ISSUE 5
AUGUST 2008
the shuttle



### DIARY DATES

### AGWSD BIENNIAL EXHIBITION

25 July to 22 August 2008, 9 am - 5pm (not open weekends, except 9/10 August) Cornerstone Gallery, Liverpool Hope University

### **DWW Committee Meeting**

Tuesday 19 August, 9.30am

### **DYEING DAY**

Tuesday 19 August, 11.00am

### TABLET WEAVING ON THE LOOM with Inge Dam

9, 10 & 11 September 2008

### **DEVON ART WORKS**

6-14 September 2008, 10.30am - 4.30pm

### **BLACKJACK - Next Meeting**

Thursday 30 September 2008 at 11.00am

### WEFT FACED WEAVES ON 4 & 8 **SHAFTS** with Sue Dwver

17, 18 & 19 October 2008

### **DWWTRIPTO KNITTING & STITCHING** SHOW IN LONDON

Trip planned to travel together by train to this event at Alexandra Palace. Details and sign-up list coming soon.

Thursday 9 October

### PETER COLLINGWOOD VIDEO

Showing of the above sometime in November with supper, details to come.

### **DWW AGM**

Tuesday 27 November, 12 noon with a shared lunch to follow.

### **FOR SALE**

### **LOUET COMBO 70**

8 shafts with stand, includes all the usual sticks etc. - £350

### ASHFORD TRADITIONAL SPINNING WHEEL Excellent condition, £50

### HAND REARED SHETLAND FLEECES

Various colours. No chemicals used on these sheep. Visit the gallery or contact me for more information. Fleece can be sent (£5.50kg), postage at cost. www.craftsgallerygriffinsyard.co.uk

### Craft Gallery, Griffin's Yard, North Road, South Molton EX36 3AZ

#### FREE LARGE FLOOR LOOM

Needs a good home. Includes all the usuals. Ask Frdmunda for details.

### HARRIS FLOOR LOOM & RUG WOOL

48" weaving width, 4 shafts, overslung batten, 2 reeds, 6 pedals, raddle - £100 Assortment of various rug yarns.

### **INKLE LOOMS**

2 inkle looms for sale at £10 each.

### DRUM CARDER

In DWW now for viewing. Excellent condition. £110 or near offer.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation in London - zone 2, 3 minutes walk from Belsize Park tube station, Self-catering, handy for all facilities.

For info about any of the above please email: contact@devonweaversworkshop.org

# The Shuttle.....welcome to issue 5

Well done to everyone who made DWW's Bag Challenge such a success - weren't they wonderful? Every bag unique and inventive. Together they made a fantastic display and were the centre of a lot of attention at The Contemporary Craft Fair at Bovey Tracey in June. We hope you'll let us have them back to display (maybe even sell?) during the Open Studios event in September.

We've put our heads together and come up with the next challenge - tea cosies (see page 9)! This is a chance to have a go at something totally different that also doesn't need much sewing - how about using double weave, wadding, stitched double cloth? We're hoping you'll have them completed by 30 November, and if you don't have your own teapot to keep warm they'll make ideal Christmas gifts for friends or family.

A big 'thank you' to all who have given their time so freely to make DWW's events and workshops so successful this year. Still to come are the DWW Dyeing Day (19 August) in Erdmunda's garden, and then Inge Dam's 'Tablet Weaving on the Loom' and the Devon Open Studios event in September. By the time Sue's 'Weft Faced Weaves' course has come and gone in October you'll all be finishing off your tea cosies like mad for the end of November....

Kay Balmforth, Chairman



# Stripes with an Attitude!

### Less is More

Thirteen ladies gathered with their looms in Devon Weavers Workshop on the morning of Wednesday 7 May, eager to share stories of their 'tricky' warp patterns, threading errors and hours and hours spent warping fine 20/2 cotton in shades of off-white, light off-white and more white. Some had arrived especially early to finish their warping and arrange their mass of tangled supplementary threads into some sort of order.

