



ISSUE 25

JANUARY 2022

the shuttle

devon weavers workshop
www.devonweaversworkshop.org

DATES for 2022

MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 10 March 2022 10.30am

AGM 2022

Saturday 26 November 12 noon

BLACKJACK

Wednesday 23 March 10.30am

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

BIRDWOOD HOUSE

14 - 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Exhibition/sale of members' work

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

17 - 19 JUNE 2022

COURSES 2022

INTRODUCTION TO DOUBLEWEAVE

Tutor - Laura Thomas

8 May (planning your warp)

and 14 & 15 May (weaving)

Note: numbers limited to 10 students plus tutor

£295 non-members, £265 associate members, £240 full members/trustees

WEAVING WITH LINEN 16 - 18 September

Tutor - Ritta Sinkkonen Davies

Numbers limited to 10 students plus tutor

Costs & Dates to be confirmed

For further details or to book a place on a general weaving course contact Jill Davies via the DWW website

BEGINNER COURSES 2022

Due to unprecedented demand, we plan to run several small beginners courses (led by various members) throughout the year, each taking 2 or 3 students at any time. Offers of help with these courses would be very much appreciated, either to lead the courses or as volunteer helpers. There will also be two main courses as usual running in the spring and autumn taking 6 students at a time.

BEGINNERS - SPRING 2022

£225 (includes materials)

12 March - 6 students for 6 separate days (dates to be agreed)

Offers of help to Gail gail.bryant@tinyworld.co.uk

BEGINNERS - AUTUMN 2022

£225 (includes materials)

6 students - dates to be agreed

For beginner courses enquiries contact us via the DWW website

ACCESS FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

If you are an associate member and would like to use the Workshop but need to confirm you will have access please call one of the following weavers who will be happy to help.



MONDAYS	Jill Davies
TUESDAYS	Ann Hall
WEDNESDAYS	Kay Balmforth
THURSDAYS	Margaret Cushen
FRIDAYS	Sareela Salter
SATURDAYS	Chris Morey
SUNDAYS	Janet Thomas
RESERVE CONTACT	Anne Bulleid

Another year! Hoping it is a healthy one for all, when we can weave contentedly in the Workshop and at home!

Our landlords made improvements to ventilation in our unit, installing a new window and extractor fan. These seem to be effective as we have had a number of courses in person in the last few months, without the virus being passed around. We hope members will feel reassured and return to using the facilities more in 2022.

At our AGM we thanked Colleen Pope for her services as treasurer. Jackie Thomas has taken over the role and Colleen will continue as a trustee. We also thanked Jacqueline Jones for her work as membership secretary, this role has been handed over to Paula Williams.

Jill Davies is planning courses for 2022/2023 and we hope to run a normal beginner's course later in the year. In the meantime, we are responding to the many requests for beginner's courses by bringing 1-2 learners together with members, using Jenny's course outline with added notes, so most members could help a beginner learn, using this process. If you are willing to help with this please get in touch with Jill.



Parking continues to be problematic on the estate at times. If our 3 allocated spaces are in use, please park at the top of the site and if this is full, park where you can and collect a DWW sign to put in your car.

We have been remembered in the will of Audrey Fairbrother, who died in spring 2021. Audrey was a weaver and an honorary member who supported the Workshop in its early days. She has left us her looms, weaving equipment, books and some money. These looms, which are large, bring us back to the issue of whether the Workshop needs more space, to enable members to work on larger looms. There seems to be a growing interest in rug weaving in the Workshop and it would be good to have at least one more heavy loom for this purpose. Do get in touch with your views!

Looking forward to seeing more of you all in the Workshop this year!

Margaret Cushen - Chair

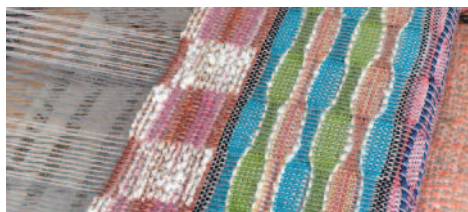


TEXTURAL CLOTH with Margo Selby

8 - 10 & 12 - 14 November 2021

Nine of us gathered at the Workshop to participate in the long-awaited Textural Cloth course run by Margo Selby. It had been postponed twice and some of us were nervous about exposing our weaving in public after so long. Of course there was nothing to be nervous about as Margo's relaxed and positive style made us all feel comfortable.

