



CLWYD WEB

Sept 2004



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

Next Meetings

<p>Sat. Oct 16th</p> 	<p>Tassels with Jane Nichols NOTE: at Llanbedr Village Hall Items to bring: Sharp scissors. UHU clear glue. Knitting needles (one 2 ¼ mm old size 13 and one 3 ¼ mm old size 10 – the guild has a stock of these – at a very reasonable price ☺) A ruler and tape measure. A comb. A selection of sewing needles, including one at least ¾” long with an eye big enough to take a button thread. If you have them: Double warping posts, a hand drill with a cup hook in the chuck or a cord winder (ps anyone with teenage daughters – the battery powered hair braiders make excellent cord winders!) Jane will provide yarn for tassels and a selection of head moulds, but if you want to bring your own yarn here are some selected makes: Madeira Tanne cotton 30, Rayon thread, William Hall 16/1 linen, Bockens and Borg 16/1 linen 16/2 cotton. 2/18 cotton If you want to use your own yarn you can prepare some of the warps in advance – too long to print here, but I have details – so contact me if you want them.</p>
<p>Sat. 2 October at 2pm Merseyside Guild of WSD The Centre for Continuing Education, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. (Opposite the Catholic Cathedral).</p>	<p>Textiles the Way Ahead Merseyside Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Invite you to celebrate their 25th Anniversary at a Jubilee Lecture by Prof. Maureen Wayman. President of the Assoc. of Guilds of WSD. Dean of the Faculty of Art and Design. Manchester Metropolitan University Admission £3 (If possible, please contact Chris Holmes .I will pass messages on. As they would like to estimate numbers). I haven't got a telephone number – but if you contact me (Chris J)</p>
<p>Flintshire Community Arts & Crafts 11 – 30th Oct</p>	<p>We need contributions – the show has a theme, which I vaguely remember was gardens! We have a few signups for this one – I think we mainly need to man a display at the weekends. 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. (If possible, please contact Alan Heal so they can estimate numbers or for any directions or other info)</p>
<p>Sat Nov. 20th</p>	<p>AGM, Christmas "bring a plate" and THIS YEARS CHALLENGE – cushions – remember!</p>

What we did on our holidays:

The guild is now recovering from a busy summer, with shows and at Homes filling August! My memory is rather sieve like, so I may have names and details wrong but: The first show was Llanarmon a fine day - with Janet M. and June J. getting lots of interest. This, worryingly was an outdoor do, but the weather cleared – in fact is got a bit too hot! Then we had Flint & Denbigh (or Denbigh and Flint as my brochure says!) We mustered at least half a dozen here, Joyce and May, and Janet S., Flo myself – and an visiting Cheshire guild Spinner. Lynn and Carol had stalls on either side of us and our pitch was convenient for the food hall! and vintage machinery. Quite a busy day and we were



grateful for the protection of the tent from the wind and occasional burst of rain. Next few stalwarts fitted Ruthin show in, I think it was Janet M and Rosemary, and we wound the year up with Cilcain. We have written and



verbal thanks from several organisers.

I took my camera all over the place – and forgot to use it, put a card in it or charge batteries, so these fine photos are from Sue.



I'm not sure how we fitted it all in, (in fact we overflowed into Sept.) but we also had 2 fine outings to members homes. At the beginning of the month we found our way to Janet S.' cottage in the hills on a lovely day – spinning, weaving,

eating and finding homes for a collection of Dolls House furniture all in front of a wood fire. At the far end of our summer break we were invited to Celia's House and oooh-ed and aah-ed round their new carding and spinning enterprise, before getting down to some serious spinning and eating.

Dyeing Purple at Myra's

For the July meeting we all convened at Myra's for a splendid dyeing day. Janet M. took notes for us, so we can try and reproduce those colours!



Using cochineal and logwood.

