



CLWYD WEB

April 2006

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270



SUBSCRIPTIONS (£15 single/£20 joint) FOR 2006 ARE NOW DUE **Next meetings**

Friday 5th May. Llysfasi have asked for support at the Open Day.....Please contact Joyce

May 21st Wingham Wool Visit. Your opportunity to stock up on prepared fibre, yarns, books and equipment. Bring a wheel to sample all the fibre from the van load that they bring. Bring some money! If you have friends who would like to visit, please let them know that they are very welcome to come along and join us in the afternoon. (Visitors fee is £2. Tea and Coffee are available). The morning is reserved for members so come along good and early. We will be holding this meeting in the portcabins down by the small animal unit at Llysfasi (head left as you come in though the main entrance). (this may be relocated to the canteen!)

May 22nd Spinning Workshop with Wingham Wool. There are some places on this spinning workshop due to cancellations. Please contact Teresa to book. The workshop will also be held in the portcabins (see above)

June 17th Guild Anniversary - Not long now, and we'd really like to see your 21 theme guild challenge pieces by then! More details in the next newsletter.

July 15th. Visit to the Wool Board Depot at Porthmadog. to have pick of new wool clip + either organised visit elsewhere in area p m or afternoon free in Porthmadog. We need to know if there's enough interest in this so please contact Myra or Teresa.

Finally, please note that workshops will have to finish by 3:30pm to leave time to clear up the room. We'd also be grateful if members could bring a cloth, mat or sheet of some sort to put under their work area and make sure that they leave their own bit of floor clear at the end of the day.

Many thanks to everyone who turned out at short notice to help at the Science Fest at NEWI. Though not as busy as in the past there were plenty of punters and quite a lot of interest in our activities. So thanks to Teresa, Betty (and partner) and her great wheel on it's first outing, Jane, and Sarah (and daughter) and Joyce.



Lofty spinning for beads: Freyalyn Close-Hainsworth 18th March 06 Clywd Guild

The turnout for last months spinning meeting was amazing – I don't think I've seen that many wheels jammed into the room before! Myra, has received an email from Freyalynn to say how much she'd enjoyed her day with us & if we'd all had half as good a time as her we'd have had a good day!

Notes from Janet Major.

(note this type of spinning was alien to me and thus I was remedial on the day. I have spent time on this since and consulted some references to help me improve. I hope these notes will help anyone else who found longdraw such a challenge. For anyone who is wondering why I was so hopeless, I count and measure everything in spinning!)

Advantages of longdraw

- Produces light lofty yarn
- Quick spinning
- Good for short Staple fleece

Preparation of fleece

Freya demonstrated carding to produce small lightweight rolags suitable for longdraw

Key features of carding:

- Tease out each staple and just catch on the teeth to give a thin layer on the carders
- Start at bottom edge of carder and overlap staples over the edge
- Build back with a fine layer

- Lightly stroke the teeth with the other carder (if you make a noise you are being too heavy handed)
- Begin by stroking from the outer edge of the fleece catching the tips first moving up to the top of the staples in about three movements.
- When the lumpiness has gone in the carding form a rolag which should be about one inch in diameter and full of air – it should nearly fall apart

Longdraw spinning from rolags

Longdraw creates a yarn called woollen spun (as opposed to worsted).

The wheel needs very little tension.

Front hand should be about 5in from orifice.

Front hand holds yarn about one and a half inches from drafting area, back hand about one and a half inches from front hand.

Treadle (about 5 to 6 times) keeping front thumb + finger tight on yarn + not moving.

Move back hand about one to one and a half inches further back pulling to draft fibres (should feel like stretching Chewing gum) DON'T move the hand back along the rolag, just pull the yarn as it drafts.

Keep moving back hand back, keeping a firm grip on the rolag and relax front fingers- thumb a little to allow some twist into drafting area (you are really pulling back and letting twist in alternately).

Do not feed in yarn to orifice.

Keeping back hand and front hand tight on yarn and treadle 3 to 4 times more

Pull back hand further back (but not letting more of rolag in) gradually and when you stop treadling relax front finger and thumb to let more twist into the drafting area.

