



Registered Charity no. 518270

# CLWYD WEB

OCT/NOV. 2003

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



**Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Felting Workshop organised by ourselves!** We will try and provide fibre, plastic sheeting soapy water and expertise. (Note we may try and get the canteen for this meeting so as not to dampen the carpets)

If you'd like to join in please bring at least some of the following:

Fibre for decoration, Rubber gloves, Bubble wrap, Rubber bands, Plastic carrier bags, Sprayer (squeeze bottle or plant mister), Old towels

### November 15<sup>th</sup> AGM 10:30 am

Please bring a plate (of food) and a glass for the drink of your choice for an early Xmas meal (and something to eat on and with!). The committee would love to welcome more helpers in running the guild, so please do not let modesty prevent you from volunteering to help.

We hope to have a talk from Myra in the afternoon.

### August Meeting.

A challenging workshop from Angela Hawkins on Shetland knitting. We had a very good turnout and welcomed a visitor (now new member) Dorothy Griffiths. There were a lot of half knitted lace samples by the end of the afternoon!

Luckily, Janet Major has taken notes for us.

### Shetland knitting : Angela Hawkins.

Angela gave a brief description of Shetland Lace knitting (and some fairisle) and her involvement in it :

- Started ~1820 probably introduced from Spain.
  - Most famous are the wedding veil shawls from Unst knitted from the neck fleece.
  - True Shetland knitting has no seams
  - A cockle shell shawl is grafted in the middle
- Angela moved to the Shetlands in 1969. First of all she learnt to graft (see later), the essential of Shetland knitting. Much of the knitting is white but the black shawls are characteristic of widows. Colour can accentuate a pattern, for example feather and fan (new shale). Angela had prepared a selection of Shetland lace patterns for us. Which she had graphed and soon had us all started on a Shetland sampler over 2 repeats of pattern plus a few spare stitches. She had many tips for us. I have described these in some detail (& added one or two extras!) – AND tried them all out!

A great day for which we thank Angela greatly.

### Tips and advice from Angela Hawkins for Shetland Knitting

- Dressing a shawl is essential. Wash the shawl in hand temperature water then wrap in a towel and preferably lace the article onto a shawl board with crochet cotton or pin onto a carpet. In both cases stretch as much as possible and leave to dry
- 1 ply Yarn can be obtained from Jamieson and Smith, Lerwick. (<http://www.shetland-wool-brokers.zetnet.co.uk>)
- Knitting belts. Buy a horsehair one. Tuck in the knitting to the left hand side and pull on the knitting slightly.
- Fairisle. Always leave a float if there are less than 5 stitches. Don't weave in each stitch, it will affect the tension.
- Neckbands. Make double thickness and graft on.
- Sleeves. Can be shortened or lengthened at the elbow by grafting

### Grafting

Angela's version seems to be a version of the one in Mary Thomas' knitting book. I have practiced this and it works well. Here it is for those without the book.

Row 1 (preparation). Front needle, put the needle in the first stitch as if to purl, pull through the yarn leaving the stitch on the needle. Back needle, put the needle in as if to knit. Pull through the yarn but leave ON the needle.

NOW do the following until finished. Front needle, insert needle as if to Knit (same stitch as before) and slip off needle, insert needle into next stitch but this time put the needle in purl wise and pull the yarn through but do not take the stitch off the needle. Back needle, insert the needle as if to purl (same stitch as before) and slip off the needle then insert the needle into the next stitch, this time putting the needle in as if to knit pull the yarn through but leaving the stitch on the needle.

That is it! There is a song that helps, could someone suggest some music?

#### *Front needle*

*Take off as if you were going to knit*

*Prepare as if you were going to purl*

#### *Back needle*

*Take off as if you were going to purl*

*Prepare as if you were going to knit*

(Janet recommends the diagrams from the Mary Thomas knitting book for a Thumb cast-on And loose cast-off.).