This was the start of a three-day workshop led by Barbara Walker, an experienced 'stripes' weaver, who had travelled all the way from Oregon in North America. Barbara taught us about designing a striped warp - using pattern 'modules' which can be based on a consistent and repeated unit of warp threads; for example, a sequence taken from the fibonnaci numbers, or tartan maps, or a pattern motif, or even based on a sequence of random numbers. She taught us about the importance of using colour and how to balance our designs by giving colours 'values' and using their values to create stripes 'in balance' with one another. We learnt that the primary colour vellow has a low value but is very dominant, leaping out to the eye, in a stripe design so "a little goes a long way", whereas violet has a high value and more threads of this can be used without it overpowering the design.





Above: Barbara and students

Barbara then taught those of us with supplementary pattern warps how to sley the reed and with this we busily set about preparing our looms for the business of weaving. Whilst the lucky ones without a complicated pattern warp were able to start weaving straight away, the rest of us spent a few hours fiddling around with the fine warps and occasionally a naughty word could be heard in frustration (Sareela, tut tut!). By the end of day one, we were all weaving away, swapping places with each other and delighting in the emerging patterns.

Day two started at dawn for some ladies (or so it seemed) and weaving was proceeding apace when Barbara arrived. We gathered around the table to discuss our homework tasks (yes, homework!) and some of us expected a detention for failing to complete it, so we sat anxiously waiting our turn to excuse ourselves. The wrappings we had been set helped us to practise the design methods taught on day one and it was interesting to see how the colour combinations and thickness of stripes (in modules) worked together. We were shown lots of examples of Barbara's own work which was really stunning, intricate and beautifully woven.

Later, Barbara showed us how to design stripes using small sections taken from overshot designs. This was fascinating and very new to me. We learned how to turn an overshot draft – and yes, we had to practise this for homework that night!

Day three, and the pressure was on to complete patterns on all the looms to ensure that each weaver had a good selection of samples to take home. The ladies who had arrived pre-dawn (joke) surged ahead and had just a few samples to complete by lunchtime... some of us slower ones had to reduce the size of our samples to just a few centimetres (!). However, by mid afternoon we were all ready to cut samples off the looms and evaluate our work.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and will certainly be trying out some of the designs again, especially turning an overshot, and I also loved the warps which allowed us to design stripes containing lettering. So, thank you, Barbara for being a patient and inspiring tutor (and working us hard), and look out DWW as I think there will be a lot of striped weaving appearing in the workshop in the future!

Colleen Pope







# DEVON OPEN STUDIOS



The Devon Open Studios event this year runs from 6 to 14 September in west Devon and from 13 to 21 September in east Devon and as usual the Workshop is taking part. The organisation of the event appears much improved this time around and we are hopeful that it will be a more successful experience than last year's.

We now have the Open Studios brochure/trail maps and posters on our hands. Ideas about where to distribute them and help in doing so will be greatly appreciated.

The Inge Dam course will be running alongside this event so we will be needing stewards for those days (9, 10 & 11) who are not on the course. A sign-up sheet for stewarding the event will be in the workshop soon and all offers of help will be gratefully received.

Getting involved in this event is a wonderful way for us to promote the Workshop and its courses and also to get local people in to see at first hand what we do and what we have achieved.

# OUR WELL TRAVELLED MEGADO .....

The Megado Loom is our pride and joy but does it have a jinx??

The lottery grant arrived. The Megado was ordered from Louet, in the Netherlands, and dispatched from there on 22 March for a 3 day delivery. It was in 6 boxes, all safely sealed together on a large wooden pallet. No problems were anticipated.

On arrival at the DHL depot, in Kent, however, the Ashprington address was not recognised, so it was sent on to the depot in Manchester, who in turn, sent it on again

to Newport, Monmouthshire. Somewhere en route, the 6 boxes were removed from the pallet, separated and became scattered.

Meantime, in Devon, Sue Dwyer went daily to the workshop to await the arrival of the loom. Schedules came and went, days passed. At last, on 3 April, 3 battered boxes arrived at Ashprington, via Plymouth. The driver swore there were no other loom parts at the depot, but 2 more boxes did arrive days later after many more phone calls. The loom bench never did arrive and had to be re-ordered.



At the same time the most important part of

the loom, the electronic interface box, was sent to Sue's home address. It arrived undamaged, but on opening the package it was found to be the wrong interface for our 16 shaft Megado! They had sent us one for a 32 shaft Megado instead and it had to be returned and replaced.



