

ISSUE 26

AUGUST 2022

the shuttle

devon weavers workshop
www.devonweaversworkshop.org

DATES for 2022 - 23

COURSES

For general weaving course enquiries contact
Jill Davies online at www.devonweaversworkshop.org

WEAVING WITH LINEN

16 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2022

Tutor - Ritta Sinkkonen Davies

(Fully booked)

JAPANESE BRAIDING

Thursday 6 OCTOBER 2022

Tutor - Paula Williams

10am to 1pm

Note: numbers limited to 8 students plus tutor

£25 (members only)

ORIGAMI

Tutor - Susie Taylor

APRIL 2023

(for more details see page 6)

ADVANCED DOUBLEWEAVE

Tutor - Susie Taylor

APRIL 2023

(for more details see page 6)

KASURI IKAT DYEING & WEAVING

Tutor - Marilyn Robert

SEPTEMBER 2023

(for more details see page 6)

KROKBAGD

Tutor - Angie Parker

NOVEMBER 2023

(for more details see page 6)

For beginner course enquiries contact Gail Bryant
online at www.devonweaversworkshop.org

BEGINNERS - AUTUMN 2022

15 to 20 October (6 consecutive days)

£225 (includes materials)

BEGINNERS - SPRING 2023

4/5, 12/13, 18/19 February

(3 consecutive weekends)

£225 (includes materials)

MEETINGS

COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 19 September 2022 11.00am

BLACKJACK 37

Wednesday 28 September 2022 10.30am

AGM 2022

Saturday 26 November 2022 12 noon

EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

BIRDWOOD HOUSE

14 - 19 NOVEMBER 2022

Exhibition/sale of members' work

DARTINGTON CRAFT FAIR

Great Hall, Dartington

2 - 4 DECEMBER 2022

Exhibition/sale of members' work

CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

9 - 11 JUNE 2023

Children's Tent & DWW stand



DWW features in HANDWOVEN MAGAZINE!

We are delighted to report that Devon Weavers Workshop is the subject of a two-page article in the September/October 2022 edition of Handwoven Magazine - a magazine which is produced in the USA and distributed around the world.

'Stepping Up' is a new feature in which the magazine highlights individuals and organisations who have gone the extra mile to keep the skills of weaving, spinning and dyeing alive in their area.

The article describes how Devon Weavers Workshop began, how it is run and what it has taken to keep it going and secure a positive future for itself.

Congratulations and thanks to all members, past and present, for all their support and hard work! A copy of the magazine will soon be in the DWW library for members to borrow.



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 Holl
WEDNESDAYS	Kay Balmforth
THURSDAYS	Margaret Cushen
FRIDAYS	Sareela Salter
SATURDAYS	Chris Morey
SUNDAYS	Janet Thomas
RESERVE CONTACT	Anne Bulleid

AUDREY FAIRBROTHER

In September 2021, DWW received the totally unexpected news that it had been named as a beneficiary in the will of the late Audrey Fairbrother. In an act of amazing generosity, Audrey had left DWW her three looms, all her weaving equipment, weaving books and yarns plus a significant amount of money - £33,600.

Audrey trained in textiles at the Royal College of Art and was an early member of DWW, later becoming an honorary member. She was an accomplished weaver who taught textiles in further education colleges for many years and who maintained a lifelong passion for weaving. She loved the fact that we had set up the Workshop to save the skills of handweaving in the south west, when all the colleges, schools and universities were closing their weaving courses and ridding themselves of their looms and weaving equipment.

Everything was to be packed up by us in Audrey's beautiful weaving studio near Poundsgate on Dartmoor. On a cold day in February, Colleen, Anne B and Kay began the tricky task of dismantling and packing the three looms (*below*) which are now safely in storage. Audrey's books and equipment were brought straight to DWW and are already in use. The money now received will go a long way towards helping us finance a larger premises and new equipment for members in the near future.