Repeat until you have spun about 18 inches of yarn, check that yarn is drafted well then allow yarn into orifice on one more treadle

Repeat from the beginning!

With practice as you treadle and store twist you begin to draft and the whole process is both relaxing and fast and 'as one'

As we became more confident in longdraw, Freya demonstrated how she adds beads onto yarn (using a sewing needle and loop of thread) and also showed us (and modelled) some of her unique creations in woollen-spun yarn and beaded knitting)

From my research:

Mabel Ross notes that approximately 12 treadles per 18 inches is appropriate (but you must decide on the type of yarn needed for a project)

References

Mabel Ross 'Essentials of Handspinning'

Mabel Ross 'Essentials of yarn design for handspinning' table 4 p 112 notes 'twists per inch' for singles of different thicknesses to give 'soft knitting' which I take to be lofty Knitting - which in table 5 is translated into 'treadles per inch' for longdraw

Events

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May 2006 WONDERWOOL WALES! At the Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys (including workshops by Sasha Kagan – see <http://www.glasu.org.uk/wonderwool/>)

Demonstrating at Summer Fairs

Volunteers are urgently needed for this – we usually get many requests and have to restrict ourselves to just a few events.

If you can spare a day (they are great fun – but only if we have enough people there to give everyone a break and a chance to look around the show) please contact Joyce who needs to know NOW whether we can accept any of these invites! (We will try and continue the small incentive of £5 to cover expenses)

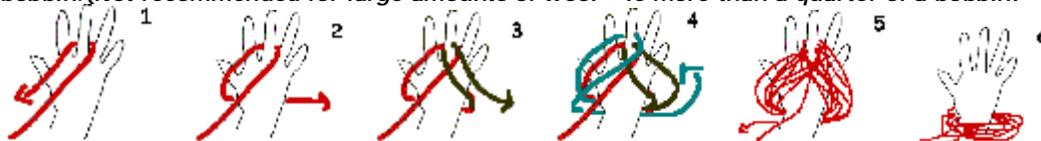
... and don't worry about any lack of experience, Joyce write "I am perhaps unusual in that I demonstrated before I 'learnt.' My sister was a Countryside Ranger at one point and I went along to one of her events ...countryside crafts... and was looking at the natural dyes table and asked how to spin...I was handed a spindle to give it a go and of course after lots of dropping it on the floor with broken threads I managed to spin enough to wrap my thread around the bobbin, as I looked up to confirm that this was what I should do there were quite a few folk watching. I asked Lorna if I should wrap my thread which she confirmed and said to carry on so I did, I continued to spin. Then the questions started....'is it difficult?' (well, I'm getting the hang of it) etc. My favourite question was 'how long have you been spinning?' which I of course answered truthfully 'not long.'"

THE BACK PAGE

Woolcarder and inkle loom for sale. Joyce

Myra recommends a new wool shop in Chester on Godstall Lane. It's called Stash and full of fancy yarns to inspire your spinning, she just missed someone called Helen Probert giving a workshop - they had her yarn there, pure silk (very expensive) - they have website www.celticove.com

ANDEAN PLYING – a useful way of making a 2-ply from a small sample of spun wool or the last bit left on a bobbin. (Not recommended for large amounts of wool – ie more than a quarter of a bobbin!)



0. Disconnect the phone, push the cats out. (left handers will probably find it easier to reverse hands)

1. Let free end dangle or tuck into watchband on left wrist. Take the wool across the palm of your left hand and round the back of the middle finger from right to left.

2. Take the wool round the back of the hand (Don't do this too tight!)

3. Now go across the palm again and round the back of the middle finger from left to right.

4. Go round the back of the hand then repeat from 1.

5. ... until all the wool is wrapped round your left hand. You can think of it as skein where the ends are looped around the middle finger and the skein is all across the back of your hand.

6. Slip the loops off the middle finger and let the yarn lie loosely around your wrist as a bracelet. Take the two ends and you should be able to pull the pair out and ply directly onto a bobbin.



Finally – isn't this great – a carpet commissioned for an airport bridge, showing a map of the area!

<http://here2day.netwiz.net/seyedsite/publicart/flyingcarpet/flyingcarpetframe.html>

Please Contact Chris if you have anything of interest for the newsletter.