



ISSUE 3
JUNE 2007

the shuttle

devon weavers workshop
www.devonweaversworkshop.org



DIARY DATES

1st Open / Sales Day

Saturday 30 June

(see page 4)

Visit to Indigo Exhibition, Plymouth Museum

Wednesday 11 July

(see page 4)

Members' Dyeing Day

Friday 13 July

(see page 14)

Beginners Express Course

Saturday 18 August, 21, 23, 25, 28 & 30
and early October (Ask Sue for details)

(see page 12)

Weaving Devoré Course

Tutor Ann Field

Tuesday 4 to Thursday 6 September

(see page 6)

Devon Weavers Workshop

takes part in **Devon Art Works**

(previously 9 Days of Art)

Saturday 8 - Sunday 23 September

(see page 14)

Blackjack Group

Next meeting Tuesday 2 October

(see page 12)

South West Area Guilds Meeting

Saturday 27 October

*(Please note: The workshop will be
unavailable for use on this date)*

Guild reps meet in the morning

Speaker (Tim Parry-Williams) 2p.m.

All members welcome

(see page 6)

Rug Weaving Course

Tutor Jason Collingwood

Tuesday 30 October - Thursday

1 November

(see page 6)

'The Shuttle' WELCOME TO ISSUE 3

What a busy group of weavers we are!

In this, our third 'Shuttle', we hope you will feel inspired by, and proud of, all the achievements of Devon Weavers Workshop so far this year - and it is thanks to **you** that we continue to thrive.

Noticeably, the workshop is increasing its reputation as an active and enthusiastic group - not to mention talented - far and wide. This year, for example, for the first time, we were invited to demonstrate at the prestigious Contemporary Craft Fair at Bovey Tracey.

Our achievements are largely down to the many members who are actively involved in spreading the word about 'what we do'...those who are involved with the production of The Journal (a national magazine); who publicise us on the web; who teach beginners; who organise the Association's Summer School and who bring to Devon fantastically skilled, and dare I say, 'famous' tutors from around the world for us to learn and be inspired by.

We hope you will continue to enjoy our events and courses and will call in from time to time if you live further away. Perhaps you could even have a go at the 'Cushion Challenge'. Whatever you do - keep weaving!

Colleen Pope - Editor

THE GREAT CUSHION CHALLENGE

Twill gamps, overshot, shadow weave, diversified plain weave, summer and winter, waffle weave, plaited twills, quilted double weave, colour and weave, block double weave, buttons, bows, bells, twiddly bits, any design, any colour, but it must be...

STRIKING

Wouldn't it be great to have lots to sell during the Devon Art Works event this year (8 - 23 September)...so how about each weaver making a cushion or two? Your challenge is to weave a cushion cover, minimum finished size approx 14" by 14", (cushion pads available from the needlecraft shop in Totnes, opposite church). A display of assorted cushions in an array of colours and designs would look fabulous.

SO USE YOUR IMAGINATIONS...AND GET WEAVING!

(all queries to Colleen...well, it was her idea!)

members' news

from LIZ SHARP.....never mind the car, look at that blanket!

We're off to the Brooklands Centenary Festival with the car mid-June. The car is a 1933 Essex Terraplane of which there are only 3 left of the 45 made but only this one has a Brooklands Racing History. Many thanks go to Sue D for enabling me to achieve the challenge of weaving the blanket.

Liz Sharp



DWW trip to 'INDIGO: A BLUE TO DYE FOR' exhibition, Plymouth

Indigo is the world's oldest and most fascinating dyestuff. The exhibition features a wide range of decorative techniques and explores its uses throughout time, from the ancient textiles of Roman Egypt to the contemporary art of present day craftspeople. We plan to visit the exhibition on Wednesday 11 July, meeting at the venue at 11.00am followed by lunch at Positano Restaurant, Mayflower Street, within easy walking distance.

The exhibition runs from Saturday 19 May to Saturday 1 September 2007

Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AJ (01752 304774)

OPEN / SALES DAYS begin Saturday 30 June

Viv Allen is organising our DWW Sales Days which are due to commence on Saturday 30 June. We are hoping to run these regularly on the last Saturday of each month. The idea behind these days is not only to give members an opportunity to sell what they produce but also to give local people and visitors an opportunity to come in to the workshop and see what we do and how we do it. If you have any handwoven items you would like to sell please label them clearly (sales labels are in the box on the shelves) and leave them on the sales shelves. Viv will be contacting members to help steward over the coming months (a minimum of 2 people per day).

