



Registered Charity no. 518270

CLWYD WEB

July 2003

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web



August at Homes: *(Contact the host for directions)*

During August everyone is invited to informal meetings held in members' homes. The meetings are for the normal 10-ish to 4-ish times (please bring some food to share).

Sat. 1st, Myra. Indigo dyeing session, bring any fibre, animal or vegetable (maybe not mineral) and yellows to overdye for greens)

Mon. 11th, Teresa

Mon. 18th, Barbara C.

Sat 23rd, Jane J.

September 20th. Shetland knitting with Angela

Hawkins. I don't have any details about this, so just in case this is the last newsletter before the meeting, I'd suggest we all turn up with paper (squared if possible), (colour) pencils, knitting needles and any suitable wool (we maybe can pool this).

The Guild send their best wishes to **Barbara R.** who is recovering from a major operation (in Broadgreen). Some members have visited and at the last report, she looked very well considering and is quite stoic. She hopes to be allowed on to the ward in the next day or so (she can't have flowers in the high dependency unit).

June Meeting: Natural Dyeing for Greens

Many thanks to Myra for providing such good weather and abundance of plants (a cunning plan maybe to reduce the nettle patch!) for a natural dyeing day.

Here are some useful notes from Janet and Myra.

Before you start: Find rubber gloves, an apron and a nice day to dye outside. Tie hanks etc with bright acrylic yarn (or any man made fibre that won't take up the dye) and note your coding system if you are dyeing yarn from different fleeces.

With only 3 natural dyes you can get the complete range of colours – colourfast and reliable are:
weld → yellows woad → blues madder → reds

Amounts of dye material: A useful rule of thumb is that 100% of dyestuff is needed, compared to the mass of the dry wool.

What to use in the place of 'less desirable' chemicals for mordants and colour modifiers:

Alum is acceptable. Copper sulphate can be replaced by citric acid. Iron sulphate (Iron tablets) or use iron water

(rusty iron/nails left in water for 2/3 wks or make solution from iron sulphate crystals. Washing soda will give an alkaline solution. (Research has shown that 'recipes' using 20/25g of alum per 100g of wool can be reduced to 8g and still work if 7g of cream of tartar is used)

Getting started:

Wash the wool well and make sure it is well wetted (I cant emphasise this enough to get good take up of colour and to get even results).

2 sorts of plant material are likely to be needed for successful dyeing – a mordant to allow the dye to 'bite' and the dye itself. So get both going:

Choose your plant material – chop up, cover with water and bring to the boil slowly (about 30-45 mins). Allow to simmer for another 30-45 mins. Do not rush this stage. The method is basically the same for the mordanting and the dyeing. It is essential to avoid any changes in temperature. If there is a sudden change in temperature then you are likely to have felt!

Once the mordant bath or the dye bath has simmered for half an hour strain off the plant material and reduce the temperature so that you can comfortably put your hand in. Add the wool – noting the comments about no sudden change in temperature, bring to the boil (half an hour) and simmer again for at least half an hour.

A mordant – rhubarb leaves are a good source of oxalic acid. Beware this is very poisonous!

Dye materials tried on the day to give greens / greeny browns: Fennel (with 1 tsp soda at the end as a modifier – this takes yellow hues to a more green shade), comfrey (with 1 tsp soda at the end as a modifier), then iron water (use of an iron pan!), elder, nettle, oak shavings.



Afonwen Exhibition

Room 1



From Myra:

I'd like to say a big thank you to all those who contributed to the success of our exhibition, I thought the standard and quality of the work was inspiring and that we did ourselves proud. I really enjoyed my day stewarding and demonstrating, the only disappointing aspect was the number of visitors but that was out of our hands, next time we will be at Erddig and that shouldn't be a problem as they have over a 1000 visitors a day. Especial thanks to the committee for all their hard work in all the pre-exhibition planning and preparation and to Teresa, Helen, Rosemary and Jane who displayed everyone's work so beautifully (and to Jo and Ann who came to deliver their exhibits and found themselves helping too!) Carol provided the mannequins which added an extra dimension (*Ed: Is that a joke Myra?*) and displayed Sarah's bodice to perfection, there should be a special prize perhaps for Sarah who as a new member provided the most individual exhibits, so well done to her and our other new members who displayed their work. Thanks to all those who gave up their day to man the exhibition we couldn't do it without you.

Room 2



From Jane:

Saturday - Guild Members present: Jane J, Sarah & Shirley, May, Barbara C., June McL, Audrey G., Gill Willcock. We got off to a quiet start but things livened up after midday. The hot weather probably acted against us - most people were in their gardens or heading down the coast! However as well as providing an interesting display for visitors, for me it was a good opportunity to admire other Members' work much of which we never get to see at meetings - a mega 'show & tell'! For most of the time we were able to have 2 spinners working on wheels in each room, + Gill demonstrating high tech spinning on CD spindle! The highlight of the day was Audrey G., glamorous in a stunning felt hat, demonstrating the Great Wheel in the Cafe courtyard much to the fascination of public & Guild Members alike! The 2 spindle kits were sold, which left us with the promise of 2 potential new members for the Autumn. We shall have to wait & see.

The Back Page: *Chopped boiled Eucalyptus leaves (on wool mordanted with a minimum amount of alum) gives a strong slightly greenish yellow, and a sage green when a few rusty nails are added. It also leaves a smell in the kitchen that would lift varnish! Marjoram gives a reasonable mid yellow and a good green with the rusty nails (and a rather savoury kitchen. Finally, St. Johns' Wort, flowers from a large flowered variety gave a slight tinge of creamy yellow, and a very pale grey green with rusty nails. It looks like the book was right on this one, when it said to use hypericum perforatum.*