



Registered Charity no. 518270

CLWYD WEB

April 2003

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web



26th April (note date). Paper Making (Llysfasi). Rosemary asks that you bring:- an old thick towel,, J-cloths, sponge, rubber gloves and newspapers. This a day for experimenting, so if you have ever made paper before, please bring samples, hints, tips and your expertise.

2nd May (Friday). Llysfasi Open Day. Volunteers required. Please contact Rosemary or Joyce.

17th May. Coloured Sheep with Olwen Veevers.

March's Guild meeting was well attended by spinners (downstairs) and weavers, Martin Weatherhead's workshop (upstairs). This was to teach a pickup weave technique called **KYRGYZ TERME**. (Here's a piece of Martin's weaving).

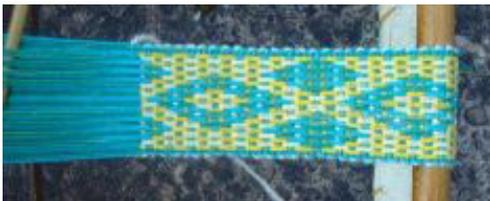


Pickup weave? I don't think I've ever unpicked anything so many times! Fortunately Martin has a nifty technique for unweaving hinting that even he has problems with this occasionally.



This is a piece produced on an inkle loom on day 1 (after many of us spent the morning rewarping unsuitable colour choices!)

This is from a 4-shaft loom.



I'm sure we all went away feeling very challenged!

29th Mar. NEWI Science fair. (from Myra) Just to let you we know had a really good day. Lots of interest, hundreds of people all very impressed with our hi-tech spindles. I've had people /children spinning ALL day!



The indigo dying was very popular too, they ran out of cloth mid way through afternoon. The team (Rosemary, Sylvia, Lyn and Doris) made their sheep.. Helen did the indigo with help from June McLaughlin. Joyce and Teresa spun, Sandra carded (for the team.) and Jane and I did the spindles. I'd like to thank everyone who came along for giving up their time.



A Publicity campaign is being organised for The Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers **National Week of Spinning Weaving and Dyeing** on the 5-11th of May. We are counting NEWI as an early contribution to this! (There are some details at the promoters web site <http://www.lja.uk.com/project113.html> which I can fetch for anyone who lets me know.)

Corrections: Lynn's phone number is incorrect on the membership card! and please add Eileen Jones and Kate Allen to the membership list.

The Back Page!

June McLaughlin has 2 tapestry looms looking for sale. The first is a small loom about 12" x 24" and is free, though a contribution to charity is suggested. The second is a large Ashford Tapestry Loom (40"W x 44" H). It has a floor stand with wheels and it swivels for easy warping Price. £150. Also for sale a Louet Junior Drum carder £50 - please contact June directly.

Lynn recently told me of an unusual new use for some of the dye that she bought at a dyeing workshop (*I think this must have been the one in 2001 – so at least we know the dye keeps well.*) Lynn has helped her son turn his shabby nylon car carpets into things of glory, by spraying them with a hot solution of purple Omega dye.

Joyce has asked that I should publicly thank Joe for fixing a fault in her wheel that she has suffered with for the last, errr... 12 Years?! There was, apparently, a vital bit missing!

The Aran project (by Chris)

This is the first draft of something that I hope to expand on and see if The Journal would be interested.

Sometime back in the seventies, "between jobs" in Scotland, I knitted Aran jumpers. A Scottish Woollen Mill would send out skeins of wool and a request for a size and style. The knitter was free to select the patterns. Even with no full time work to distract me, it would be 2 to 3 weeks work before I sent back a jumper or cardigan. A few days later I would receive payment of 17p a knitted ounce, perhaps £5 to £7, and another parcel of wool. The local post office obviously dealt with a few of us outworkers and would gleefully tell me of others who were returning a jumper every week! I can only assume that they used larger needles than I did. This lasted till I got a "real" job, and was sent a mass of black wool with a request for a 40" cardigan – a killing combination that finished my commercial knitting career.

A few years later in the west of Ireland, I bought several pounds of "Bainin" Aran wool at a post office/pub/corner shop. It was oiled and felt like parcel string, but knitted into what I still think of as the definitive Aran sweater. It improved with each (6 monthly) wash, but wore like iron and after 5 years of almost continuous wearing was stolen from a my other half in a sports centre changing room.

Since then I have searched for the perfect fleece for Aran. Recently I read a query from someone who had used merino and was disappointed by the look of cable patterns. I thought that I would do some comparisons, spinning Aran weight yarn from

different fleece and knitting the same sample on the same needle size with each. First I spun merino. I needed a 4-ply to get Aran weight, I had problems spinning this as anything other than lace. In fact the stitch definition was very good, but the sample felt limp and floppy.



Next, I found a welsh X fleece, bouncy with 4-5" staple and a lot coarser! It gave very good results with a solid feel and clear patterns. (It should wear well). I tried carded and combed. The differences were minor.



Sample 3 was commercial Wensleydale roving. I thought that this would give another floppy result, but the sample had more character than I'd expected with the pattern showing nicely. However it shows signs of developing a "halo" and fluffy Arans aren't my goal

Finally, I returned to an old favourite, Oxford Down fleece (this is a typical down breed with short crimp fine wool). This fleece also has canary stain considered a fault, but I like the cream colour that this gave. I spin 3 ply for Aran, partly to get the thickness, but I thought that I'd better test out my assumption that 3-ply gives a rounder yarn and better patterns. Here's a 1-ply sample (this sort of pattern doesn't skew too badly in a single ply)



I can't honestly say that there was that much difference between the 2 and 3 plys, but I find it easier to spin at the right thickness for 3-ply.

This was an interesting experiment which I hope to repeat with any new fleece or roving that comes my way. The welsh cross fleece was surprisingly good. Softer than I expected in the carded sample but looking strong enough to wear for a long time. The Wensleydale sample was also interesting, not as a definitive Aran sweater, but for knitting a much lighter slightly fluffy, drapery sweater...and Wensleydale is renowned for dyeing well.

I found it fascinating to spin and knit the same thing from different fleeces, and see the considerable differences in the results. Perhaps the guild would find it interesting to pool its fleece resources one day and try the same experiment.

