



CLWYD WEB

February 2005



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

SUBSCRIPTIONS (£12 single/£18 joint) FOR 2005 ARE NOW DUE

Feb. 19th Basket Weaving workshop – Please contact Myra by Wed. 16th Feb to book Places!

Events

<p>Sat Mar 19th</p> 	<p>Tapestry with Michael Crompton (Llanbedr Village Hall). 20+ places on this workshop. Please book at the Feb. meeting or contact Myra Llanbedr is a mile or so NE. of Ruthin on the A494. Turn onto the B5429 (CAREFULLY) at sharp bend with imposing church at junction. Village Hall is on the right just behind church.</p> <p>I haven't received the details of what to bring for this yet. If I get them before posting time, I'll include them, otherwise we will distribute them at the Feb. meeting, or you can find out the details when you contact Myra to book your place on the workshop.</p> <p>And if you can, please check out Michael Crompton's website with examples of his work at http://www.tapestryweavers.co.uk/</p>
<p>Sat Apr 16th</p>	<p>Working with silk (esp. spinning) with Priscilla Lowry. Llysfasi No limit on places as far as we know, but again please let us know if you want to take this workshop.</p>
<p>Apr 30 – May 4</p>	<p>Guild exhibition at Erddig Hall (Who's got the 2 new guild boards? We have an easel for one now). Get psyched up for this... we really need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of exhibits, please bring along to April meeting. Eg. Challenge Alpaca, hats, cushions, tassels, nuno felt, from workshops. Bodies, 6 per day – more at weekend but probably get away with fewer during the week. 5days x 6 people = 30 people so if everyone did one day or even part of day we could have a really good turnout. Doesn't matter if you've just started or don't want to spin – we need talkers too!

News

A spinning (and other crafts) group has been started, which meets at Llanbedr Village Hall on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month. Contact Rosemary.

Alston Hall Weekend 1st – 3rd July 2005

Mo Newman will run a workshop on "Tapestry weaving with a difference", you start with a piece of bark.
Lynn Close-Hainsworth will tutor on beaded knitting with the emphasis on spinning yarns for beaded knitting.
These weekends come highly recommended by Jane J. and Joyce (especially the food). Details will be available at the Feb. meeting or contact the organisers.

Nuno Felt Making Workshop: Ann (& Jo) Prince
(by Janet Major)



Materials:

Base – alternatives: Silk chiffon (dyed before or after)
Light weight cotton – with a fine open weave,
Cotton muslin, Synthetics Synthetic nylon nets,
Fine nets, light weight silk
Others, just experiment.

Net to lay onto the 'felt'.

For the felt - Merino tops – but try other wool.

Additions - Silk, glitter, anything you wish to experiment with – these are more secure if a fine layer of fibres is put on top of them to hold them in place

Note:

- Shrinkage may be up to 50%
- Interesting shapes form on the 'reverse' which could become the 'right side'
- The completed textile can be embellished with embroidery etc



The process

Lay towel on the work surface Lay out the bubble wrap (bamboo mat can be used but more likely to catch on the fine fibres). Wet

the base material (muslin) and stretch it out on the mat. Pull out lengths of tops (merino) and lay onto the muslin in the chosen pattern or randomly. Gently put the net on top of the fibres, wet with cold water (with a good squirt of washing up liquid added). Rub over the fibres with a screwed up plastic bag – this will force the water through the fibres to wet them fully. Repeat with more water and more rubbing.

Lift the net, by very gently peeling. Add materials as decoration – either on top of the wool or on top of the base material (in which case cover them with a fine layer of wool fibres over the top).

Fold over the bubble wrap and rub again, Turn and rub again. Repeat a few times. (Caution: Keep lifting the net to check that the fibres are not felted onto this!) If necessary, add more water. After a while, wrap the bubble wrap round a roller and roll. Repeat after turning. Do this for at least 5 minutes. Remember to keep lifting the net to stop the fibres felting to it.