Between us we had a variety of warps on our looms including 4 shaft straight draft, colour and weave, point set up, blocks, double cloth and gagnetkrus. The wide choice of warp meant that we could choose a simple or more complicated warp according to our confidence, skill level and what we wanted to achieve.



Photos: Mary Hildyard

As we all had different starting points Margo gave everyone individual attention. She was approachable and friendly and was incredibly skilful at picking up on individual styles and tastes, offering suggestions and encouraging us to use colours or yarn types that we wouldn't have chosen on our own. She also encouraged us to experiment with thick and thin yarn and dark and light colours to create texture and interest.

An added bonus was being able to see what other people were achieving using different warps and it filled my head with ideas for future projects. The three days flew past and Margo's positive attitude and wide knowledge certainly inspired me and gave my sagging confidence a boost. I will certainly look out for any of Margo's future courses.

Valerie Hall

Colleen's beautiful rugs...



After years of pontificating, nudges, hints, persuasion, and finally orders (!), I took the plunge in 2021 and applied for membership of the Devon Guild (now known as MAKE Southwest). Several lockdowns had given me lots of time to make the six rugs required for entry and these were submitted in May for the selection committee to look at in June.

It was a daunting process - I knew other weavers (some making rugs) had been selected in recent years so there was a good chance that the Guild would decide that they had enough textile artists for now and mine would not make the cut! However, on selection day, I was contacted within hours of the judging and offered full membership. Whoop!

Since then, three of the rugs have been on display in the 'Room Settings' exhibition (2 October - 28 November 21) in the Riverside Mill Gallery. This exhibition was very popular and has been continued in a smaller space next to the shop, where two rugs can still be seen.

It is really amazing to be given the opportunity to exhibit with other makers of exceptional skill and creativity and it will encourage me to continue developing my craft - even if the rugs do not sell! Having exposure in such a location is rather lovely! Make Southwest staff are also really knowledgeable and can help with marketing, pricing and exhibiting.

Elsewhere, two rugs can be found in the Round Table Café (Dartington Estate) from January and Green Table Café have offered me the chance to display some rugs again at the end of 2022/3. Now, I'm off to get the loom set up and start weaving!

Colleen Pope



Sue's AMAZING lockdown jacket.....



the one colour East Anglia had not. The wool cost over £200.

I managed to knit the jacket in 7 weeks, lockdown and very wet weather allowed me to do this. After blocking, sewing up and knitting the bands I loved the result as does my niece. Many have asked would I knit one for them but NO is the answer. In retrospect I am sure this could be knitted the Shetland way with a steek down the front and both arm holes.

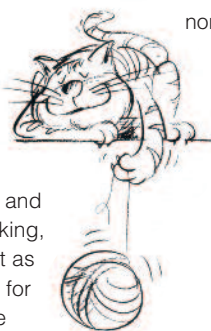
I had almost a full 50g left of the colours so have knitted 8 hats in circular mode from the book, which are going to be given as Christmas presents - I know the pattern used off by heart. I have needed to buy more base colour after using up my left overs.

My niece phoned me to say her sister-in-law had bought a knee length woollen jacket and could I knit her one. I sorted various designs I had in books and photocopied these to her, none of which she liked. So I looked at the Rowan website and then we both opened the website and talked over the phone. I started one end of the file and she the other. Any design we liked we looked at together.

She said very quickly, this one is lovely but too difficult. After an hour I said let's look at the one you really like, infact it was easy and used lots of colour which I love, I find knitting in a single colour boring. It was called *Moonflower* designed by Michael Storey, knitted in Alpaca soft double knit from a book called *Rowan Carousel*.

The second lockdown had just started and I had difficulty finding the yarn. I required 26 x 50g balls in seven colours. I managed to obtain most from a shop in East Anglia. The base colour needing 14 balls was the most difficult and in the end I bought two dye lots so the body used one and then the arms the other.

