

Fleece First

Devon Guild of Craftsmen Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, Devon
24 September - 13 November 2011

Fleece First: the exhibition

Expertise in breeding sheep, processing wool and making textiles is linked inextricably to the history of the South West. *Fleece First* will feature the work of several contemporary textile makers whose raw material is wool.

Wool is a truly amazing material. Warm, lightweight, hardwearing and absorbent, it is suitable for the hardest-wearing carpet to the superfine linings of sportswear.

Each breed of sheep grows fleece with unique qualities. The exhibition focuses on how individual makers select the right fleece for a technique or product and show how imaginative links between breeders, processors, individual makers and industry can support local farmers and offer wider opportunities for sustainable use of wool in the South West.

Fleece First: events

Saturday 24 September 11am-4pm **Meet a sheep: opening event**

A small flock of Ryeland sheep will be on show in the courtyard at Riverside Mill so that our visitors can 'meet a sheep' and enjoy weaving, spinning, dyeing and knitting demonstrations.

Image: Veronica Risdon

Friday 21 October 10am - 4pm **Workshop**

Knitting in a different direction with **Claire Crompton** at Spin A Yarn. The author of the Knitters Bible will explore colour effects with different shades of natural wool. £45 (including lunch). Please book via Spin a Yarn (Bovey Tracey) on 01626 836203 or info@spinayarndevon.co.uk

Wednesday 26 October 11am – 4pm **Drop-in drop-spindle workshop for children**

(With parents). Learn to spin wool on a drop-spindle, do some simple weaving and help knit the never-ending scarf. Free, no booking needed.

Every Saturday throughout the exhibition 11am – 4pm

Devon Weavers Workshop will be demonstrating weaving with wool

Every Sunday throughout the exhibition (Including 25th) 11am – 4pm

Demonstrations of handspinning with wool

Fleece First is curated by Isabella Whitworth. She is a textiles Member of Devon Guild of Craftsmen with an interest in the sustainable use of local materials – and who also happens to love sheep.

Devon Guild of Craftsmen is an educational charity and membership organisation representing craftspeople from the South West and showcasing the work of national and international makers.

Press: High resolution images available on disk or by email contact Simon Williams (Marketing Officer) simon.williams@crafts.org.uk or Anna Trussler anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk
For more details of the exhibition or events contact the curator Isabella Whitworth on 01837 811771 or mail@isabellawhitworth.co.uk

Fleece First and Devon Guild of Craftsmen are proud to support the Campaign for Wool - Patron HRH The Prince of Wales



THE CAMPAIGN FOR WOOL