



CLWYD WEB

March 2009

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

Mar 21	Soft Basketry with natural materials with Averil Otiv (Fully Booked) Please remember to bring your workshop fee) Other useful tools – sharp scissors, large eyed needles. Waxed linen or other nice thread, and all the plant materials that you've collected. If they've got very brittle, wet them, and wrap them in damp newspaper overnight.
Apr 4 (Saturday)	Scientriffic at Glyndwr University Wrexham (aka NEWI) See below
Apr 18	Guild Friendship Day. Llandegla Village Hall We'll have stands from our own members with jewellery, buttons, alpaca, natural dyed threads and fibre, baskets. Also the Mulberry Dyer and other fibre producers. Books, bring and buy, raffle (if you have any raffle prizes that you'd like to donate contact Isabelle) and much more.....
May 16	Dyeing synthetics (canteen)

Annual Subs (unchanged at £15, joint membership £20) due now.... This will be your last paper newsletter unless you've paid up! If you get this by email and would like to continue receiving it, let me know and I can add you to my guild_information list.

We are looking for volunteers for Scientriffic at Glyndwr University, Wrexham (a rebadged NEWI). The event is for families with kids of all ages, and lasts from 10am – 4pm Saturday 4th April. We need to provide some demonstrating but more importantly something for people to try out. In the past we've done Indigo dyeing, felting, peg looms etc. See Teresa if you can help. A busy day but very worth while.

Could you try and get together your bags of fibre for this meeting or May at THE VERY LATEST (100gms or 4oz of some intriguing raw materials – no synthetics please) so they can be handed out in good time. They will be anonymised by Teresa's daughter, and the challenge is to create something from you lucky dip bag which will surprise (and hopefully please) the person who provided it when you return the results at the end of the year.

Gresford festival of Quilts and Craft show. Teresa can collect pieces to show for this exhibition. Need to be handed in by May meeting for exhibition in early June.

THE BACKPAGE

For Sale: Twice washed Mohair.

Sue Webster has emailed that Ceredigion guild has put together a good fleece guide of 19 mostly local suppliers whose fibre and fleeces their members have tried and enjoyed. I've attached a copy - maybe we should do the same for our area.

*George Williamson from the Bishopston Trading Company writes:
We are a Fair Trade company specialising in organic and Fairtrade certified cotton products, including cotton cloth by the metre which is available to both retail and wholesale customers. Bishopston Trading Company grew out of a twinning link between a village in South India, KVKuppam, and this area of Bristol, Bishopston. The twinning link began in 1978 by funding social development projects in KVKuppam; however, after several years it was clear that actually one of the greatest needs of the village and its surrounding area was for long-term stable employment. This is an area of India with a long tradition of very high quality cotton hand-loom weaving, and so my boss Carolyn Whitwell set up the Bishopston Trading Company as a way of providing well-remunerated and skilled jobs to the people in the area who were struggling to put their weaving skills to economically productive use. We now provide employment to 300 or so tailors and about 100 handloom weavers, as well as embroiders, screen printers, administrators etc. All the cotton we use is Fairtrade certified (so it carries the well-known mark) and it is organic. Last month I visited the village for the first time. It was particularly moving spending time with the weavers. They have been subjugated for many years by the ruling*

classes in the villages, and only recently gained economic independence through taking advantage of a government scheme under the advice of our general manager there. The scheme basically encourages and supports rural crafts-people to form themselves into what are known as Self-Help Groups, small cooperatives that organise themselves democratically and save a certain percentage of their earnings to ensure their long-term security. It brought tears to the eyes to hear how they had previously been treated and then hear how happy they were to be successfully running their own businesses and producing an extremely high quality product at the same time. Both myself and my boss returned to the UK absolutely determined to increase our orders with the weavers and ensure they can continue to work their own way out of poverty by utilising their traditional craft-skills. We use their handloom cotton cloth for most of the clothes we produce and sell in our own four shops and online, as well as in other Fair Trade shops around the country. However, we are keen to promote the cloth as a product in itself that socially and environmentally engaged crafts-people here in the UK can purchase and use in their own work. We sell a range of colours in our shops and online. In terms of buying the cloth wholesale it is currently available in two main weights: traditional South Indian handloom, this is a 40/40 shirting weight, currently £2.55/m, and in a slightly heavier calico (we use this for trousers and winter shirts, it's very flexible), currently £2.70/m. In the summer we also have a lawn weight cotton cloth. In the next couple of months we hope to have several weights of denim available as well – our partners in South India with whom we've worked on a Fair Trade basis for 24 years, are currently setting up a new powerloom weaving society. Please see our website for further details, <http://www.bishopstontrading.co.uk/wholesale/wholesalefabric.php>. This page explains about forward ordering; however, we currently have some handloom and lawn weight cotton in stock available to wholesale customers. I am happy to send out swatches and samples. If you are interested in purchasing the cloth on a retail basis please visit http://www.bishopstontrading.co.uk/shop/products.php?category_id=112&page=1 where we sell handloom, lawn, baby-cord and velvet - all perfect for craft-work. If you have any questions about us or our products please feel free to get in touch. If you know other crafts-people who you think may be interested please forward this to them. Many thanks and best wishes

George Williams

Wholesale Assistant, Bishopston Trading Company, 193 Gloucester Road, Bishopston
Bristol BS7 8BG Tel:0117 9245598 web: www.bishopstontrading.co.uk

<http://greenupgrader.com/2138/handspun-recycled-newspaper-yarn/#more-2138> From an article on

*Please Contact Chris if you have anything of
interest for the newsletter.*