



Registered Charity no. 518270

# CLWYD WEB

December 2003

[http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd\\_web](http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web)



## YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2004 ...and here's the programme

### Committee

<b>Chair</b> Myra Ryan
<b>Vice-Chair</b> Teresa Smith
<b>Secretary</b> Jane Jenkins
<b>Treasurer/Newsletter</b> Chris Jordan
<b>Members</b> Rosemary Williams (Program) Joyce Bagnall (Outside Events) Helen Bendon (Grants) Lynn Blanchard Janet Major Sarah Oram

### Meetings

Jan 17	Rugs without a loom! We pool ideas and examples.
Feb 21	Beginners Weaving (Warping inkle, peg, rigid heddle and multi-shaft looms)
Mar 20	P&M Woolcraft visit
Apr 17	Excursion – to be arranged
May 15	Flax Spinning with Ritta Sinkonnen Davies
Jun 19	Textiles of the Golden Triangle. J & D Gaffney
Jul 17	Dyeing Purple at <b>Myras</b>
Aug	At Homes (to be arranged)
Sep 18	3-D felting. Patricia Greaves
Oct 16	Tassels. Jane Nichols
Nov 20	AGM and Christmas Meal (Bring a Plate)

### Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> Dec. EXTRA MEETING at Llysfasi

An Informal get together so bring your current project. We will also be holding a Dutch Auction of some of the Spinning and Weaving items recently left to the Guild. It will also be a good opportunity to renew your subs for next year (£12 each or £18 for Family membership)



**HATS!**  
*There were felt hats, felted hats, knitted hats, crocheted hats, historical hats, first hats, accidental hats, desperate last minute hats, sophisticated hats, unfinished hats. Every hat had a story to tell!  
Next year's challenge is cushions!*

## Notes on October's Feltmaking meeting

With Ann Prince (with help from Joe) and others!

An aide memoir for later feltmaking! *With thanks to Janet Major*

### Needed

Carded fleece/tops eg merino (this is good!)

Bubble wrap - quite long so it can be doubled

Old towels, Rubber gloves, roller - 2 to 3 ft, 70 cm

long - 1 to 1 1/2 in diameter, supermarket bags

/plastic sheet but at least 2 bags. Bits of fleece, yarn etc for decoration, Water sprayer eg plant mister.

### How to make felt

- § Place the plastic sheet/supermarket bags on the table, place the towel on top then the bubble wrap-rough side up.
- § Fill the spray with a squirt of washing up liquid & tepid water, turn nozzle to spray.
- § Pull about 3in of the tops, split in half and then half again. Tease out and begin to make 3 layers of tops. Start at the top & make a row, bits about 3 in long and touching, along their long sides. Then start the second row overlapping the first by a third or a half. Continue like this until the first layer on the shape is complete.
- § For the second layer, make another layer in the same way but at 90° to the first. Repeat with a third row again at 90° to the previous one -this could be coloured &/or decorated.
- § If you wish for a 'sharp' edge on the finished piece you may need to turn the last row to achieve this.

This will give 'thin' felt - for thicker felt another layer could be added.

- § At this stage, spray on tepid soapy (washing up liquid) water- take care with this stage. Press gently and make sure the fibre is wet through .At this stage the fibres should be meshing together. Place the net over the matted fibre and start rubbing in a circular motion & dab with a plastic shopping bag (inside out) over the hand, using more tepid soapy water as needed.
- § Turn over and & through 90° & repeat. The felt will stick to the net so pick the net up now and again. Continue to 'work' until the felt 'pills' through the net.
- § When the felt is looking 'well held together' fold over the other rough side of the bubble wrap, and roll up with a roller- pipe insulation is good for this. The more the rolling the better the finished effect. The felt should be turned over & through 90° as before, with more soapy water as needed.
- § At this stage, pour on very hot water, add the net & continue with more rubbing. As before turn over, through 90°, roll up etc as in the previous stages.

The felt should now be about 40% less than when the process started.

- § Penultimate stage: rub the felt vigorously with the hand on the rough side of the bubble wrap.
- § Finally, rinse well with cold water or if preferred add a small amount of vinegar as this will give a final product with greater preservative properties

**3D effects** - such as an oven glove, can be used with a 'resist' of material such as blue builders plastic. In this case, overlap the first layer of 'tops' top stick out beyond the resist for about one to one and a half inches. Work 2 layers as before. Damp before turning over- trying not to get the protruding fringe wet. Dab with a plastic bag as before and then turn the shape over. Wrap under the wool that is protruding and then repeat with 4 more layers. Continue until 4 layers have been completed. Work with a plastic bag over the hand from the middle outwards, when the wool is 'pilling' through the net, turn over and repeat.

As the felt shrinks the resist shape will wrinkle. Initially the shape can be pulled out but it will become too difficult to straighten eventually. At this stage cut the bottom of the shape and remove the resist. (NB Always give the resist round corners!)

At this stage it might be possible to turn the shape inside out to allow more 'working' of the felt. As before use plenty of 'soapy' water and then very hot/boiling water

**Ideas for using felt** – I cannot do justice to the items that were shown and described. Many thanks to all who contributed. I have noted names so that members who wish to know more can seek out the 'experts'. (Please let me know if I have missed anyone out!)

### Audrey- hats

If you want to know anything about hat making talk to Audrey. She presented an amazing variety of hats and explained how even a flat piece of felt can be made into a beautiful hat. Shapers can be made from newspaper – lots of them – rolled tightly to resemble a tree trunk

Helen – a Monet inspired felt picture and a bag (purple and black!) inspired by Sheila Smith  
Sheila Smith's feltmaking book is recommended

Liz – an Australian coat; a bag, table mats and a flower picture

Ann- slippers (6 layers of merino with the possible addition of a sole stuck on with copydex)  
Picture – barbed needle technique discussed  
3D bags – again inspired by Sheila Smith  
Hats.  
Nuno(?!) silk scarves- chiffon with half felt  
Pleated scarves, cushions