Top right: Damaged, separated boxes Above: Loom under construction

After much hassle, numerous phone calls, emails, insurance claim forms etc. etc. we were able to put the loom together successfully, BUT that is not the end of the story as the jinx didn't stop there. As some of you already know, when we started to make the first warp for the loom there were more problems, a quarter of the warp had mysteriously disappeared!

To end this jinx...every weaving member of the workshop will need to weave a short sample on the loom. NO EXCUSES ALLOWED! The hex will then be lifted and we will have years of good, happy weaving on the loom.

22 samples to go. We're watching...and counting.......

Rosemary Durant

# Bonnie Inouye's Courses - May 2009

Most of you know already that we have booked Bonnie Inouye to hold two courses in the Workshop during May 2009. Indeed, many of you have already booked your places and paid your deposits, which is wonderful! For those of you who haven't heard or don't have internet access, here follows a brief description of Bonnie herself, plus a little about the two courses on offer. Both courses are already virtually sold out, so our plans to advertise them nationally no longer apply - but we're always happy to add names to waiting lists. Contact Rosemary D or Sue D for further details.

Bonnie is from the USA and began teaching weaving, spinning and dyeing in 1972. She has taught in many states across the USA and in eight different countries to date. She is an award winning weaver, and produces scarves, shawls, vests and throws which she designs on computer. She weaves on both 16 shaft and 24 shaft AVL dobby looms and is the author of a very long list

of articles, books and publications on weaving. Her most recent book is called *Exploring Multishaft Design*.

### **ADVANCE!**

Explore a nifty technique for producing long but easily remembered sequences. Blocks and curves can advance or descend, providing as many blocks as there are shafts on the loom. Big design potential here with blocks usually overlapping giving soft edges to lines of designs. Explore advancing twills, network drafted sequences, crackle and echo weaves.

### **OPPOSITES ATTRACT**

Create bold, colourful designs that emphasize your warp yarn using parallel (opposite) threadings. Produce warp rep, echo weave and turned taquete samples, plus a kind of double weave, all on one threading. Explore these structures while learning methods for designing your own drafts to create your own designs with curves and organic shapes.

### **COURSES 2008**

TABLET WEAVING ON THE LOOM TUTOR Inge Dam 9, 10 & 11 September 2008

Waiting list applications only

Course Fee: £110 Members/Trustees £82.50 Associate Members £99.00 WEFT FACED WEAVES
TUTOR Sue Dwyer
17, 18 & 19 October 2008

Some places still available

Course Fee: £75
Members/Trustees £56.25
Associate Members £67.50

### **COURSES 2009**

ADVANCE!
TUTOR Bonnie Inouye
2, 3 & 4 May 2009

(See above for details)

Course Fee: £120 Members/Trustees £108 Associate Members £90 OPPOSITES ATTRACT TUTOR Bonnie Inouye 7, 8 & 9 May 2009

(See above for details)

Course Fee: £120
Members/Trustees £108
Associate Members £90

## THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FAIR

We felt rather honoured to be invited once again this year to demonstrate at the Contemporary Craft Fair in Bovey Tracey during 6 - 8 June and extra lucky to be stationed inside a beautiful yurt which supplied a lovely backdrop for our looms and our display of work. We had masses of interest, as always - it's a great way to promote the workshop and handweaving to allcomers.

This year was busier than usual for us as we also accepted an invitation to help out in the Children's Tent all day on the Friday. Children and weaving seem to go together just brilliantly and I know that those of us who helped out had a fantastic time. The enthusiasm, fascination, concentration and sheer wonder that emanates off the faces of the



children as they discover they can weave is a treat to witness. And guite a few parents seemed rather spellbound too! Our youngest student was a little boy of just two years old who managed brilliantly on Colleen's tiny table loom. Boys of a certain age (7 or 8 years old usually) seem especially fascinated by the whole process and are often rather resistant to stopping once started! Apart from looms we had a host of innovative weaving experiences on offer ranging from weaving on small branches to weaving on large scale plastic fencing, braid weaving, paper weaving, weaving with rags and crazy varns...etc, etc.