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

Due to the successful sale of some of our duplicate library books we have been able to purchase the following brand new books for the library:-

The Magic of Doubleweave

Rep Weave & Beyond

Thick & Thin - Weavers' Best of

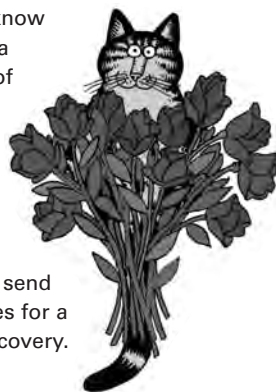
Huck - Weavers' Best of

Fabrics That go Bump - Weavers' Best of

Weaving Overshot: Redesigning the Tradition

GET WELL SOON JOYCE!

Those of us who know Joyce Sherwood, a founder member of Devon Weavers Workshop, were very saddened to hear that she has been laid up in hospital with a broken hip. We all send her our best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.



CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FAIR

There was a fantastic amount of interest in weaving at the Contemporary Craft Fair. I was there all day on Friday and Sunday. All DWW helpers should be congratulated on the enthusiasm conveyed to those visitors to the stand and their patience in allowing people to have a go at weaving. From young to old they kept coming. Kay produced some good colour images on the display boards and this helped to show those interested what could be achieved at a Beginner's Course.

The Black Jack samples caused much interest amongst serious weavers and also those who had never woven. Tim Parry-Williams, Senior Lecturer in Textiles at Bath University, came to the stand and was extremely interested in the idea and said he would try the idea on his final year students.

So, all in all, the event was a great success for the workshop and I do hope we will be invited next year.

Sue Dwyer

The Blackjack samples on the display boards aroused much interest, from both experienced weavers and those who knew nothing about weaving. Many people, of all ages, had a go at weaving on our sampler loom. Some children were so interested they were extracted with difficulty by parents wishing to leave! Several people commented that this was the first opportunity they had had to weave again since they left school. It was a very successful project.

Rosemary Durant

(The remains of the twill sampler, woven mainly by visitors to the Craft Fair, is pinned on the notice board in the workshop. Kay has a copy of the threading if anybody would like it.)



FORTHCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

All courses will be held at Devon Weavers Workshop, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Tea/coffee provided. Further details from Sue Dwyer 01548 560648 or email sue@ddwyer.f2s.com To sign up, add your name to the course lists in the blue file. If in doubt, ask Rosemary Durant for information.

MEMBERS' DYEING DAY

Friday 13 July 2007

Our next dyeing day, weather permitting, will be held on 13 July in the garden of Erdmunda's house in Cornworthy. Ask any committee member for details - it's a very informal, free, fun day out playing with natural and synthetic dyes. See page 14.

BEGINNERS COURSES

TUTOR Sue Dwyer

Courses are ongoing, please ask Sue for details. They run as 6 x one day sessions spread over 3 or 6 weeks. See page 12.

Course Fee: £100

WEAVING DEVORÉ

TUTOR Anne Field

4 - 6 September 2007

Ann Field has been weaving for over 30 years in New Zealand. In 2004 she came to the UK to study at the Ann Sutton Foundation. Here she explored woven devoré using two types of fibre in warp and weft and then dissolving one of them in defined areas. The course is designed to teach you this technique.

Course Fee: £90, £75 full members and trustees

RUG WEAVING METHODS & SHAFT SWITCHING

TUTOR Jason Collingwood

30 October to 1 November 2007

Jason is coming over from the USA to take this very popular course - already fully booked. Waiting list places only.

Course Fee: £90, £75 full members and trustees

STRIPES WITH AN ATTITUDE

TUTOR Barbara Walker

7, 8 & 9 May 2008

Barbara is a regular contributor to Handwoven magazine and as well as other publications. She will be coming over from Oregon, USA to take this course with us - a comprehensive description of Barbara's work and the course itself can be found on her website www.barbarajwalker.com

Course Fee: TBA

BLACKJACK WEAVING

Led by Sue Dwyer

We'd love you to join in - see page 12 and ask Sue for the next meeting date.

