had to think of a design. I fancied doing a tartan style and then had to work out how to fit the design onto the scarf, centring the pattern and making it the right width and length to get the right number of pattern repeats. I enjoyed this part of it and got a lot of satisfaction from working it out correctly and the maths involved.

Next I had to choose what colours to use and how much yarn of each colour I needed.

I bought it from My Fine Weaving Yarn so that I knew I could get more yarn if my calculations were wrong. I did in fact need some extra yarn for the final two scarves in several of the colours and it was easy to order more.

Once the planning had been done I warped the loom with enough yarn to make two scarves. I didn't want to make it any longer as I was worried about keeping the tension. It required an awful lot of concentration to get all the colours in the right order. I then made a practice piece and experimented with how many picks per inch I needed to make the tartan look right and then had to start weaving! What I found tricky was the frequent changes of colour so it was difficult to get into a rhythm and I had many ends to weave in at the end. I certainly won't have so many colour changes in my next project!

I completed the scarves and I hope the men are pleased with the result. Above is a picture of three of them sporting my creation.

*Val Hall*

# Beginners Courses

We ran another successful beginners course in the early Spring, helping five new weavers to take their first steps in the craft. Everyone worked hard to finish their scarves and the standard was very high. Unusually, prior commitments meant that several people couldn't make every day, so extra help was given at the end of the course, so many thanks to all the members who gave their time so that it all ran smoothly. Several of the new weavers have become members and have already completed more projects/courses with us and we are very happy to welcome them!

*Jenny Rolfe*



*Photos: Jenny Rolfe*

*2017 Beginners Course dates are: Weekends course 18/19 & 25/26 February and 4/5 March 2017; the six day course is 30 September to 5 October 2017.*



# devon weavers workshop

[www.devonweaversworkshop.org](http://www.devonweaversworkshop.org)

## TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE 2016

(Trustees marked with an asterisk)

Chairman

Ann Holl\*

Intermediate & Advanced Courses Jill Davies\*

Secretary

Anne Bulleid\*

Treasurer

Colleen Pope\*

Beginners Courses

Jenny Rolfe\*

Newsletters & Website

Kay Balmforth\*

Membership Secretary

Jacqueline Jones

Equipment

Janet Thomas\*

Library

Sareela Salter\*

SW Area Coordinator

Gail Bryant

& Health & Safety Officer

Rosemary Durant\*

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