Right, top and bottom: Weaving inside the Children's Tent with rags Above: Weaving on branches Below: Inside the yurt, note the bags!



# OK, THI/ TIME IT'/ TEM CO/IE/!

Having seen the lovely bags from our Bag Challenge, I know those of you who didn't



simply itching to have a go at making a tea cosy.....aren't vou?

Sareela was our source of inspriration for the next challenge. She produced a lovely

prototype tea cosy which can be found on the shelves in the workshop from time to time. It was made

using a double weave threading with wadding inserted as she wove. There are all sorts of interesting patterns for double weave and stitched double cloth in The 8 Shaft Pattern book (in our reference library) as well as a host of woven samples to have a look at in the Blackjack Samples files on the bottom shelf, next to the library shelves.

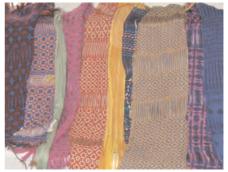
So, the world's your oyster as far as design goes - including shape, colour, glittery bits, ribbons, beads, bows etc etc. The more fun we have with it the better. And tea cosies generally don't require yards and yards of fabric, unless you happen to own a Mad Hatter-sized version, that is!

# Weaves that Ripple

Thanks go to Sue D for making this course in early July such fun and so productive. It was a 'round robin' course and we had a very diverse set of threadings dotted around the room to play with. The magic really happened when we washed some of our samples at the end of day two. All sorts of strange effects sprang to life - several of which definitely deserve further exploration. Two in particular could have a stuffer added and would make excellent tea cosy fabric......

After Sue managed to get her Magic Dobby to talk to a laptop on day three (oh the joys of computers and their new operating systems) some rather lovely satin weaves began to emerge. We finished the three days exhausted but with a fine collection of samples and threadings to take away and plenty to think about.





Kay Balmforth

# Bits & Bobs

### Workshop Looms

6 workshop looms will be required for the commencement of the next Beginners' Course on 4 October.

### Borrowing DWW Equipment

As there are now so many people using the workshop it is difficult to keep track of equipment. If you borrow any Workshop equipment would you please sign IN and OUT in the back of the red book kept on the library shelves. After use, any looms borrowed should be returned with heddles replaced to their original shafts (if moved), with all temporary heddles, ties, additional cords etc also removed.

### Insurance

DWW's looms are now covered under a new insurance policy. Please note - all other looms and possessions are not insured under this policy whilst on the premises.

### **Bobbin Winders**

Please make sure that when bobbin winders are left attached to the sides of tables or worktops etc that they have their cork replaced onto the pointed end when not in use. Impaled weavers are not a pretty sight!

#### Our Dveina Dav

Don't forget our DWW Dyeing Day is on Tuesday 19 August in Erdmunda's lovely garden (weather willing). Bring along any yarns, warps, skeins etc you'd like to try dyeing. It's always fun with plenty of surprises! Bring a packed lunch too - but if the weather looks iffy please phone Erdmunda or Kay for confirmation in advance.

### Heating money

Our heating 'donations' make a huge difference to DWW funds, especially with ever increasing electricity prices. Please

### ROTA FOR CLEANING

Given that there are a lot of us making a lot of mess in the workshop these days, a list is about to appear for names of any volunteers willing to help clean the workshop, preferably working in pairs.



shouldn't take more than about an hour. It will involve vacuuming, emptying bins, cleaning loos and sink areas plus any general tidying that appears necessary. Thank you in advance for your help.

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Rosemary is looking for a computer literate, assistant treasurer to help her with DWW finances, particularly to cover for her if she is out of the country. The job would only involve 'light' duties. Please contact Rosemary for details if you think you might like to help.

don't forget that from 1 October to 31 March we should all be putting £1 per day in the tin (or 50p per half day) when we use the Workshop.

### Plastic Bags

Now you have all made beautiful bags for yourselves (!) can we ask that you use them in the Workshop instead of plastic bags? They look so much better (and more relevant) than plastic bags hanging off our lovely wooden looms. Plastic bag-free zone from now on then!

### Receipts

If you have an expense to claim from Rosemary D please make sure you have a receipt or other paperwork to cover it.