Wool Ware House had virtually none of the yarn but did have



Sue Dwyer

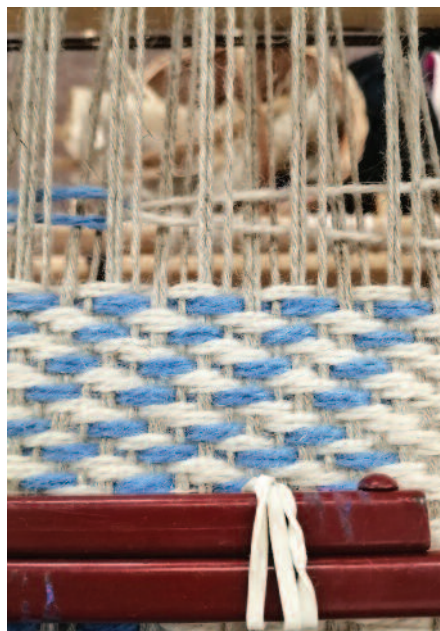
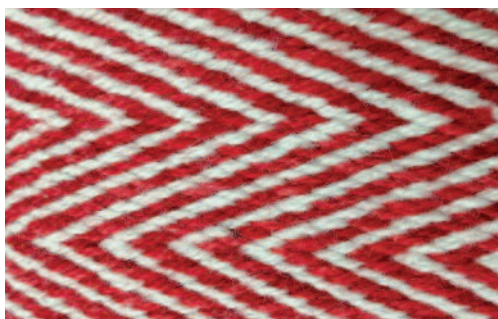
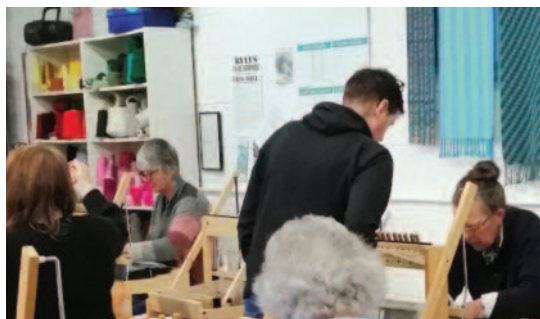
TWILL RUG WEAVING

with JASON COLLINGWOOD

12 - 18 October 2021

The course started with a talk by Jason and an opportunity to look at his wonderful samples. We were all a bit awestruck by the different patterns and colour combinations that could be achieved with a twill threading. The first day was spent working with two shuttles to achieve various weft-based patterns and getting the tension and beating worked out. After that Jason gave us many different techniques to try out in the remaining time and plenty for us to try at home on the rest of our warps. We all enjoyed trying clasped weft and crossed weft techniques with varying degrees of success. For participants that wanted to make a larger rug at home Jason also provided us with links to suppliers of both warp and weft yarn for rug weaving. Jason was a great tutor who enabled us to have lots of time to weave in the three days as well as great inspiration from his samples and excellent tuition to enable us to grasp the more complex techniques. I really enjoyed being back in the Workshop weaving and the techniques I learnt are useful for rugs as well as more general weaving.

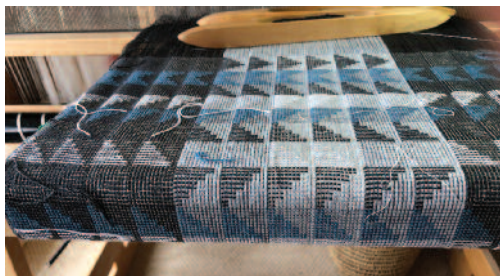
Paula Williams



WEAVING JEREMY'S WAISTCOAT

During lockdown last summer I managed to complete a challenging project that I had been working on for some time. I wanted to weave yardage for a waistcoat for a very dear friend, Jeremy. His wife, Dianne, an excellent seamstress, provided a pattern she had used numerous times and she agreed to actually sew the garment as a joint birthday present.