Members free, non-members £5 per session

S W GUILDS' Area Meeting

Saturday 27 October 2007

SPEAKER Tim Parry-Williams

'From Silver to Cloth'

Senior Lecturer in Textiles at Bath University

It is DWW's turn to host the twice yearly meeting of the South West Area Guilds. Tim Parry-Williams from Bath University, who some of you may have met at the Contemporary Craft Fair, is coming to talk to us in the afternoon about his international work in textiles. We do hope that as many of you as possible will come to hear him speak.

Details will be made available to all members later in the year.

Ordering Yarns through the Workshop

At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that Sue Dwyer will deal direct with Jaggerspun in USA as DWW's agent. Sue has the full range of Jaggerspun wool and wool/silk samples including a fine wool that is tumble dryer proof. She will have to order a minimum of 3 cones each time we order to get the wholesale price.

Sue will be paying personally and when the postage, duty etc is added it will be divided pro-rata between the buyers. This should prove to be much cheaper than buying through a UK distributor as we have done previously. Please contact Sue with your orders as soon as possible.

Using & Buying Yarns in the Workshop

We have a range of lovely wool/silk yarns for sale on the shelves by the door. Some belong to the workshop, others belong to individual members who are happy to share them with others. With this in mind, please weigh out the yarns very carefully indeed - they are expensive - so too is any wastage.

There is still plenty of brightly coloured rug yarn at £6.50 per kilogram on the shelves - the blankets (*see pic, right*) cost little more than £6 each to make in this wool, a real bargain.

All other yarns in the workshop are for members to use for free, unless labelled otherwise.



Yarns within yarns.....

CLOTHES WITH A CONSCIENCE

The new 'vegetarian' fashion label, Izzy Lane, is producing a range of clothes made from the wool of sheep rescued from the slaughterhouse.

DRESSED TO KILL

A collaboration between American scientists and designers has produced a range of futuristic clothes which uses nanotechnology to destroy viruses such as cold and flu bugs. The US military are interested in the idea too - clothes coated

in nanoparticles could neutralise dangerous biological and chemical agents. The textiles incorporate particles of metal, such as silver, thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair, which can kill specific viruses and bacteria. Clothes can also be coated with nanoparticles that reflect light, producing garments of shimmering colours. Ways are being developed to move the particles around on the fabric, causing changes in colour. By supplying an electric field you could change your shirt from blue to black - all this for only £5000 per square metre!

Weaving in Ecuador

This Easter my family and I visited Ecuador. One of the highlights for me was a visit to the Tahuantinsuyo Weaving Workshop, the home of Miguel Andrango and his family, located just a short walk from our hostel in Peguche.

We were travelling in the Northern Sierra, a large region of volcanoes, crater lakes and rugged terrain extending from Quito to the Colombian border and an area known for its backstrap weaving. The Otavalo Valley is the region's main centre for weaving – made famous by its colourful and huge artesanía markets, held daily, and bursting with an irresistible array of weavings, garments, carvings, ceramics, jewellery and other knick-knacks.

Weaving in this area predates the Incas. Originally using backstrap looms, the Spanish Conquest in the sixteenth



century brought with it the upright treadle loom and weaving became the main industry for the indigenous Quichua Indians – an industry still flourishing today, although increasingly on modern electric power looms. Walk down any village street in this valley today and the air is filled with the sound of the clack-clack-clack of these machines, churning out scarves and cloths for both the local and global markets.

Miguel Andrango is perhaps Ecuador's most famous traditional backstrap weaver. He started weaving when he was just seven years old – taught by his father. He welcomed us into his home and in a gentle, quiet way he began to show us the various stages involved in producing woven cloth on a backstrap loom. Luckily he spoke some English which was great for my children who did not understand Spanish! He demonstrated carding and spinning- using a walking spinning wheel (even allowing us to have a try!), how to make a continuous circular warp on a simple warping board and how to put the warp on to the loom. Local wool, dyed naturally (for example with walnuts or eucalyptus leaves) is mainly used, but he was preparing a warp of alpaca on the day we visited.