### **Cheshire Guilds Friendship Day 27<sup>th</sup> Sept .**

**From Teresa.**

This was held at Frodsham Community Centre with the bonus of lots of free parking on site. I arrived at about 10 am to find the large hall set with chairs, in groups ready for visiting guilds. On the stage was a display of their Guild's work and banner. Barbara Clayton and Paul and Audrey Slater were right behind me. We staked our claim to seats, left our wheels and bags and had coffee and biscuits. This done, it was into the small hall to visit Wingham Wools to look at the array of goods and collect samples to spin.

This year they have a new VAN and a Self Service System. No the van isn't yet equipped with trolleys, but large plastic bags! You weigh out the yarn you want, place in a smaller plastic bag, attach a label with the type of yarn and price per 100gms and place in the large bag. Anything else you want to buy goes in and can be added to if you want to spin samples or add extra during the day. When you think you have everything you need, plus the ones you don't need but want!! It's off to the checkout. After paying, your goodies are placed in a large yellow carrier bag. They had books, dyes, felting needles and boards plus several other new lines. They have also started importing Russian Spinning wheels. I tried an upright version, which was easy to use and had the advantage of a large orifice and bobbins, good for rug wool. Lunchtime brought first Carol, out to spend money! and then Sarah with her daughter Jessica. A member of another guild lent Jessica a drop spindle so that she too could join in. In all I think there were 9 or 10 guilds plus 1 unaffiliated group represented. Everyone was friendly and chatty and you met people you recognised or knew from others guilds plus ex-guild members Anne Campbell and Helen Melvin. Everyone who came was asked to bring a plate. As usual the food was in abundance and very varied. A raffle was held and a table of items donated by Cheshire guild members (they do this every meeting) the buyer places a donation for every item purchased. It included garden produce as well as craft items. Helen Turner (the Guild Chairman) gave a pep talk and rallying call, and the new President came along towards the end of the day. It seems that the 2005 Summer School will almost certainly be held at Cheshire College and the 2 expected conveners are members of both Cheshire and North Shropshire Guilds.

It was a very enjoyable day and after tea and biscuits at about 3.30pm everyone staggered out with yellow carrier bags and wheels with their goodbyes and see you next year.

### **The Back Page.**

*I've received a few pieces of info in the last month.*

#### **Courses at Burtonwood Manor on the Wirral.**

*They include: Japanese Embroidery, Creative handknitting, Glorious Goldwork, Quilting, Braidmaking, Hardanger Embroidery, Rag rugs, Colour Weaving (with June McLaughlin), Silk Painting with free m/c embroidery and Couture Hat Making. I'll print out some copies of the brochure and bring them along to the meeting (or you can look them up at <http://www.burtonmanor.com>)*

#### **From The British Museum Press**

*A special offer on "an important new dye book by Gwen Fereday. Natural Dyes (£18.99 in hardback) provides over 500 tried and tested dye recipes, each illustrated with a colour swatch. This practical handbook will become a classic in its field, of practical use to beginner and experienced dyer alike." If you would like to purchase bulk copies of the book for your members, BMP are offering copies at the special price of £15.00 per copy, carriage inclusive, for orders of 10 or more copies. Offers ends 31 October 2003.*

*Finally, on a lighter note, I heard about the **Quantum Sheep Project** as part of Poetry Week. A North East writer has been given a grant of*

*£2,000 to use sheep to create random poems, which also utilise the deepest workings of the universe. Each of the animals has a word from a poem written on their backs and as they wander about the words take a new poetic form each time they come to rest.*



*Mrs Laws created a poem for the project, based on the traditional Japanese haiku form of poetry. Each sheep had a word from the poem sprayed on their back, and when they came to rest a new text was created. One of the poems created by the sheep reads:*

**Warm drift, graze gentle, White below the sky,  
Soft sheep, mirrors, Snow clouds.**

**For Sale:** Folding floor loom. 4 shaft 6 treadle countermarche. Weaving width about 32" max. A little scruffy, but completely restrung with texsolv tie-ups and heddles. Extra reeds, sticks and raddle.

Ashford Traveller wheel. Ordinary and Jumbo flyers and lots of bobbins. Chris Jordan