Laura Thomas · Double Weave Course



Ten of us arrived at the Workshop on a hot, July Saturday for the first of a three day workshop with Laura. Having done two courses with her on Zoom, it was wonderful to attend a course in person. We were a mixed group, some had tackled double weave before, some had the basic principles and the majority had no idea what we were in for!

We gathered round the main table with much needed Workshop tea and biscuits, Laura had brought lots of her samples for us to pass round while she filled us in with the design process and execution of each piece. A description of the block principle and blackboard examples of lifting plan followed. This is the sort of theory that makes total sense at the time, lots of nodding, but clear as mud a matter of minutes later. How quickly minds empty when faced with a task like this.

Then it was back to our places to grapple with graph paper and crayons to make our own design. As we were all working with 8 shafts, 2 blocks would be possible in our design. We then had a week to streamline the designs and dress the looms. Most chose two contrasting coloured threads, a few brave souls added a third or fourth colour.

Another sweltering Saturday and it was time to knuckle down and weave. Laura had supplied detailed notes with clear examples, horizontal stripes, vertical stripes, an open bag closed on both sides and chequerboard. Then there were patterns to insert wadding into, stripes and chequerboard which I thought was rather like a pincushion. We worked away, suspending our disbelief, trusting the hidden under layer was being woven out of sight - a handy mirror confirmed the magic!

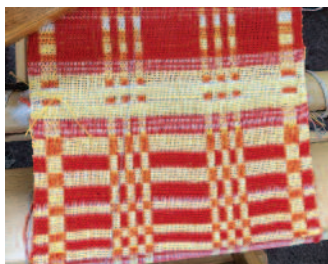
Back the next day for our final session, more weaving away at the samples while Laura took each one of us individually to make a lifting plan for our own designs from the first day. Lots more twisting of brains alternating between 2D, 3D, top warp, bottom warp and wefts.

We will all be weaving our way along our warps for a long time to come. Roll on the day that I fully understand this interesting and versatile weave structure. A very large amount of information in a short time.

Sarah Bedford



Pics: Sarah B & Paula W



COMING TO A WORKSHOP NEAR YOU IN 2023....

APRIL 2023 - Susie Taylor (from California)

Susie will be teaching 2 courses: her signature Origami and also an Advanced Double Weave course.

Susie describes herself as 'a veteran textile designer and master weaver who combines technical skill and artistry to create abstract and dimensional textiles'.

See her work here www.susietaylorart.com/about or follow her on Instagram @weaving.origami

There's also an interview with her here: www.warpandweftmag.com/field-notes/susie-taylor

SEPTEMBER 2023 - Marilyn Robert (from America)

Marilyn will be teaching a course on Kasuri - warp & weft ikat.

On her website, Marilyn says: 'Throughout my history as instructor and head of the Fibers program at Lane Community College and as adjunct professor at the University of Oregon, I have had the responsibility and privilege to teach many fiber art courses; dyeing, weaving, felting, textile printing, and other surface design techniques.'

<https://marilynrobert.com>

NOVEMBER 2023 - Angie Parker

Angie will teach a Krokbragd Rug Weaving course.

Her award-winning rugs and blankets are well known for their bold contemporary designs and vibrant colour palette – a match for her bright enthusiastic manner.

www.angieparkertextiles.com

or follow her on Instagram @angieparkertextiles

Stop Press - Marago and Laura will both be back in 2024!

DOROTHY TALLENTIRE

When Dorothy died earlier this year we lost a wonderful weaver and a really good, long-standing friend. She was a stalwart supporter of DWW for many, many years. Dorothy joined DWW in the very first months of its creation at Coombe Park. She had spent over 20 years working in California and had already learned to weave there, bringing back with her a lot of weaving equipment and a wealth of experience.

She was a committed member of DWW from the start. A weekly visitor to the Workshop to weave on her Louët 40, she also attended almost every course we held. She was there for the dyeing days, helping out at all the exhibitions and events and always around to lend a very knowledgeable hand during the beginners' courses.

In an act of great generosity, Dorothy's relatives contacted us and offered us all of her equipment, yarns and books free of charge.....there was a lot, as many of you witnessed. Her Louët 40 is now part of the Workshop's collection along with her Leclerc floor loom. Most of her books have gone into our library and a lot of small equipment and yarns have been kept for members' use, along with her Ashford spinning wheel.