He told us how the whole family – even the grandchildren were involved in the



Miguel Andrango – A Traditional Backstrap Weaver from Ecuador

weaving process, from washing and picking out impurities in the wool, dyeing and carding to the finishing. Miguel and his granddaughter carry out the majority of the weaving and produce high quality items for sale, although he produces less and less these days.

After a while, Miguel sat down on a reed mat and began to assemble the backstrap



Using a backstrap

loom. The strap itself was made of goat's skin, the heddles of string and the rest crude sticks of various sizes. After tensioning the loom, he wove slowly, silently and precisely, lost in his world, whilst we sat mesmerised by the whole process. He was weaving a rug, about 2ft wide and, eventually, 3ft long – in reds, browns and blues, with intricate designs of birds and animals in vertical strips. He said that from preparing the wool to



A strap made by his granddaughter



Part of a small blanket we purchased from the workshop. Many of the weavings are exported rather than sold locally.

producing the final cloth would take him about three weeks – working for eight hours a day.

We were introduced to the rest of the Andrango family and spent a while chatting to them, in my best Spanish, about changes taking place in weaving traditions in the region, before we left, feeling humbled and inspired by the whole experience. For us all (yes, even my children!) it had been a magical visit and one we'll never forget.

Colleen Pope



Miguel and daughter

A members' guide to using the workshop

As there are now quite a few of us using the workshop on different days, at different times (ships that pass in the night!), we have put together what we hope are a few helpful pointers for using the workshop, paying for yarns and courses etc. If you can think of anything we may have missed out do let us know and we will add it to the list in the next edition of **The Shuttle**.

★ Please sign in the red book by the door before leaving. We need to keep a record of how many people use the workshop as this helps us enormously when it comes to applying for grants etc. No money records in the signing in book please.

★ Try to keep as little as possible at the workshop in order to maximise space for others. If you have finished with a loom, please tidy it, and if it is not wanted immediately, stack it away. Try to leave it so other people can get to their looms.

★ Take your lunch oddments and recyclables home with you if possible - yarn scraps can be left for recycling in the bag hanging up on the end of the shelves by the sink.

★ Leave the sink area as you would wish to find it. If you notice supplies are running low please contact Kay or Erdmunda. All tea, coffee, biscuits etc are free, so please help yourself.

★ Leave any money in the pink box file, NOT on the table or noticeboard. Record any money in the blue book. Ask another member if you don't know where these are kept. If you have a money-related query please contact Rosemary D.

★ Have a look at the noticeboard when you visit. It's there to pass around information so please feel free to add anything that may be of interest to other members.

★ If buying wool/silk yarn weigh amounts carefully and record the colour of the yarn you are buying and the owners name in the book.

★ When leaving the workshop, check the toilet block is locked, and lights and heaters (except the background heaters in winter) are switched off. Please take care not to leave the outside light on.

★ During winter months only, we all pay 50p per session into the heating tin - this doesn't need to be recorded in the book.

★ Mirja has kindly spent many happy hours cataloguing the library for us - please try and put books back in their correct places.

★ The fire extinguisher is next to Erdmunda's loom on the right hand side of the door.

★ 2 clip on lights (on the end of the library shelves) plus 2 floor lamps (thank you Melanie) are in the workshop for your use. Extension cables are under the sink - please be careful with trailing cables.

★ DWW subscribes to Handwoven magazine for members to borrow - please make a note in the Borrowers Book if you do. Back issues are kept in the library on the bottom shelf.

★ The stepladders are there for members to use in order to reach the yarn on the high shelves. Make sure they are fully extended before climbing on them.

LINEN WEAVING COURSE • 13 - 15 March

Tutor - Riitta Sinnkkonnen Davies

Riitta was born and educated in Finland and has lived in England for over thirty years. She is a devoted linen weaver and has had exhibitions from America to Japan. I first met Riitta on holiday in Wales about 15 years ago. I had a one day weaving course with her and was fascinated with the way she set up her loom. From then on I've been looking forward to learning how it is done.

Riitta supplied the linen (lovely yarn from Helmi Vuorelma) in various thicknesses with instructions to make the warps, but we were not to dress the looms.