# WEFT FACED WEAVES COURSE

Weft Faced Weaves Course - 17, 18 & 19 October 2008

Tutor - Sue Dwver

The course will be organised as a round robin and students will come with their looms ready warped up. Structures covered will include krokbragd and boundweave as well as taquete and samitum. Sue also hopes to have satin and demi-damask weaves available to sample. Rug weaving will not be included. Some places are still available - if you are interested please contact Rosemary D for booking forms.

# KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW

### 9 - 12 October, Alexandra Palace, London

A visit to this event is being organised by DWW for Thursday 9 October. We will be travelling by train to Paddington, underground to Wood Green and then taking the free shuttle service (3 minute bus ride) directly to the Palace. A sign-up list will appear in the Workshop shortly. There will be plenty to see and buy, brief examples below.



Ruth Issett: Connected with Colour - wallow in a pool of glorious colour, refresh the senses, indulge the eye and connect with colour.



John Allen: The Forbidden Kingdom - a new exhibition of carpets for the wall and mixed media pictures, inspired by Nepalese culture and landscape.

Carol Naylor: Borderlines - machine embroideries, stitched directly onto painters' canvas using a wide range of rayon, metallic, woollen and cotton threads.

More details of the show at www.twistedthread.com

# COWSLIP'S KAFFE FASSETT EXHIBITION

### Tuesday 5 - Tuesday 26 August, 10.00am to 4.30pm daily

Cowslip Workshops, near Launceston are hosting the Kaffe Fassett 'Blue & White' Exhibition previously at Bath Museum earlier this year.

The inspiration behind the exhibition is a collection of over 2000 19th

century pottery pieces belonging to the Cornish family of Hickman, Kaffee Fassett (textiles & painting), Candace Behouth (mosaic covered shoes & furniture) and Carole Waller (paintings on silk & glass) show how their work has been inspired by this most English of traditions.

Cowslip Workshops, Newhouse Farm, St Stephens, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 8JX Tel: 01566 772654 or go to www.cowslipworkshops.co.uk

### **Joyce Sherwood** 10 January 1923 - 6 January 2008

Joyce Sherwood, who sadly died in January 2008 was one of our founder members and had woven with some of us for nearly 20 years. We understand that she started weaving and spinning as an Occupational Therapy student, but following her retirement weaving became an important part of her life. She was a meticulous craftsman, winning an award at the Devon Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers for a magnificent jacket she wove and wore. She loved trying out new things; she always had time to help with the frequent muddles of beginners and not-so-beginners, both to listen and to befriend people in need.

She was a very generous person too, giving us a real boost with a cheque that enabled us to buy the carpet for the Workshop when we moved in, plus a lot more besides. What a difference the carpet made...warm feet instead of cold concrete! When she died we were given all of her weaving and spinning equipment and many books. The sale of Joyce's Joy Spinning Wheel, drum carder, several books and spinning oddments raised a total of £325 for DWW's funds. Thanks to Joyce we now have Peter Collingwood's *Rug Weaving* classic in our reference library.

Most of all we appreciated her sense of humour, and her delightful chuckle in the Workshop. We miss her.

Ann Holl



# AGWSD News

# BIENNIAL EXHIBITION 2008 - FABRIC REATIONS

DWW has submitted various members' work for display at this exhibition which is being held at The Cornerstone Gallery, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool L3 8QB during 25 July to 22 August. It is a shared exhibition with The Embroiders Guild and will be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm weekdays only except the weekend of 9 and 10 August.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL 2009**

The next AGWSD Summer School is being held 2 - 9 August 2009 at Bishop

Grossteste College, Lincoln. Brochures and booking forms will shortly be available from the website wsd.org.uk

### SUMMER SCHOOL BURSARIES

Thanks to the success of Summer School 2007, bursaries are now available for assisted places at future Summer Schools and Spring Courses. For further details and application forms contact:-

Val Thorne, GPC Correspondence Secretary email\_v.thorne@ntlworld.com

# CONVERGENCE 2008 IN TAMPA

I have just returned from my biennial trip to the USA to attend Convergence followed by Complex Weavers. This time the venue was a very hot and sticky Tampa followed by St Petersburg for Complex Weavers. Mary Hildyard joined me there and we enjoyed air conditioning throughout our stay apart from crossing a bridge to enter the Convergence centre, so we didn't melt!