Dorothy is sadly missed by those of us who knew her for so long, but also fondly remembered. She will always be very much a part of Devon Weavers Workshop.



DWW at the Museum

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM • 12 & 13 APRIL 2022

Thanks to Workshop members for their time - Sareela, Colleen, Kay, Jacqueline J, Jane U, Gail, Helen, Jenny R

In February 2022 The Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) contacted DWW to ask if we would help at a planned 'family fun' weaving event. The two-day event had been planned as part of the BBC's 'Art That Made Us' festival.

The museum has in its possession a wonderful collection of 5000 year-old Neolithic clay loom weights which were unearthed during the construction of Exeter Airport - they are as old, or older than Stonehenge. These still represent the oldest evidence found of weaving in Europe. The museum was planning to display some of these loom weights at the event and had also sourced a replica Neolithic warp-weighted loom for visitors to 'have-a-go' on.



We agreed to take four ready-warped Workshop Louët 40 looms for people of all ages to weave on - two with strong linen rug warps and two with finer warps. The Neolithic loom needed a warp and RAMM had no idea how to do it...could we help with that too? *Well.....!*

Not really our specialist subject, but we'd give it a go. An awful lot of head scratching and research took place - it was quite a difficult undertaking. But it did turn out to be amazing fun and we learned a tremendous amount along the way.



Neolithic warp weighted looms are leant against a wall at an angle (*see above*). The warps are hung from the top and weighted in small bundles at the bottom (we used 'replica' weights) to maintain an even tension. The weft is beaten in upwards. OK so far.....but how to create the two sheds? The upper shed stick lies horizontally across the warp and

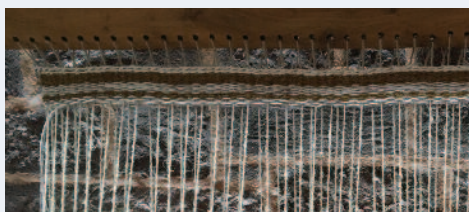
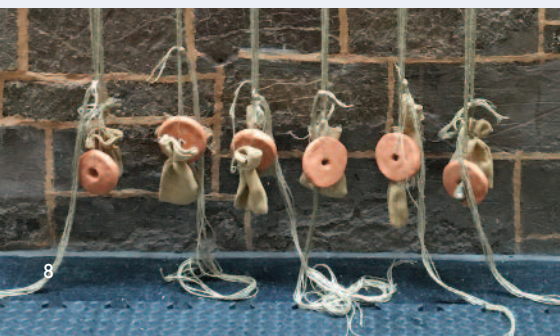
Above: The Neolithic replica loom before warping

Above right: The warping begins

Right: Twining the header before weaving

Below: Improvised loom weights

Below right: The finished header





alternate warps are lashed to this stick. When at rest, these warps hang towards the back. When the shed stick is pulled forwards one of the two sheds is created. A lower horizontal shed stick holds the opposite alternate set of warps forwards to maintain the other shed (see left).

Our two days at the event were very busy and required a lot of hard work and energy from those involved. We created a great deal of pleasure and interest from visitors both young and old. It was a big learning curve for us all - not one to be forgotten and well worth the effort!

Kay Balmforth

Top left: Tying in the heddle string & below it, the finished loom

Left: Two of the original clay loom weights - weighing about 2kg each

Below left: Colleen road-testing the loom





YARNS & SUPPLIERS

We asked some Workshop members to tell us about yarns they use and where they buy them.....

Sareela

Uppingham Yarns www.wools.co.uk - uppyarn@wools.co.uk
01572 823747 - for Prisma (viscose/metallic mix); strong, good colours of Lurex; over-twist wool; Grilon (technical, soluble yarns) and other specialist yarns. Also, wools and silk, etc. The website can be difficult, but they are always helpful on the telephone and visitors are welcome.

