



Registered Charity no. 518270

CLWYD WEB

February 2004

http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web



Next Meetings

Mar 20	<p>P&M Woolcraft visit. If you want to spend serious money, P&M are dealers for Lendrum Spinning wheels (Canadian), Ashford and Majacraft (New Zealand), Louet (Holland) and Bosworth Charkhas, Journey wheels (wheel in a box) and spindles (USA).</p> <p>They also do a large range of books and magazines on Spinning, Knitting, Weaving including all of the latest US publications.</p> <p>Finally they are home to the Ashill Colour Studio which stocks a large range of natural dyes, books, dye seeds, mordants and assistants – from Alkanet to Yew plus Indigo Dye kits, alum, chrome, iron, tin and copper sulphate mordants.</p>
Apr 17	<p>Excursion – proposed visit to the Hat Museum in Stockport http://www.hatworks.org.uk/</p>

Our first meeting of the year had a very good turn out. Because of the possibility of horrendous weather and difficult travel with short days, the first meetings of the year are usually In-House affairs. For January we had a get together on “Rugs without Looms”. Rosemary brought along some peg looms and showed us a partly finished circular rug that she was making in some ferocious purples and greens (or was it oranges?). We all contributed to unravelling the warp on Myra’s peg loom (possibly attacked by cats) so that she could get started on an old project.

Audrey showed us some felted and crocheted rugs that demonstrated how well they had withstood the years, and June showed us a small locker hooked rug.

Teresa had brought along canvas and “prodders” for making hooked rag (and wool) rugs so we could all try this out. Chris and Barbara showed some latch hooked rugs (Barbara was hooking

fleece into canvas very effectively). Jane Brought along a nearly finished latch rug in natural colours (If anyone has any fleece in a good true dark brown, she’d be interested).

Finally Audrey showed us locker hooking with some interesting wools and canvas from Helen. There were enough hooks and several miles of canvas, so that every one could have a try at this.

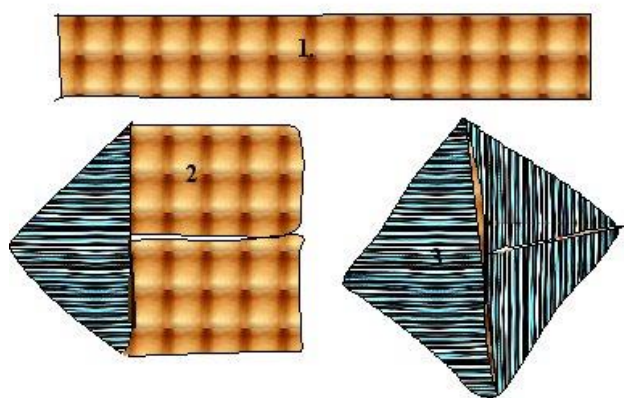
(They may have been a few more contributors – apologies if I’ve left you out and thanks to everyone who helped).



Cushions!

Next years challenge is cushions, so I'm currently exploring different ways to make a cushion cover!

Here's an interesting way of making a square cover for a standard 14" cushion pad when you only have a narrow loom and therefore a narrow piece of cloth. I have a "Baby" Weavemaster which I take to demos. At the moment it has a piece of weaving on it that's a bit too rough for a scarf, but only 12" wide (about the width of the loom. If I can weave it to 48" long, I can fold it up like this.....



Hopefully the result should be an interesting mixture of directions of stripe.

Next month: Freeform knitted cushions (as described by Jan Messent) after that – suggestions please!

New Fibres

I've recently received adverts for some new fibres. The first, Soybean fibre, has been around for a couple of years now. It comes from China and is very like tussah silk – a creamy coloured fine fibre. It has a major advantage over silk if you're a vegan or would like to make something different for vegan friends. Like silk, it is a protein fibre and dyes very well with acid dyes. It is also claimed to be a "green" fibre made from the left-overs of soya bean processing. (These bits would normally go for animal feed, so it's not recycling something that's totally waste, and I'd have to find out the chemicals involved in the processing before giving it a "Green" light.)

A second offering, also from China is Bamboo top. This seems to be fibres thrashed out of bamboo in the same way as linen is produced from flax. It is white and silky and dyes as other vegetable fibres such as cotton.

Finally there was an advert for a Fibre from seaweed! This was totally new to me. I'd heard of puddings from seaweed, but not woolly mittens! Reading further solved the puzzle. They were advertising tops from Ronaldsay sheep which have to get by on the seaweed around the coastlines of the little islands where they spend the summer. The field walls are built to keep the sheep off the small grassed areas rather than the other way round.

Finally I've been admiring the little lambs in some parkland around a rather posh Cheshire estate. Last week when I went past, they were all sporting natty fluorescent orange jackets. However, like most youngsters, they obviously found them a bit of a nuisance and now the fields are full of (mainly) white lambs and the grass is scattered with discarded orange jackets. As far as I can see the Mums couldn't care less.

The Back Page!

Nothing to do with spinning, but there was a space to fill.

Forget facials made of oatmeal with cucumbers over the eyes – even facials of oatmeal and honey... the latest idea is a cocoa powder exfoliating scrub, followed by an "oxygenating" mask made with melted Green & Black's chocolate (fair trade and organic) which apparently leaves your skin glowing.

So own up – how many of you could lie around for 20 mins covered in chocolate and then WASH IT OFF!