I spent three days learning about Photoshop with tutor Louise Lemieux Berube from Montreal. Louise weaves wonderful, huge tapestries on a Jacquard loom and she gave one of the key note lectures at the Vancouver Convergence in 2002. I took the course to help learn how to design using Photoshop for my new Jacquard loom, which hopefully will arrive by the end of July. The first two days were excellent, the last day was not so good; I cannot just look at a screen with a pointer whizzing around and retain the information! I joined Mary to have a beading day, relaxed, learnt about beaded fringes and my brain took a rest.

Then on to the seminars, four in all, everyone excellent. I learnt how to dye

Below: Pieces from Convergence by (I to r)
Dena Gartenstein; Daryl Lancaster; Susan Bowman

knitted silk which will be pulled out to use as a weft in a scarf. If anyone wants to try this on the dyeing day (19 August) I am ordering 20/2 silk from Gaddums and Jackie Macmillan will knit pieces up on her knitting machine. Please phone me about the cost - which will be for the silk plus a charge for Jackie's time.

The trade fair was wonderful as usual but this time I didn't buy very much as I still have a stash of yarns from previous trips. Jaggerspun wool/silk was scarce but at \$70 a pound not worth buying - by buying direct DWW gets the yarn much cheaper.

Then on to Complex Weavers - smaller and great fun with seminars of the highest quality. I went to a seminar about tablecloths given by a damask weaver - boring you might think, but I now look at medieval to Victorian painting with a new eye. I visited the Wallace Collection on my return to the UK where my new found information increased my enjoyment of the paintings.

The next Convergence destination is unknown! Rumour has it that it may be Albuquerque or possibly Salt Lake City. I will let you know when this is announced. It would be wonderful to have a DWW delegation at the next one.

Sue Dwyer







# JACQUARD WEAVING ON A TC1

I have seen the TC1 Jacquard loom each time I have visited Convergence but only in 2006, after a couple of lectures by Alice Schlein at the Complex Weavers' Conference, did I become very interested. I bought the book *The Woven Pixel* written by Alice and Bhakti Ziek. I found this to be excellent but did not have the Photoshop knowledge to understand the text.

When the opportunity arose to attend a course in Banchory on how to design and to use a TC1 I jumped at the chance. After a day I could design for the Jacquard and was thrilled with my woven samples. The text of the book became clear. I spent 4 days learning how to design using the Photoshop programme and then wove my designs on a Jacquard loom.

Basically an image is imported - either a photo or a freehand design. If it is in colour the image is then reduced to however many colours you decide. The programme can do this automatically but it is better to choose the colours yourself. Each colour is then saved as a layer. Into each layer a weave structure is inserted. Rather than just pick any weave structure from the *Woven Pixel* CD I had to create my own. An excellent learning experience. I



chose satin and wove my penguins (see pic above) using all the satin possibilities on 8 shafts. I was thrilled with my efforts.

Jacquard designed his loom in 1804 to speed up the process of silk weaving in Lyon. Using drawlooms, weavers could only weave an inch of brocade a day. Jacquard's loom enabled this to increase dramatically and subsequently the draw boys he had made redundant attacked him. From this technology has come the modern computer. Jacquard looms, although expensive, are now within the range of the hobby weaver.

Sue Dwyer



OPEN WEEK 25 -29 March 2008
A great success....we'll do it again next year!

### **EDITOR FOR THE SHUTTLE**

Can I interest anybody to volunteer their services for the job of Shuttle Editor?
Colleen has had to retire due to job and family committments. It involves collecting information, articles and pics from people, possibly writing little bits now and again and generally organising me to get on with it! Computer literacy is a must and a bit of help with distribution might come into it too. It only happens twice a year....any offers?

Kay Balmforth

# devon weavers workshop www.devonweaversworkshop.org

### **TRUSTEES**

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

### **COMMITTEE 2008**

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

Jackie Macmillan

Sue Miller

Library Sareela James

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