



CLWYD WEB

APRIL/May 2005



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

Please try your best to get to workshops and be ready to start by 10am
Coffee will be served from 9.30am.

<p>Apr 30 – May 4</p> <p>Guild exhibition at Erddig Hall We still need volunteers! All day or part day (In fact times are probably 11am to 5pm) Contact any of the committee to volunteer, we have 20 signed up so far so there are still plenty of opportunities.</p>	<p>And of course, we need things to exhibit - All those goodies from this years workshops, felt hats and things, tassels, baskets, cushions from last years challenge – alpaca things from this years! If you missed the April meeting, try and get pieces to a committee member before the end of April. We'd also like some details to put in a folder, The how, what and why of the piece. Also if it's for sale – how much, and perhaps some care details for the purchaser to take away with them.</p>
<p>Llysfasi Open Day Friday May 6th 10am-3pm approx</p>	<p>This will be upon us close on the end of the exhibition. Contact Joyce at 01352 720139</p>
<p>June 18th Dyeing day at Myra's</p>	<p>This year we'll be dyeing golds to tie in with the All-Wales and National Exhibitions (see below). Bring aprons and gloves plus a selection of protein (ie animal) fibres to dye. A selection of small skeins or pieces of fabric are best, so we don't overload the dyepots.</p> <p>Myra says that there's some parking on the drive otherwise we can use the lane, but if people can share would be good. The meeting should start around 10am as usual. Everyone welcome – non-dyers can come and spin, knit etc! (there won't be anyone at Llysfasi).</p>
<p>Jul 16th - Show and tell</p>	<p>A chance to relax after the last couple of hectic months. Bring your wheel, bring your knitting, tell us you've already finished this years challenge and make us feel guilty! The library will put in a rare appearance and there'll be a sale table etc.</p>

NEWI – While we were enjoying the tapestry workshop, Joyce, Paul, Audrey, Joe and Anne were at NEWI for Science week. Many thanks for starting the demo-ing season.

March Workshop. Tapestry Weaving: Michael (& Mary) Crompton (by Janet Major)



'Tapestry is all about communication – telling a story in textiles'

The design process Michael provided us with some insight into his design process, selecting the right yarns, weaving rhythmically, working ideas in watercolours – between 15 & 20 paintings might be produced for one tapestry. No straight lines appear in Michael's tapestry. Tell a story in the tapestry. Linking the environment in the tapestry – eg an oak tree in the shape of an oak leaf. When the colours for the tapestry are being 'worked out' do some windings around a column of card – useful to have the final colours hanging from the edge of the frame (if a floor frame) or grouped together so that the colours can be seen next to each other as the final choices are made in weaving the tapestry

Working the tapestry Warp threads (Michael uses 6 threads per inch (but 4-8 can be used) - cotton, linen, polypropylene (Michael uses wool, 3 stranded with a high twist) light colour is best. A continuous warp thread as this gives a better tension. No extra threads are worked on the selvages, but these are very visible and need to be checked continuously for the tension and also to see that they remain vertical (not pulling in)

Hints: If the warp threads sound like a harp then the threads are too tight. A spacing cord, twisted across the yarns at the top and the bottom (& tied to the sides of the frame) helps to keep the warp in the correct place.

Transferring the design: Trace onto tracing paper. Put this between the back and the front threads. On the BACK put a small dot of permanent marker pen to outline the design. Then turn each thread and mark the spot all the way round.

Weaving Michael weaves from the back, he uses a bobbin with a round end held in the palm of the hand with the point extending beyond the fingers. 2 colours are used at once. Leave about 2 inches of thread hanging at the back when changing colours. These are left hanging and not fastened in. If the tapestry is to hang unframed then these will stop condensation forming between the tapestry and the wall. An outlined section is worked at a time. Take the weft thread from the right to the left an arch is formed so that when the weft is beaten down this does not pull in and the tension is maintained. Always start from the same point, by overlapping the same warp thread. Drag the point of the bobbin from left to right after the beating down to give a slight texture to the final tapestry.

Hints: Do a bottom border of about an inch, you can put details here (upside down!) eg. initials, date, code etc Put a shed in, once the design dots have been transferred to the warp

Finishing the tapestry Remove from frame. Turn in the top and bottom of the tapestry. Velcro along the top edge and then glue the other half of this onto a strip of wood with araldite.

Note an experienced weaver like Michael takes about 10 hours to weave a square yard (and this does not take into account the design process)

(Note: Janet has a much fuller version of this with loads of useful hints and info – I ran out of space to put everything here and apologise for the cuts I had to make!)

Notices

Longer standing members will remember Jim Cronin (Olga's husband) who died last month.

Sasha Kagan "Design from Nature" knitting workshops. At the Minerva Art Gallery Llanidloes. £70 per person. Dates July 30th-31st and Aug 27th-28th. Phone 01686 430436 www.sashakagan.com

Priscilla Lowry and Fiona Nisbet workshop (3 days) A 2nd Celebration of Silk! 14th-16th June at Shropshire Wildlife Trust , Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury Phone: 01948 871618. The total cost of the three days will be £100 per person [click](#) for more details.

The theme for the All-Wales Exhibition (1st August) is for each guild to produce 10" squares in yellows through to reds (to tie in with National Exhibition which asking for an A4 sized piece(!) in golds to celebrate the Associations 50th year.

The Association's Summer School is at Chester this year, and P&M Woolcrafts have told us that they will be attending the trade fair, which is open to everyone and held at the end of the week (6th August). Many other suppliers will also be there.

Cheshire Guild's Friendship Day will be on Sat. 15th Oct (more details nearer the date).

Finally, are there any volunteers to host the August at homes and has anyone suggestions for next years program?

The Back Page

Lynn has organised a local wood turner to produce some tapestry bobbins as used by Michael Crompton. These will be £3.50 each (deposit £1) Please contact Lynn Blanchard if interested.

Weavers snips. £2.50 a pair (there's a story there!). contact Chris Jordan

Vogons and sheep. What is happening here! Well, in a trailer for the new film version of "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy", the earth is about to be destroyed by a fleet of Vagon space ships. This bit of the filming was done at Jodrell Bank Observatory and employed a flock of sheep as extras. They were running away in terror as the giant spaceship flew overhead! In fact, the farmer is just offscreen on the left rattling a bucket of sheep nuts and anyone can see that those are definitely hungry sheep rather than scared ones!



For those with internet access. There's a wonderful article about the Cloisters Museum's Unicorn Tapestries in the April 11 issue of The New Yorker magazine. While the article eventually segues into more of a focus on the problem of photographing the textiles after they were restored in the late 1990s, there is also much information about the restoration itself. And those of you who love the intersection of math and weaving will particularly enjoy the mathematical problems addressed in the article—how to handle in the enormous files (on 200 CDs!) that resulted from the effort to create high-resolution digital photos of the tapestries, especially the backs of the tapestries, before they were covered with new backing material. (Remember Michael talking about the unfaded backs of tapestries and turning them). The article about The Unicorn Tapestries is available at: http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/050411fa_fact

Please Phone or email me if you have anything of interest for the newsletter. Note: the next one won't be out until the June meeting