Jackie T

I don't actually buy much yarn from shops, I mostly get it from Guild sales, but one place I do like is **Colourmart** www.colourmart.com. They have a range of premium yarns from line ends in the knitting industry, so you can get a lot of fine cashmere and merino. They sell directly and via ebay at very reasonable prices. If you want thicker yarns they will wind several ends together.

Kay

My two favourite yarn suppliers are **William Hall Yarns** (Cheadle) www.williamhallyarns.com 0161 437 3295 and **Knoll Yarns** (Ilkley) www.knollyarns.com

William Hall supplies all types of yarn, including cotton, linen, cottolin and wool. I buy a lot of Bockens cotton from them - it's excellent quality, very strong and colourfast. Bockens comes in a lovely range of colours which are available in several weights - I mainly buy the 16/2s and 8/2s. Order over the phone for next day delivery.

Knoll have a wonderful range of various types of woollen yarns all in mouthwatering colours. Like quite a few weavers at DWW, I buy their merino lambswool which finishes beautifully and can be tumble dried. Shade cards for William Hall and Knoll are in the Workshop.

Jane U

I like **John Arbon Textiles** www.jarbon.com Devonian 4 ply yarns. The main reason being that it is local from Devon sheep and they spin it with restored machinery. Fascinating to see in action at their open weekend. It is a worsted yarn with a lovely drape and sheen.

I also like **Jim's Yarns** (James Laycock www.ashleightextiles.co.uk) for end of lines. Lots of variety from him. **JC Rennie** for soft lambswool.

Mary

Lately, the yarns I have used most often have been from two suppliers: The **Handweavers Studio & Gallery** (www.handweavers.co.uk)

and **My Fine Weaving Yarns** (www.myfineweavingyarns.co.uk). I have always enjoyed weaving with Jagerspun 18/2 wool/silk from Handweavers. There are lots of colours and it has a soft feel, lovely for scarves.

I have been also experimenting with silk dyeing and Handweavers sell skeins of undyed 20/2 silk. To complement my 'dyed at home' silk I have used 20/2 silk from My Fine Weaving Yarns. There are many colours to choose from. These silks are dyed abroad and imported so it is best to order as much as you need in one go to insure same dye lot. I used this silk as the warp for the Brocade course and was really pleased with the results.

Jill

A couple of suggestions from Laura Thomas:- **Clover Creations** <https://clovercreationsuk.com/> an 'ethical supplier of recycled and vegan yarns for the conscious consumer', for example - recycled: sari silk ribbon, cotton frizz, denim, tee-shirt yarns; as well as metallic string, braided cotton, Himalayan felted yarn, hand-dyed banana yarn and wool and cotton tops – to mention just a few.

Yarn Yarn <https://www.yarnyarn.co.uk/> sells 'ethical small batch yarns' – e.g. sari silk yarn, sari silk ribbon, wild silks, and silk tops, banana yarn, rolls of narrow strips of muslin (for dyeing).

BITS & PIECES...

HELP!

We'll soon be asking for your handwoven articles and for your help to steward at the following events. Please make a note in your diaries - *Birdwood House - Monday 14 to Saturday 19 November 2022 & Dartington Craft Fair - Friday 2 to Sunday 4 December 2022*

DWW INSTAGRAM

Paula would love to have more of your pics to keep the DWW Instagram account happy. Samples, yarns, equipment, work in progress...small files are fine.

DWW BEGINNERS' COURSES

The beginners' courses are now on our website for online booking. If the system is a success we hope to adopt it for our other courses in the future.

DWW AGM SPEAKER

Make a note in your diaries for Saturday 26 November. Our speaker at the AGM will be member Chris Morey who will be giving us a talk about her fascinating life in textiles which has taken her all over the world.

CLEANING DWW

The *Cleaning Rota* is now on the notice-board ready for willing weavers to sign up in pairs for a once-in-a-while chance to clean the Workshop - it doesn't take long! Thank you in advance for your support.

CAR PARKING AT DWW

We will soon have three allocated DWW parking spaces to the front of the Workshop. The car parking area at the top of the slope has been enlarged and the hard surface extended, making parking easier, particularly during courses.