Maintain this until when the fibres have felted through the muslin. Check by turning over the muslin and pinching to check that the fibres have come through). When the fibres have come through the back, fold the backing material & attached felt into a package.

Place in warm to hot water and throw it down hard onto the mat a few times. This will shock the fibre into felting.

(Ed: I did this with my felt hat – great fun!) Wash the material in hotter water and soap, fold the muslin up and throw as before. The fibres will shrink and pull in the backing material. When this has shrunk sufficiently, rinse the soap out. Leave the nuno felt to dry. (Iron very carefully if really needed)



The Back Page

To go with spring and willow basketry – this is from a Danish basket group member. Cita Steinmeier
Catkin Snaps

(I've left the spelling as part of the flavour)

Snaps in Danish is a spirit made on potatoes (the German makes something alike on wheat). It hasn't got the rich taste of fi. whisky or other strong spirits, so different herbs are added. Most of these brews are bitter but this catkins adds in something pleasantly mild with a little sweetness and flavour of nuts and flowers As Snaps might be hard to find abroad, plain vodka will do fine. Seek out a willow with a particular nice smell and look out for the time when the catkins are most filled with yellow pollen/flowerdust. Use a glass or other with a cap that screws on tightly. Fill the glass halfway up with catkins and then some for good measure. Take care to get as much flowerdust as possible. Fill up with vodka, screw the cap on tight and let the whole thing rest for 2 weeks. If you have to store it cold, add a couple of extra days before the next step.

Pour the Catkin Snaps trough a cloth or paper coffeefilter and then into a nice bottle with a tight cork or cap.

Serve in small glasses with a cold beer on the side to accompnay a cold dish. (Do not chill the Snaps - you will not get the full taste of it then).

While I am at willow and vodka, willow is a natural painkiller known and used for centuries:

Willow contains salicin which metabolizes into acetylsalicylic acid in the human body. Acetylsalicylic acid is a painkiller and reduces inflammation and fever. Acetylsalicylic acid is the active component of Aspirin.

How much salicin there is in the catkins I have no idea, but I guess that there is only a small amount if any - it has no such effect on me. But I have tried out an old recipee for a painkilling draught (being both curoious, a willow-nerd and a nurse sometimes takes the strangest courses):

Young willow twigs are harvested in May. White willow is traditionally used, but others will do as well (though the smallest amount of acetylsalicylic acid is found in the purpurea types of willow). 1 part willow twigs goes into 4 parts of vodka or snaps. Rests for at least 14 days, is sieved and bottled.

To relieve back pain, muscle aches, menstruation cramps or other "smaller pains", I have found that 1½-2 cl. of the willow-vodka brings me the same relive as the two 500 mgs Aspirin that I normally take, when a mild painkiller is nessesary. It might be tha alcohol, but the willow-vodka works better on my menstruation cramps as does Aspirin.

I take the same precautions as with Aspirin:

- 500-100 mg/1-2 cl of Aspirin/willow-vodka maximum 4 times a day.

- No Aspirin/willow-vodka when I have a tummy-ache and/or have not been able to eat normally (fi. stomach-flus).

- As there is spirit involved, I do not take it before driving or the like.

I would not dream of giving my children spirtis, but just that you know: the liver of children under the age of 15 is to immature to effeciently break down and excrude the components of Aspirin, so the willow-vodka is absolutely out of options for children. Your experiments are solely your responsibility, but if you want to learn more, this is a very estensive site:

http://www.herbalicious.com/herb_WHITE_WILLOW_BARK.html

For sale

- **Ashford traditional £80 contact Lynn Blanchard.**
- **Mali spindles with a small pack of washed superfine ready to card or comb and. You'll only need a few ounces for that wedding ring shawl! Available at Feb meeting with any luck, from Chris £5**
- **Free to a good home 42" Maxwell Floor Loom, many extras. Contact Jenny Diffey (Medway)**