The problem that kept this project on the back burner so long was a mathematical one. Jeremy is something of an engineer and I thought he would appreciate fabric with a geometric design. I decided on triangle shapes in a colour sequence woven in 'thick and thin'. The thick was 8/2 mercerised cotton; the thin was 60/2 silk - both in very dark grey and white. The warp was threaded dark thick and dark thin, then dark thick and white thin; then white thick and dark thin, then white thick and white thin and then back again. This allowed the muted palette to shift from dark to light and then reverse. My problem was that the triangle units had to be the right size in order to fit in the full colour sequence.



I added a 20/2 indigo dyed silk weft to the other colours and wove a number of samples. I varied the size of the units and the sett - doing the maths each time. At one point I photographed the sample and cut the photograph into a waistcoat shape to see if I liked the results. Eventually I decided on 40 epi and began to weave the final fabric. I could only weave one side of the waistcoat at a time, so in order for the sides to match I had to take good notes, take good photographs and try to keep the same rhythm. (Well, it was lockdown and I found I had the time and patience.)

By the end of summer I had completed the fabric, cut off, washed and pressed it. I worked out where to cut it in two to get an exact match and labelled the pieces "right front" and "left front" for Dianne. I passed the fabric to her in the autumn and she secretly did the sewing in December. She had the difficult job of cutting and overlocking, attaching the lining and the back, adding small watch chain pockets, and doing the buttonholes. By spring 2021 the waistcoat was complete and I was really quite pleased with the final garment when I saw it in the birthday photograph they sent me in March.

Mary Hildyard

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL 2021



It was an absolute treat to be at the Contemporary Craft Festival in September this year - the atmosphere was buzzing and even the weather behaved itself for the whole three days. The Workshop took over £2712.00 on its stand - the most ever at this event since we first joined it in June 2009. Grateful thanks to all those who helped hang and run our stand - it looked lovely, with plenty of new and colourful items on sale.



BIRDWOOD HOUSE EXHIBITION 2021

At last - our much delayed, annual exhibition at Birdwood House in Totnes finally came to fruition in early December. It was lovely to have so many weavers exhibiting their work this year, giving us a truly amazing range of rugs, cushions, scarves, shawls, bags, greeting cards, decorations, tea towels, framed pictures, tapestries and much more...resulting in record-breaking sales totalling over £3919 - our best sales total since we held our very first exhibition at the venue in May 2009.



WEAVING AWAY...Surviving Covid-19 as a small charity

I wrote the piece below in 2021 in an attempt to gain some PR for the Workshop. As well as sending it out to the local media (who remained defiantly uninterested!) I also sent it to Handwoven magazine in the USA. It crossed the desk of the editor who looked at our website and contacted me to ask if we would submit an article and supply photographs about Devon Weavers Workshop for their 'Stepping Up' feature in the autumn 2022 issue - a new idea where they spotlight organisations and people who are doing good for the weaving world or the world in general. So, in a roundabout way, our PR attempt worked out very well for us in the end!

So it was – our wonderful weavers' Workshop sitting there on ice for the duration. Looms silent and still, heaters set to 'frost', cupboards brimming with fresh coffee and exotic biscuits never used, our treasured weavers' library full of books unread, the hum and beat of so much weaving paraphernalia on permanent hold. Not a weaver in sight.

The very bones of the Workshop are made of shared knowledge, friendship and communication - exchanging ideas, getting and giving advice, teaching, talking yarns, weaving triumphs and disasters. Normally we run courses, plan and organise weaving exhibitions and events, inspire children and adults to have a go.

We waited it out. We kept watch, we checked the place. Things began to ease, weavers crept back in, cautiously, one at a time to use a loom or borrow a book or piece of equipment. It was quiet and things didn't feel right...by autumn any optimism began to feel redundant. Lockdown again.

We cancelled the courses, refunded deposits and paid the bills. We nervously eyed our bank balance, the one we had so cautiously built up down the years 'in case of emergency'. With weaving comes tenacity – our members stuck by us, not one gave up and left. With continued support from membership fees and a temporary rent reduction from our landlords the way ahead began to look slightly less stormy.

