



Registered Charity no. 518270

CLWYD WEB

June 2003

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web



Jul 12th/13th. Annual Exhibition at Afonwen.

August: At Homes

New members to welcome:

Gill Wilcock. Connah's Quay

Annabel Walker. Barmouth

Amanda Hone. Trawsfynydd

May meeting We had a very good turnout last month to hear Olwen Veevers talk about Coloured Sheep. It could have been depressing to hear how little wool (of any colour) is valued these days, but Olwen's talk of her path through selling fleece, setting up a carding service and her final forays into felt showed what magical things you could do. (The teddy bears should be an inspiration – perhaps even the next guild challenge!) A fascinating talk and Olwen's bags of fleece were certainly snapped up fast.

Erddig Country Crafts Day. Erddig have written to thank us, apparently there were 1398 visitors lots of positive comments, and they hope to stage this again next year.

Another weaver, (this time I can spell her name) **Judith Ross Kirkham**, has a loom looking for a good home. It's a heavyweight 4 shaft floor loom with a 45" weaving width and would make a good rug loom. It's stored in an outbuilding that's to be demolished and needs cleaning and perhaps some renovation. Judith needs the space by the end of July and is looking for a donation towards renovation work at her local cat sanctuary (£100 suggested and for that you'll also get a weaving bench and any other bits and pieces that go with the loom).

A new member to the group – Amanda Hone took home a spindle from our last meeting and is now interested in getting hold of a **fleece**. If anyone has sheared recently and has something that would inspire a beginner, please contact her.

Sasha Kagan's 'Design from Nature' workshop – Janet Major

On Sunday June 8th, June, Rosemary and Janet joined Ceridigion Guild for this workshop just outside Aberaeron. All of us took the opportunity to enjoy this area on the way to the event; June and Rosemary having a 3 day break and Janet (& her husband) looking for, and seeing, red kites. Sunday arrived and it was the workshop. All together there were about 25 of us in a farm at Pantyrone, home of one of the Ceredigion Guild. It was great to meet people from a variety of Welsh Guilds. After a welcoming coffee, we were all encouraged to try on one of Sasha's many garments that were on display and form a group photo. (I couldn't add up the value of all the garments she had brought with her - but £250 to £400 seemed to be the average price for each one.) It was good to be able to look inside them! The finishing and edgings are exceptional and I picked up many tips about this and will look at her books with a keener eye on edging detail in future. We then had a slide show where Sasha talked through her design history and showed much of her garden, which provides so much inspiration. Then it was our turn - walking round the garden to collect stimulus material for our own design swatch. Before lunch we turned this into a 'design' on graph paper as Sasha came round and encouraged us, helping out and adding her touch to our shapes. After lunch we needed to add colour and then knit the swatch - all before 4pm. Sasha was patience itself, helping each of us to 'knit in' the carried yarns to enable the back to be as good as the front. This was a real trial to me - and challenge to Sasha - as I have taught myself to knit the continental method. (Previously, I have had to stop knitting the normal way due to 'repetitive strain' type problems with my right hand!). Fortunately I wasn't the only anomalous knitter! Well 4.15pm came and we could see what our swatches were looking like. It was a wonderful day and to me it is just a start of what I could do! I finished my swatch coming home in the car - I wasn't driving! I'm going to work on the design (and those of others!) and it has definitely been an

inspiration for what I can do in the future. I'd like to thank Joyce for doing all the early arrangements and for Rosemary and June for their good company on the day. We laughed our way through!

The Back Page!

Dyeing Savoury Greens:

I thought that I'd better prepare for this month's meeting, natural dyeing, by doing some revision. We need to dye greens for the All Wales Exhibition, so what could I get from the garden in a hurry. Traditional Scottish Dyes by Jean Fraser lists Birch, Bracken and Privet, no problem, except that when I look, the birch is birch bark, the privet uses berries and the Bracken calls for Chrome mordant. Perhaps I could use Cow Parsley with Copper Sulphate - I suppose I could always add some copper wire. Elder leaves or Nettles, now that looks possible, and I'm sure that I've seen hops in a hedge on the way to work! Let's try A Dyers Garden by Rita Buchanan (nice book), sunflowers (good strong greens) and St. John's Wort, but I need flower heads for both and it's too early. Maybe purple basil with ammonia dip or Bronze Fennel (with alum and iron). I'm sure it won't be missed and a good trim should stop it seeding everywhere.

Finally a web search gives me Rosemary, so perhaps I'll do my wool in a "bouquet garni" of basil, fennel and rosemary, with some nettle and hop shoot puree thrown in. Sounds good enough to eat?

Making CD spindles – a tale of mismatched sizes.

For every spindle you'll need:- 2 CDs, about a foot of 3/8" dowelling (variously labelled 9 or 10 mm), a grommet and optionally a small screw-in hook. First the grommet. The hole in a CD is 15mm across, and 3/8" dowelling is a breath over 9.5mm. The ideal grommet would therefore be ~10 mm ID and 15mm OD (inside and outside diameters). Such things don't seem to exist so you have to make do with the closest you can get. My friendly engineers suggested cutting down an oversize grommet, so this is one solution! The nearest grommet size that I could easily order seems to be 14.3mm OD, 11.1 mm ID. This fits into a 2 CD pair nicely but is a bit loose on the dowelling. I have 100 of these and probably 50 of the larger ones, just let me know if you want any!

Put 2 CDs together with the most attractive sides showing and work the grommet into the hole. (It may help to soak it in hot water for a few minutes.



Now take the dowelling. This is sold in 2.4m lengths at a bit over a £1 so you can make 6 x 400mm shafts or 4 x 600mm. shafts. Either length works fine. Cut to length, sand any roughness away, and if you're not mass-producing several dozen, round off one end smoothly. Make a small starter hole in the other end and screw in the hook. (Alternatively sand around this end as well and cut a notch 10mm from the end to save buying a hook.)

*To assemble, take a length of starter yarn, and tie tightly several times around the dowelling about 60mm from the hook end. Thread the yarn through the hole in the CD and slide the CD down the dowelling and yarn from the hookless end to meet the loops of yarn. You can adjust the thickness of the starter yarn to take up some of the slackness in the fit between the CD and shaft or wrap the shaft with some tape. **Voila!** – total cost around 35p.*

Navaho Spindles can be made with about 800mm of the next size of dowelling and a stack of CDs – 8 (in 4 pairs) seems about right.