HOW TO MAKE A BAG FROM A TEA TOWEL

Following on from Jackie Thomas' lovely article in the previous Shuttle on Making a Furoshiki Bag - my tea towel for this project was one of three which I'd woven on the Megado in satin/sateen. I didn't like them much as tea towels because the floats were quite long, even though I'd woven them in 16/2s cotton at 30epi.

Tea towel (or any length of fabric) - minimum size 30" long x 18" wide

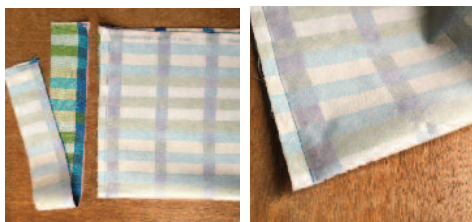
Lining - approx 30" long x 18" wide (strong calico is good)

Interfacing - iron-on medium weight, same size as tea towel

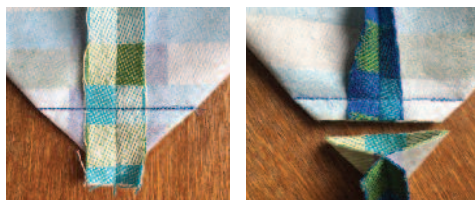
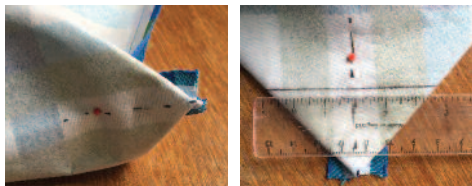
Handles - Narrow strip of thin wadding approx 1.5" x 15"

MAKING THE BAG

1. Iron on interfacing to the back of the fabric
2. Cut a 2.5" wide strip off the long side of the fabric for the two bag handles
3. Fold the remaining fabric in half (now 15" x 18") and sew two side seams
4. Mark fold line of bottom of bag and then fold down side seams onto this line.



5. Mark 3" and draw a guideline with a biro. Stitch along this line twice for strength and trim off corner.
6. Repeat on other side



7. Press corners flat. Turn right way out and press again.



MAKING THE HANDLES

1. Cut strip for handles in half to make two handles each 2.5" x 15"
2. Cut wadding in half lengthways making 2 strips each 3/4" x 15"
3. Lay the wadding in the middle of the handles, turn over the fabric to overlap, keeping selvages uppermost. Zigzag along length of handle on top of selvedge. Repeat with other handle.



4. Stitch handles securely to the inside top edge of bag (about 4.5" between fixing points)



MAKING THE LINING

1. Accurately measure the *inside* circumference of your bag along the top edge travelling over the handle fixing points. Halve this measurement to get the finished width for your bag lining. Add seam allowance.
2. Calculate the external measurement of your bag from its top edge, around the base and back up to the other top edge. Add 2" - 3" for top turning.
3. Cut out a piece of lining fabric to these measurements, fold in half, sew side seams and trim.
2. Make gusset as for bag on each side at base. Press seams flat.
3. Fit lining into bag. Allowing 1" for turning at top of lining, trim.
4. Fold in lining to about 1/4" below top edge of bag.
5. Stitch lining onto bag along top edge.



THE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT FESTIVAL

17- 19 June 2022

Many thanks for all your help - Jill D, Jacqueline J, Sareela, Kay, Margaret B, Mary H, Colleen, Daisy, Gail, Margaret C, Sue D, Julie S, Paula, Anne B and Natasha.

The Children's Tent at this year's Contemporary Craft Festival ran for two days instead of the usual three, but we still struggled to find enough stewards because so many of you had gone off on your holidays! Many thanks to those of you who stepped in to help at the last minute. We sold very well from the DWW stand taking almost £2,800 (despite a very unreliable 4G/phone signal which played havoc with our card payment system and brisk winds which repeatedly blew over the scarf stands). Next year's Contemporary Craft Festival will run from 9 to 11 June 2023.



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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