On a day with a few moans and groans we all threaded the warp through the reed rather than using a raddle (*see pic*), placed the reed on the beater, passed the cross sticks behind the reed and put the warp on the back beam. If that sounds complicated believe me it is not. The warp went on like a dream. All 12 of us had a different threading pattern. We wove in round-robin so everyone had a sample of each pattern. Riitta also encouraged us to change lifting sequences and to use



different colours for wefts, to see how the patterns can change.

At the end of the second day the woven samples were cut off the looms and soaked in hot water. We all took turns in ironing them next morning when still quite damp. What amazing selection of samples we had. Riitta also showed us some of her beautiful work and a linen table cloth - an heirloom, woven by her grandmother.

I have always loved weaving with linen, and after this course, I hope many more will join me. Fantastic course, one of the best.

Mirja Woollard

SILK WEAVING COURSE • 13 - 15 May

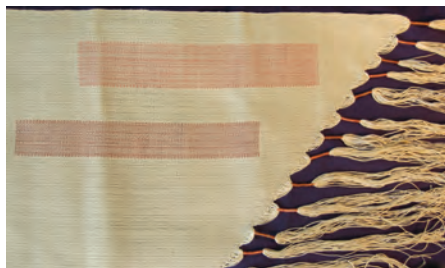
In May, Devon Guild ran a silk inlay weaving course at the workshop taught by Sue Hiley Harris. Six lucky people had really individual attention from Sue. We had each been allocated a warp of either white or tussah silk. Most of us had put them on to our looms already but not tied them on. Sue told us how she ties her warps on and then we were weaving. We tried a lot of different inlays on a sample and a pattern for a scarf.

We received many little tips on weaving from Sue and also had a go at multiple warping. We then learnt how to wrap the fringe ends and how to wash and finish

the silk. We all enjoyed weaving plain weave and trying to get the edges 'perfect'.

It was a very enjoyable course and I think we were all inspired to have a go at some more silk items.

Janet Thomas



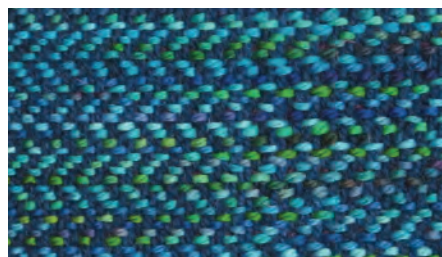
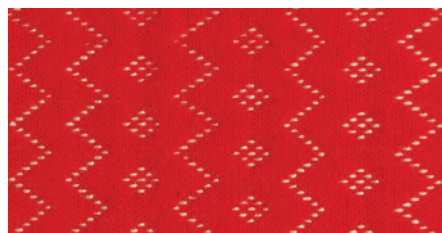
THE BLACKJACK WEAVING GROUP

Yes, we're still at it - gambling away with our weaving skills and creativity. Not for the faint-hearted I hear you thinking...but hey, not only for experienced weavers either, this is for everyone!

Beginners can learn a tremendous amount playing this game as it presents the opportunity to weave a small sample, when time and loom space allow, in a weave otherwise untried - with plenty of help to hand and plenty of time allowed to weave from the cards dealt. The most recent samples were woven between January and May and, based on an overshot structure, included such things as burying a sample in the garden (to look ancient and faded), adding beads, plastic bags as a yarn, printing the fabric after weaving, weaving to give a patchwork effect, to include knots, to include cut fringes, pleats, stripes, resist dyeingcomfort zones, who needs them?

It's good fun for weavers and has gained the workshop lots of very positive publicity, especially through Sue's article in The Journal magazine, with some other Guilds now preparing to take up the game too. A spinners' and dyers' version is in the pipeline - watch this space.

For the full story have a look at the five samples books on the shelves by the door in the workshop. Ask Sue for dates any time if you'd like to join us at the next meeting.



*Blackjack Samples: top to bottom
Sareela, Janet, Dorothy, Mirja*

SUE'S BEGINNER CLASSES

Due to popular demand...Sue will be teaching an EXPRESS Beginner Course starting Saturday 18 August, then 21, 23, 25, 28 & 30 August.

There are 3, possibly 4, coming so 4 small Kombos are needed on 18 August for teaching.

The next beginner courses will start at the beginning of October. If all who expressed an interest at Bovey Tracey come, teaching will take place in the parking area!

