



# CLWYD WEB

July/August 2004



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

Registered Charity no. 518270

## Next Meetings

<p><b>August At homes</b> (Contact the host for directions)</p> <p><b>Shows (contact Joyce to volunteer or for more info.)</b></p>	<p><b>Monday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> Janet Strivens</b> <b>Saturday Sep 4<sup>th</sup> NORWEFT open day with Celia Berry</b></p> <p><b>Llanarmon yn Ial 14th August</b> <b>Flint &amp; Denbigh 19<sup>th</sup> August</b> <b>Ruthin 21<sup>st</sup> August</b> <b>Cilcain 30<sup>th</sup> August ?</b></p> <p><b>Association of Guilds of WSD National exhibition. August 1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup></b> (We have 3 items selected for this , a silk scarf by Myra, a knitted lace shawl by Janet M. and a rug By Chris.)</p>
<p><b>Sept 18<sup>th</sup></b></p>  <p><b>Felt bowl by Pat Greaves from</b> <a href="http://www.art-felt.com">http://www.art-felt.com</a></p>	<p><b>3-D felting with Pat Greaves - Hats or vessels..... or imaginative object!</b> <b>!!! at Llanbedr Village Hall !!!</b> (Llanbedr is a mile or so out of Ruthin on the A494 to Mold. It looks like the village hall can be found by taking the B5429 at Llanbedr then taking a right turn into the village. The hall should be on the right.)</p> <p>Please bring - towels - one large towel, and a hand towel, piece of net or plastic dry cleaning bag. Bowl - small washing up bowl for rinsing felt in. Rubber gloves Felting mat or Bubble wrap size depends on what you want to make - but bear in mind felt shrinks during the making process. Firm but soft plastic pieces, for resist material (the sort they wrap up books etc in /under floor pre laminate. Scissors that you wont mind cutting wet wool with. Hat block if you want to make a hat! or an interesting shape bowl or plant pot..for a hat or a vessel (I have 3 blocks only). Length of dowel / plastic insulation pipe or broom handle, for rolling. Soap or detergent and a small plastic drinks bottle with punctured holes in the lid. 2 plastic carrier bags from supermarket. (Felting needles - will be available to purchase from the tutor) Sketch book/note book, pictures/magazines or photos of fish, animals, people - whatever your particular enthusiasm is. Materials that you will need for the course: Wool for felting – tutor will bring some, or can be sourced independently (64s merino tops/slivers or carded botany lambswool) Coloured merino tops - enough to make a couple of metres of flat felt.....approximately 200 grams of wool for basic form - or carded wool of any reasonable "felting " quality...botany, jacob, shetland, falkland, blue faced leicester, norwegian..... Sheet/s (30cm sq) of Pre made/ part felt ...very lightly felted fibres - no more than two or three layers could be useful - but don't worry because we will make some. Variety of "bits" and pieces incl multi-coloured wools like Wensleydale or waste silk fibre or threads. If you are going to explore nuno feltmaking within the course an open weave cotton fabric such as muslin or cotton. Collect wools, threads, fibres and fabrics that you like and may wish to combine into felt</p> <p>Patricia will have multiples of all the above if you need to borrow or buy them during the course. (including hat blocks - but you may have to be flexible on size). We will initially start off making a small form and this will help people rationalise and design the main project</p>

**Whitemere with the No. Shropshire Guild from Joyce.** I thought I should report that we had a great day out (as usual I gather) I set off in glorious sunshine in my shorts but by the time I'd dropped Elinor at school, Edward at work, been to the bank (I knew Fiona Nesbit would be there) I arrived at Whitemere in the rain feeling rather silly and somewhat chilly! No problems though as we were received (revived) with a nice cup of tea and there was a flurry of activity as wheels etc were hastily brought inside. Around 10 Clwyd folk attended, much spinning, gossiping and general exchange of info went on. We were fed superbly at lunch time, I was particularly impressed with the buckwheat salad. I came home with some interesting bobbins of silk and alpaca.

**Bring and Buy Stall** The committee are hoping to revive the guild's "For Sale" stall during meetings. This will be for members to sell plants/books/produce/spare equipment with 50p or a pound going to guild funds.

**Demoing Expenses.** As part of our Art's Council Grant we'll be trying to educate and interest people in our work. **While funds last (i.e. during the grant period which runs until next May)** we've decided that a contribution of £5 can be made to help with the costs of demoing. This should help with petrol and/or the price of a sandwich! (pp the treasurer reserves the right to review the situation during the year and notes that claiming isn't obligatory J )

**Visit to the Guild by J Gaffney on Jun 19<sup>th</sup> 04**  
**'Textiles of the Golden Triangle'- Notes by Janet Major**

The Golden Triangle is where three countries – Thailand, Laos & Burma meet. The area is the size of Western Europe and is so called due to the wealth once made from the opium trade. It is a large region covering 20 (or 40!) different languages, depending on the definition. There are many different tribes ( these being defined as a nationality without a country & these have many skills, particularly craft skills that are specific to the tribe. Frequently there are several tribes in the same area and they get on well with little or no trouble. They are virtually self sufficient with 90% of their needs met by what they themselves can get together. Jim talked about 4 tribes, living at about 6-7000ft above sea level. They tend to live in forests, which feel like the perfect summer, apart from the wet season. Carrots, potatoes & apples grow well.

**Karen.** This is the biggest tribe numbering about 400,000. The houses are on stilts with agricultural implements kept below. They are called the 'weaving people' and we were shown slides of the use of a 'backstrap loom'. Although the people still prepare hemp themselves, cotton ( and dyes) are now bought in from China. The people are very keen on embroidery & ikat textiles with tie – dyed warps

**Akha.** This tribe lives in the top mountain regions. They are very spiritual and can be recognised by the characteristic bamboo thatch of their houses & Akha baskets which they carry. Many of their textiles are embellished with nickel discs, beads & cowry shells (usually part of a dowry). Members of this tribe sell their wares in night markets, lower down the mountain & some of the children are now going to school.

**Yao.** This tribe is nomadic, moving every 10 – 12 years. They tend to live in a clearing in the jungle. They operate a slash & burn policy & then grow crops (including lychees) next to the settlement. Once they have moved on the ground will return to jungle in 10-15 years. When they move, which takes about 4 days, the actual house is taken also. Their house is at ground level and their textiles are characterised by fine embroidery – with a lot of cross stitch & holbein stitch. This is accompanied by much jewellery. Their dress includes a turban – about 7 ft long.

**Hmong.** This tribe, related to the Meow – Chinese people, straddles several countries. Their houses have corrugated iron roofs & the settlement is well organised. They have a very healthy diet & are a very healthy people. The embroidery is 'slightly chinese'. There is no TV and embroidery is a lot of the social life. Often each child has one design and these are held by the child to bring good luck. Hand me downs are not common! Hemp is used for batik , rather than cotton. The wax for this is gathered from wild bees & once gathered is re-used.

Jim brought marvellous examples of the textile work of each tribe for us to examine in detail. We were in awe of the quality – particularly given the conditions the items were made under. Jim's collection of textiles from these tribes ( & others in the area) for sale was fantastic. Many of us had to reach for the 'plastic' and we noted his address and the fact that there is a café above and good walking in the area. I expect he will get many visitors from the Guild over the summer.

Textile Techniques, 37 High Street, Bishop's Castle,  
Shropshire SY9 5BE 01588 638712

[www.textiletechniques.co.uk](http://www.textiletechniques.co.uk)

**At Homes Directions**

Please contact hosts for these.