



CLWYD WEB

January 2005



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

*(You haven't missed a newsletter – I didn't manage to get one out in time for the December meeting!)
(Next newsletter should be available at the February meeting)*

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

Committee

2005

Programme

Chair Myra Ryan		Jan 15	Nuno Felt with Anne Prince
Vice-Chair Teresa Smith		Feb 19	Basket weaving with Mandy Coates
Secretary Jane Jenkins		Mar 19	Tapestry with Michael Crompton (Llanbedr Hall).
Treasurer/Newsletter Chris Jordan		Apr 16	Working with silk (esp. spinning) with Priscilla Lowry
Members Rosemary Williams (Program) Joyce Bagnall (Outside Events) Helen Bendon (Grants) Lynn Blanchard Janet Major (archivist) Janet Strivens		Apr 30 – May 4	Guild exhibition at Erddig Hall
		Jun 18	Dyeing day at Myras
		Jul 16	Show and Tell
		Aug	At Homes (to be arranged)
		Sep 17	Visit from the Wool Board (TBA)
		Oct 15	Fine and Fancy yarn spinning
		Nov 19	AGM and Christmas Meal (Bring a Plate)

AGM

In spite of the threat of snow, we had a very good turnout for the AGM and we got through the agenda with speed and efficiency. Loads of thanks go to Teresa who took the chair at short notice! (Myra sent apologies but had a serious date clash).

Since it's now January, and I've managed to lose all my notes from November!! THIS WILL BE BRIEF (and thanks to Janet Major for loan of her notes).

Over the summer break and up to the May exhibition, we are supported by an Arts Council of Wales Grant. This means that we have a really excellent programme of meetings set up. We've already been inspired by felt hats and tassels. This year we have delicate Nuno felting, basketry, tapestry weaving and Silk work lined up. After the exhibition we have a dyeing day at Myra's (by popular request) and have persuaded Joyce Bagnall and Janet Major to pass on some spinning ideas that they've brought back from recent workshops. Spinners may also be interested in the Wool Board visit – last time we organised this, we had a fascinating talk in a room surrounded by a van load of fleece (all white!)

For the May Bank Holiday week we all need to get girded up for our exhibition. We hold this every 2 years and this year is (probably) an anniversary year (20) for the guild and for the Association itself (50) We will need to have people at Erddig (well worth seeing anyway) for a whole 5 days, though the Bank Holiday weekend will be the busiest time. We will be there at the same time as the

"Countryside event" which brought in thousands of people last year!). I'm rather rashly going to try to bring a reasonable size loom along warped and set up to go. (If my old folding floor loom will fit in the car!) I'd be interested to have some help from the spinners and weavers to do a sheep to shawl or at least sheep to scarf. With this massive effort, we will try to not to overdo the demoing next year but if people are willing, we will certainly be invited to:

Llysfasi Open Day, Wrexham Science Festival, Cilcain (for the Craft Group), Ruthin and the Flint & Denbigh Show. We have also been invited to do a sheep to jumper at Northop in Sept.

Those of you at the AGM will know that we have 100 gm (4oz) bags of white carded alpaca from Celia for this year's guild challenge. We're asking for a £1 contribution for the bag, and the challenge is to do something interesting with it! (Other fibres can be added). Spinners can spin it, dyers can dye it (acid dyes) felters can make felt. The possibilities are endless. More Alpaca should be available at the Saturday meetings or from Joyce directly.

Our 2005 committee remains much the same, though Sara Workman has had to resign and we welcome Janet Strivens to the sheepfold. (Note – if anyone knows a friendly accountant who would be willing to audit our books next October, please let us know.) June is standing down as librarian after many years – many thanks. The library is now scattered around various members, we will try to bring the appropriate books to workshops.

Myra has the dyeing books, Chris has weaving, and Janet Miscellaneous. Our hire equipment is also scattered but we will try and get a current list produced for books and equipment.

There are no official trips scheduled for next year, but we discussed informal outings to the Gaffney's shop in Shropshire, a canal, Texere in Bradford, The Piece Hall, Halifax (together perhaps) and the Masham Sheep Fair.

The Association's Summer School is in Chester this summer. The programme looks interesting. (Jane Jenkins has details) but you'll need to apply soon as they allocate places this month.



This years challenge was cushions and very impressive they were too. Hopefully we can see them all again at the exhibition.

I've lost my notes (of course) – but I remember felting, weaving from hand grown. hackled (etc) linen, first woven piece from a new loom, knitted and more. Mine got forgotten and left at home! (I detect a theme here).

Sat. January 15th Nuno Felting with Anne Prince

Anne suggests we bring the following items (don't worry if you can't find everything – we can share). Couple of towels, bubble wrap and netting to cover work. Jug (water bottle) and soap (washing up liquid.) Wooden roller or dowelling, plastic carrier bags. Merino wool for felting (or maybe some of that alpaca). Cotton muslin or cheesecloth or an open weave synthetic to felt onto (or if you want to risk starting at the pricey end, silk chiffon). Decorations – threads, pre-felt, muslin or silk pieces and perhaps some plastic to protect the floor where you're working.

Feb. 19th Basket Weaving with Mandy Coates

You don't really need to bring much for this but if you have GOOD SHARP pair of secateurs, bring them along. A small sharp knife and an apron might also be useful and perhaps a plant mister. Mandy will be bringing enough willow, but if you have some flexible twigs in the garden, in interesting colours or textures please bring them e.g. dogwood, ornamental willow, larch, lime twigs.

Finally, there's a form included for claiming demo expenses (this is a payment of £5 for demoing with the guild during the period of the Grant - 1st June 04 to 31st May 05)

The Back Page

I seem to have developed a new obsession – spindle whorls on e-bay. You'd be amazed at the "research" you can do on the history of spinning from the discomfort of a computer seat. So here in one column is a complete history of spinning on a spindle whorl from the reliable in depth descriptions of antiquities dealers on e-bay.



This must be the oldest seen so far: Sumerian. A black steatite stone ca 3000 - 4000 BC. From the Euphrates Valley.



1500 BC from Cambodia



Roman Spindle Whorls C.100 AD. Found in Syria. Lathe turned bone.



Roman Lead whorls from NE England.



Precolumbian (S. America)



Salt-Glazed Ceramic Stoneware, Circa AD 1500 - 1700. German origin.



Antique clay whorl from Mali. Spindle whorls can be found strung together and placed on a wall next to the front door in order to protect from the evil eye



Which brings us to the near present (or Christmas present) my string of vintage Mali whorls to protect from the evil eye!