GUILDS' BIENNIAL EXHIBITION 2008 • LIVERPOOL

This is to be a combined exhibition with The Embroiderers Guild at Hope University, Liverpool. Dates are 24 July to 22 August 2008, opening Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. DWW may be organising an overnight trip to visit the exhibition.

Given the extraordinary weaving talent we have within Devon Weavers Workshop's membership, we hope to submit plenty of textiles for display at this event. Details will become available later in the year.

RECIPE FOR A SIX-SHAFT SHADOW WEAVE RUG

I've been asked a few times how I wove the rug (*see pic below*) that's been hanging on the wall in the workshop. Having had success with weaving some small, trial 'ruglets' (about the size of a doormat) on my Louet 70 I decided to try weaving something a bit bigger.

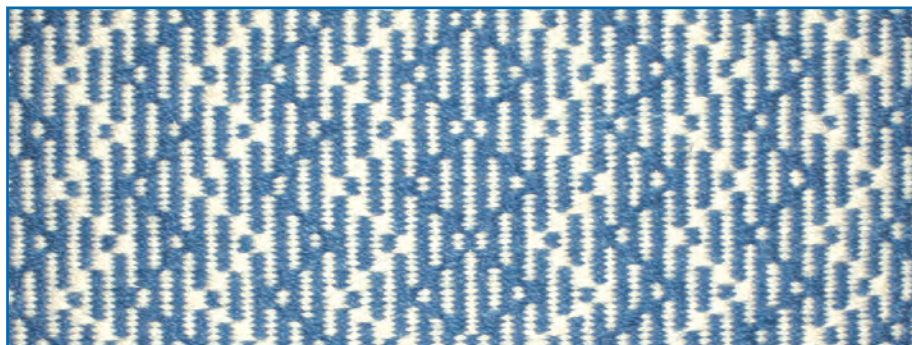
Obviously it's not a rug loom but, with a little care, it can be done. It didn't need a lot of beating as the weft packed down quite well despite the lack of a heavy beater. Although not massively thick, the end result was a quite serviceable rug.

The warp was 10/6 linen sett at 5epi with a double floating selvedge. The woollen weft

came off the shelves in the workshop - used doubled, with the blue probably having been indigo dyed at some point in it's past.

The pattern was taken from Collingwood's 'Techniques of Rug Weaving' (there's a copy in our library) page 302, illustrated at the back of the book on plate 92, centre sample. I had 123 ends in the warp, making a width of 24" plus in the reed and I wove about 50" length. The lifts were as listed at the top of page 303, relating to the numbered lifts on page 302 in Figure 249.

Kay Balmforth



www.devonweaversworkshop.org

Please let me know if you would like your own page on the DWW website, beginners or otherwise. I simply need one pic of your work to start with and a few words (100 -150 max) describing how you came to start weaving and what you enjoy making. We can add more pics to it at any time.

Kay Balmforth

DYEING DAY *Friday 13 July 2007*

Don't forget, weather willing, we are holding another DWW dyeing day in Erdmunda's garden on Friday 13 July. Colleen has some onion skins saved up, plus some woad seeds on offer for those interested in having a go at growing it. Kay plans to bring along indigo and lichen dye baths. Think about yarns to bring and maybe tie some skeins for tie-dyeing beforehand. There will also be some chemical dyebaths on the go and Sue will be organising warp painting again.

It's mucky and fun! Wear old clothes and bring a packed lunch. Starts at 10.00am, finishes about 3.30pm. It will be postponed to a later date if the weather is awful. If in doubt, phone Erdmunda on the day to check.

DEVON ART WORKS *8 to 23 September*

Devon Weavers Workshop is once again taking part in this event, previously known as Nine Days of Art. It has served us well in the past, attracting lots of local interest as well as keeping Sue busy with new beginners. We very much hope that will be the case again this year. Volunteers will be needed to steward over the two week period - we will be closed on Mondays but open 11.00am to 4.00pm for the rest of the week. The event covers the whole of Devon this year and hopefully will be well publicised in the media.

Erdmunda's latest tapestry in the making....

Grasping, greedy gorgons inspired the design of Erdmunda's latest large tapestry apparently! Beautifully woven as ever, it looks amazing so far. We all look forward to seeing the finished article in due course.



devon weavers workshop

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TRUSTEES

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

COMMITTEE 2007

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
Sales	Vivien Allen
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