Later in the year, good news at last - two, much appreciated, discretionary business grants from our local council. Our Zoom committee meetings became a little more upbeat, there was light at the end of the tunnel, we could do this.

Since then we've held our first online weaving course and rescheduled all our face-to-face weaving courses to the second half of 2021. It's been a difficult, disturbing and uncertain time. We aim to survive the present and plan for our future success. The Workshop will soon be buzzing again to the rhythm of the looms and the chatter of weavers - like old times, but now with Zoom in our back pockets, ready for the unexpected!

Kay Balmforth

TAKING PART....

Devon Open Studios 2021

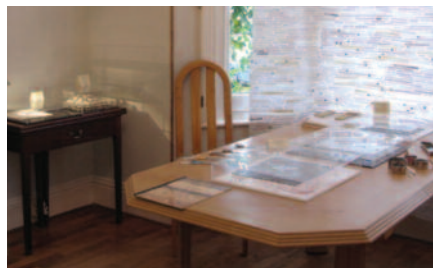


This September I opened up my home for Devon Open Studios. Being on my own now and with no dog, I took the opportunity to turn 3 rooms (one being my workshop room) into 'gallery' spaces where I could display 10 years of work all at one venue. I invited people to look round the garden and have a go at weaving if they wished. I threaded up my Kombo and photocopied some patterns and lifts from the wonderful 8 shaft pattern book.

I was so hugely touched and grateful for the help of a different friend on each of the 10 days I opened. When it was quiet, I had chance to catch up with them and when it was busy they chatted to visitors, choreographed them around the house to avoid Covid-risky bottlenecks and made tea!

Most of my 84 visitors were 'ladies of a certain age' who had an interest in 'crafts' - mainly textile-related, but I also had a group of younger ladies from Bristol having a mini-break in their friend's local house and a young Italian couple from Plymouth. I did have a gentleman who homed straight onto a picture on my workshop wall, asking how much it was. Sadly I had to inform him that it was done by my daughter when she was 3 and if he looked closer he would see it is in fact cereal boxes painted with bright poster paint! Most memorable was a lady who rang my doorbell and announced "My Great Grandfather used to own this house!" It turned out he lived there for about 40 years!

It was lovely that so many people had a go at weaving and I was able to give them leaflets and information about the Beginners' Courses at Devon Weavers Workshop. My costs were £200 and I sold £650 of work (including some plants!) and so it was worth all the effort.



I was impressed how well the event was organised by Devon Artist Network, although it was quite exhausting! On the last day, when everyone had left and the house fell silent again, I was just about to flop on the sofa with a cup of tea when an email pinged - "Congratulations for completing Devon Open Studios - Don't forget to take down all your yellow road arrows tonight!"Oh No! The cup of tea had to wait !

Helen Edwards

Jackie's bag-making story...



Back in 2017 I went to Summer School in Sparsholt, Hampshire on the Contemporary Basketmaking Course, which was great fun. At the end of the week, we had a raffle in which the tutors and some of the trade fair stall holders donated the prizes. I was lucky enough to win a prize early on in the draw and had the pick of most of the offerings. The organiser asked whether I was a weaver, to which I excitedly said 'yes' and she steered me towards a fantastic basket of handspun nettle fibres in natural and beautifully dyed colours from the tapestry weaving teacher.

Now I had the fibre, what should I do with it? It went up in the loft for a while for me to think. It is always tricky to design something when you have set quantities of yarn. I came up with the idea of a bag woven in doubleweave with blocks of colour.

Once I started winding the warp it became obvious why this was tapestry yarn and not normal weaving yarn. It was very roughly spun with sections of over-spuncoils and weak parts which broke frequently and was very frustrating. However, I was determined not to waste the lovely yarn and carried on regardless. Unfortunately, I ran out of the natural colour before I had finished the width I wanted.

So... a redesign was in order. I decided to weave a narrower piece with what I'd got using the same colours in the weft and then use it as an accent on a tote bag. i.e. a decorative band round the middle of a plain bag. Hence having to weave some plain fabric too. This project was getting bigger and bigger. I wove another piece of plain hemp in a triangle textured weave, which turned out beautifully, but the colour didn't match well enough with the nettle and I didn't want to use them together.

