Meetings and Events

May 19th	**Felting Workshop with Melanie Baugh (booking required please contact Yvonne)** Melanie will bring the wool tops and should have enough matting, bubble wrap and soap. The wool tops will be in 25g-50g packs so that everyone can buy what they like and get a mixture of colours if they want. She'll also bring some silk and paints so that people can colour their own piece to make some nuno felt. If there's time to get our felt pieces dry, she'll be bringing her sewing machines so that if someone can make up an article, or experiment with some machine embroidery on the felt
Apr 1st – June 24th	**Japanese Style: Sustaining Design** Ruthin Craft Centre *Japanese Style : Sustaining* For further information please visit www.japanseasonwales.com
June 16th	**Show and Tell/Spinning Day**
June 18th–22nd	**All Saints Gresford Craft Group** - Festival of Crafts 2012 Could you please bring along to the June meeting (or this one if you're not going to be around next month) any pieces that you'd like to contribute to the Gresford Show. We also need help setting up and taking down for this exhibition. And also volunteers to demo if we can (We don't have to have someone there all the time but it would be good to do whatever we can. Gresford Church is a very lovely setting, and the Craft Group sell excellent coffee and homemade cakes close by. A large number of the visitors do other textile crafts sorts and are really interested in spinning and weaving.

Last minute addition: Could you let Gill know if you have are making a ring for the Association National exhibition, we should send in numbers (and fee) by Friday 18th May.

Margaret Hards' Jacobs this spring (Eastertime)

Margaret writes: We have had a small flock of Jacobs Sheep for three years. We chose this breed because I wanted to learn to spin. So that's moving forward with lots of help and advice from members of the Cilcain Monday Group who started me off, lent me books, showed me the way etc etc. Thank you

One of our ewes with her lambs sunning themselves in the garden. Our field is a few miles away so we have ewes and lambs in the garden for some weeks each Spring. It's lovely to have them close by but the garden's a real tip afterwards!

Gill has sent in this picture:
"My Knit and Natter group have just finished knitting baby vests and caps for the Fish and Chip babies in Africa. These are babies who are born in hospitals but their Mum's have no clothes for them, so they are sent home wrapped in newspaper! I have attached a photo of the finished vests - 40 of them, before they were sent off. The vests had to be knitted in dark colours as they would probably never be washed!"

THE BACK PAGE

Turing's Sunflowers or Where do design ideas come from? (an extract from Chris's blog at www.spindizzy.net/Rugs_at_MBHOB) to fill the space ☺

This year I'm growing Sunflowers for an experiment to celebrate the life of the Scientist Alan Turing as part of the Manchester Science festival. This is what it's all about: as plants grow they follow certain. Think of the way a particular plant produces new leaves, perhaps one at a time arranged around the stem, or in pairs on opposite side of the stem, or in rings. Every plant has a particular style of growth developed to best arrange its leaves http://www.maths.surrey.ac.uk/hosted-sites/R.Knott/Fibonacci/fibnat.html#leavesperturn


Things like pinecones and cycads and pineapples produce each new bit of growth in a pattern that is up a bit and round a bit, producing beautiful (and very mathematical) spirals. The spirals have different characteristics. (Look at this amazing head of broccoli!) Sunflowers do this too. That big flower head is a flat plate of individual buds that open a few at time from the middle outwards as the summer progresses, probably to make sure that pollinating insects can work their way through the little flowers as efficiently as possible. Each bud (with good weather) produces a seed, so these too run in spirals out from the centre of the flower head. (This is one I grew last year)
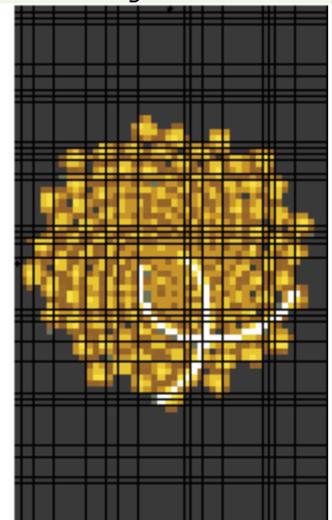

This year marks the centenary of the scientist Alan Turing's birth. He is perhaps best known for helping crack the Enigma Code during WW2 but was also interested in by how maths works in nature. Turing noticed that the Fibonacci sequence often occurred in sunflower seed heads. He hoped that by studying the plant it might help us understand how plants grow, but died before he could finish his work. MOSI (Museum of Science and Industry - Manchester) is organising a mass experiment to grow 3,000 sunflowers. If enough people grow, they can collect sufficient data to put Turing's and other scientists' theories to the test. What better way to mark the mathematician's centenary than to complete his final research project? (I've signed for 5 sunflowers, throw I now seem to have far more seedlings than that!)
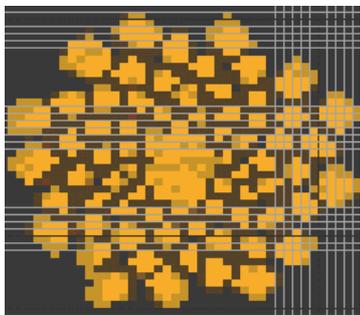
So why am I blogging about this here (apart from it being a grand idea!). This is all about where I get inspiration and design ideas. This time the 3am light bulb said "Turing Sunflower Rug". This may not work out but here's the first un-cleaned draft of a rug design (right) developed from an animation about spirals and the Fibonacci series at http://www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/nature-golden-ratio-fibonacci.html (thanks for the great site). The final design will have to be MUCH simpler. Draft 2 (left) – it's proving very hard to keep the ghost of the spiral arms when the blocks get this simple and I reduce the colours (and I had to remove the spiral indicators, they were distracting from the design!

Please contact if you have anything of interest for the newsletter