Dyes can be obtained from P & M Woolcraft Cochineal is very expensive, but only a small amount is needed. Earthues from America are strong extracts. (10g of Earthues cochineal extract cost £11.50 and will dye 1 kg) Pale colours, eg very pretty pinks, but beware these may not be so colourfast (Lots of info and pretty pictures at <http://www.earthues.com/>)

Cochineal

Cochineal is a substantive dye or the wool can be mordanted with alum. When dyeing with natural dyes, the colour can often be modified at the end of dyeing by using iron sulphate (or 'iron water' - nails or other iron bits left in a pot for a few weeks), washing soda or copper.

Stage One: wetting out

Weigh the dry skeins and note weight to calculate amount of mordant & dyestuff to use. If using different fibres label them. Wet the wool by soaking well in water with a squirt of washing up liquid- about an hour (If the wool is unwetted wool or grease is left in then patchy dyeing will result)

Stage Two: Dyeing with cochineal with no mordant

For the 300g of wool that we used 5g of Earthue cochineal to 5 litres of water was the correct amount (instructions come with the dye extract!). Sufficient water must be used to cover the wool. Hint: If dyeing something with a tendency to float, such as silk, tie a stone to the corner to keep it under the surface. With the dyestuff, water & yarn in the dyebath (best to be stainless steel) bring the dyebath to boil over 30 –35 minutes. Then boil for 30 minutes. After this time split the

dyebath, remove the wool, and add: Washing soda - 1 tsp Iron - ½ tsp of iron sulphate (too much and the dyebath will go grey/black AND will make wool brittle) if using iron water you won't know its strength so add slowly until you notice a colour change. Do not take wool straight out a hot dyebath & rinse with cold water, rather leave in until the wool is cool enough to touch, Then rinse in water of the same temperature.

Logwood

Use 50% logwood to weight of wool. (If using logwood extract use 25% extract to mass of wool). Soak logwood chips in water for a day or two before use. Put these in a muslin bag so they won't get mixed up with the wool. Strain to produce the dyebath.

Mordanting with alum

Traditionally 25% by weight of dry wool, but this can be reduced to 8% by using 7% cream of tartar. With the wool in the mordanting liquid bring to the boil for 30-35 minutes, then boil for 30 minutes. Allow the mordant to cool, then take out the wool and add to the dyebath. (It is essential that the wool is not subjected to changes in temperatures - this is what will felt it)

Dyeing with logwood

Bring to the boil over 30 -35 minutes and then simmer for 1hour. Can divide dyebath & treat with additives as with the cochineal. Watching the temperature rinse the wool , as before on completion. Fantastic colours can result from these methods - thank you so much Myra for your expertise, time and kitchen!

Association Exhibition at Wells

Myra managed a visit and has photos – did anyone else get to see it?

Rosemary has a new address:

...ask me if you need it ... it's in the distributed news.

Finally – The Back Page.

Do India's weavers have the wrong idea about condoms? The Indian city of Varanasi is getting through around 600,000 condoms a day, but this is no population control exercise. The weavers of the holy city, home to the world-famous Banarasi saris, have made the contraceptives a vital part of garment production.

The weaver rubs the condom on the loom's shuttle, which is softened by the lubricant thus making the process of weaving faster. The lubricant does not leave any stain on the silk thread which might soil the valuable saris.

There are around 150,000 to 200,000 hand and power looms in Varanasi alone and almost all are using the technique.

And every loom has a daily consumption of three or four condoms. At first, weavers stocked up on condoms from the family planning department under a government scheme to provide them free of cost. Some weavers even registered with fake identities to get their hands on the precious prophylactics.

Mahfooz Alam, convener of the Bunkar Bachao Aandolan (or Save the Weavers Movement), says officials got wise to the scam, and corruption set in. These stores then sold them on to the weavers at 10 rupees a dozen.

Mr Alam says the older generation of weaver is averse to the technique but the younger generation wants things done at a faster pace.

Some of the weavers fear the industry could be at risk if sari buyers learn their garments are made with condom lubricant. But Mr Alam says many weavers have to use the technique. They would use another lubricant if there were one available that were better, he says.