



CLWYD WEB

October 2004



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

Events

<p>Sat Nov. 20th</p>	<p>AGM "Sweetened" with a variety of interludes including: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food, please bring a serving of something for sharing – sweet or savoury – and a plate (or 2) and cutlery! • THIS YEARS CHALLENGE – cushions – show and tell for your work. • Learn about the guild's 2004 program. • In March we have a tapestry workshop with Micheal Crompton (http://www.tapestryweavers.co.uk/), who has suggested that in advance of the workshop, participants could collect together sources of inspiration in colours and shapes. So bring along Sunday supplements, photos, coffee table books or anything else that might spark ideas. • Quizz! • Your last chance to join the committee for 2005 or to propose a friend.
<p>Flintshire Community Arts & Crafts 11 – 30th Oct</p>	<p>There are still a few places left for volunteers to help look after things at this show. Please contact Joyce.</p>
<p>Cheshire Guild of WSD Sat. Oct 30th 10am – 4pm Frodsham Community Centre</p>	<p>Cheshire Guild invites us to a Friendship Day, when they hope that members of other guilds will join them for a chat and spin-in. Scottish Fibres will be on hand selling fibres and equipment. There will be a "bring and share" buffet lunch. To cover to cost of the hall, there will be a small charge of £2.</p>

3-D Felting with Pat Greaves.

(Chris Jordan)

I think everyone who was there, had a good time at this felting workshop. Pat was an inspirational teacher, who insisted that we all made something reasonably outrageous, so my idea of a flat purse went out the window.

In the morning Pat showed us her work (I think she left with all her sample pieces, but I certainly coveted one of the hats and bag!). We then got shown the basics and started out to make a small test piece, hats, boots, fish, unnameable things! After lunch we started on full scale pieces or more smaller pieces.



By the time we were forced out by another meeting, I had a part finished hat and others had similar unidentifiable wet sqishy woollen things. I even managed to finish my hat the next day. We were warned to either dry our half finished items or finish them off promptly before they turned nasty and smelly (Apparently the smell won't come out). I was almost inspired to make another hat – which is odd, since I never wear hats, but felt making after a BAD day at work is very soothing. I hope some of the others have finished their pieces and bring them along for us all to see.

Unfortunately, Janet Major, our invaluable archivist couldn't get to this meeting, and I suspect that like the rest of us, she'd have been too busy to take notes – so I hope you all remember all those tips.

Merseyside Guild's Anniversary Lecture

(K. Spencer-Howard)

I trotted happily off to Liverpool on Saturday and enjoyed a very interesting and, I'm pleased to say, informal lecture from the Association President.

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Maureen is very approachable and knowledgeable and it was a pleasure to listen to her. The lecture was reasonably well attended; I'd estimate that there were about 40 of us there. As a "warm-up act", we were shown a video of the recent (June 2004) Fashion Show put on by the graduating students of Manchester Metropolitan University (and others), which, Maureen told us, has found its identity lately through its textiles. A feature of many of the fabrics we saw float down the catwalk was that they had been digitally, not hand-printed. The effects achieved by this method were truly 'painterly', with a freshness and subtlety of colour not previously achieved by screen-printing techniques.

Accompanying her lecture with slides (or was it the other way around?), Maureen spoke about how the Art & Design Colleges sprang up across the country towards the end of the Victorian age. Maureen went on to show us how little the Textile departments of these Colleges have changed - until the last few years. We saw rows of table looms, roomsful of floor looms, Jacquard looms with innumerable shafts; the large print room at Manchester Metropolitan University - all now relatively idle, because the students do so much of their work BY COMPUTER! MMU has had to invest in two Digital Print machines, which can produce printed fabric, to the student's specification, at the rate of one metre an hour. Gone are the days of spending 6 - 8 weeks in the print room in order to produce sufficient fabric for your fashion collection - today's students want speed!

The message I received from this lecture was that the Colleges' (that is, the students') approach to textiles is on the cusp of enormous change, driven by the latest changes in technology. This leaves people like us, in the Guilds, the guardians of the disappearing practical skills such as handweaving, knitting, embroidery and crochet, because today's students do not possess them. Our role is an important one, because students do sometimes call for knowledge of these skills, and who can they call on but us? And it is certain that eventually, yes eventually, the pendulum will swing back and there will be a need for these fundamental, practical skills.

All in all it was a very interesting lecture, and certainly stimulated us into thinking about the new directions in which textiles are having to move, such as scientific, industrial and even medical applications.

(By the way, if any of the Guilds need table or floor looms, keep in touch with Maureen... her faculty may have to give the room currently occupied by this equipment over to the latest developments in digital printing! And these looms, property of the university ever since it was started up as an Art & Design College in the 1880's, are objects of beauty in their own right. Will the same be said of an outdated digital printer in 100 years' time?!)

The lecture was followed by a reception in the crypt of the neighbouring Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, which gave us all a chance to mingle, and included a proper, beautifully made Birthday cake, of which we all received a piece. I'm very glad this occasion was open to members of other Guilds and that I was able to attend. Congratulations to the Merseyside Guild on reaching their 25th Anniversary, and may they continue and go on to reach their 50th and beyond!

Finally – The Back Page.

Sorry about this.....What do you get when you cross a sheep with a porcupine? – An animal that can knit it's own jumper.

Many of you will remember that the guild took part in an International Back to Back Challenge a few years ago, (many of us are still trying to forget!) We were pipped at the post in our efforts to turn a fleece bearing sheep into a jumper wearing model, by the Shetland contingent who finished, I think in rather less than 5hours! Here's why from yesterday's news.

Fastest knitter in the world!

A 52-year-old mother-of-two from the Shetland Islands has been crowned the world's fastest knitter with 255 stitches in three minutes.

Hazel Tindall, a school administrator, said she grew up in a family where women needed to knit "to clothe the children and put food on the table". Two more British women came second and third in the competition. The world contest took place during the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, London.

"I was brought up in a house where my grandmother and my auntie would always be knitting," Mrs Tindall, who started knitting at the age of four, said. She added that, school holidays permitting, she would defend her title at the next World Speed Knitting Championships. About 100 contestants from around the world are said to have been competing over three days to win the title previously held by Wendy Moorby from West Yorkshire, who made the third place with 207. The world next-best knitter is Londoner Olga Pobedeskaya, who managed 214 stitches. On Thursday, American author and designer Lily Chin defended her speed crochet title, setting a new world record with 86 treble crochets in three minutes.

Clwyd Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers. AGM Nov. 2004

I wish to proposefor the committee

Seconded by.....

Please return to Myra on/or before the 2004 AGM. Thank you

I would like to suggest the following ideas for speakers or workshops

Please return to Myra on/or before the 2004 AGM. Thank you