I took the finished fabrics to the workshop and showed some of the other weavers to try and decide what to do. Margaret Bidmead and several others have made Furoshiki bags from the 'Weave' book. She folded my nettle fabric

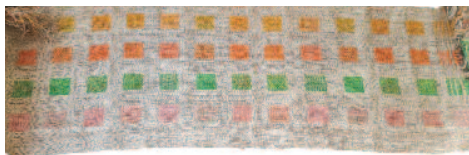
and pinned it together for me to show me how to make the bag. Kay was watching while she did it and asked me to write up the pattern for you with pictures of how I made it, hence this article.

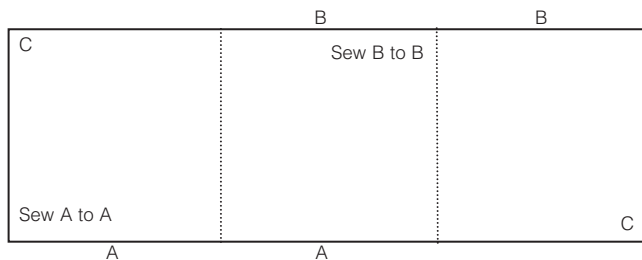
Now what do I do with the hemp fabric?.... Has anyone got any ideas?

Furoshiki bag in pictures

This is a very easy bag to make and it makes a bag much larger than the width of the fabric. The only criterion is the length of the fabric must be exactly 3 x the width of the fabric after the hems have been finished. My bag wasn't lined, because it was a sturdy doubleweave, but you can line it if you like.

Fabric after washing

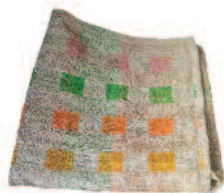




1. Fold down hems to make fabric length exactly 3 x the width



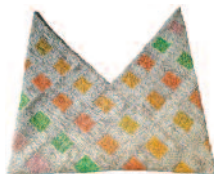
2. Fold fabric along fold lines



3. Sew A to A and B to B



4. Pull corners labelled C to form bag



5. Add trim, handle and fastening as desired



Jackie Thomas

DWW in the *Journal* - Autumn 2021

Guild Highlights

Curated by Rosemary Mitchell-Hallam, Editor, *Journal*

Designer Weavers Workshop

Woolens, Looms & Weaving Charts

by Jackie Thomas

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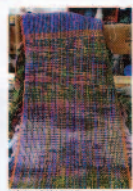
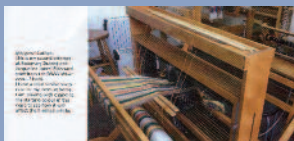
Jackie Thomas

Jackie Thomas

The Guild Highlights editor of the *Journal for Weavers, Spinners & Dyers* spotted our article in Shuttle 23 (October 2020) featuring some of the things we wove (and spun) during lockdown. She contacted me and asked if they could reproduce some of the content and photographs in the *Journal* - and to our surprise we got four whole pages.

Many thanks to those of you who agreed to take part. I think this was a 'first' for the Workshop and the *Shuttle*!

Kay Balmforth



devon weavers workshop

www.devonweaversworkshop.org

TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE 2022

(Trustees marked with an asterisk)

Chair	<i>Margaret Cushen*</i>
Intermediate & Advanced Courses	<i>Jill Davies*</i>
Secretary	<i>Anne Bulleid*</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jackie Thomas*</i>
Beginners Courses	<i>Jenny Rolfe*</i>
Newsletters & Website	<i>Kay Balmforth*</i>
Equipment	<i>Janet Thomas*</i>
Library	<i>Sareela Salter*</i>
Spinners Representative	<i>Chris Hart</i>
	<i>Colleen Pope*</i>
	<i>Ann Holl*</i>
	<i>Jane Unwin*</i>

Paula Williams is our Membership Secretary

Gail Bryant deals with beginners' course administration and is also our SW Area Coordinator and Health & Safety Officer

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