



Registered Charity no. 518270

CLWYD WEB

JUNE 2002

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Sue Abbott is now home and recuperating, and send her thanks for the flower planter from the Guild. We wish her all the best.

July meeting. June McLaughlin. **The Healing Art of Weaving.** Just bring yourselves, and do look at the Journal's article on June's fine work.

Country Shows. All the fun of the fair, without having to pay to get in! Please contact June January (tel:01352 770701) to volunteer for any of these.

Ruthin 17th August

Nercwys 17th August

Ti Mawr Open Day 24th July (pm)

Greenfield Valley, Holywell A Vintage Show on the 28th July. They would like some spinners to demonstrate in a barn.

Llysfasi Open Day. About half a dozen members turned out for this, and demonstrated felt making, peg loom weaving and spinning on wheels both great and small. The children and staff showed great interest and we were much appreciated. Altogether a pleasant and worthwhile day.

Llanasa Church are holding their annual exhibition of work on Aug 1st to 3rd and have invited us to submit items. The exhibits will be insured, and you can sell items if wished (15% commission). Contact the organiser, Brenda Baxter (01745 857355) directly if you are interested.

Joyce Bagnall invites you to the first "At Home" of the year and suggests a visit to the exhibition on the afternoon of Fri 2nd August followed by tea at her house. Entry to the exhibition is by catalogue (£2). Opening times are Thu & Fri 10 – 8, Sat 10 – 4.30.

Dyeing Workshop with Fiona Nisbet. Last months workshop proved more interesting than we expected due to the vagaries of Llysfasi's

electricians. However we all finally managed to produce some colours from Madder, Logwood, Onion skins and Cow Parsley (a bit peelly-wally as they used to say in Glasgow). Many thanks for Fiona for her work under very trying circumstances, we could see the potential and may have to arrange a repeat on a set of barbecue stoves next time.

Eds. Note: fired with enthusiasm, I went home and tried a recipe for rust brown. If you thought boiled Cow Parsley smelt bad, you should try boiling willow bark.

Fleece. WWs haven't visited for a while now (which means that the stack of wool in my back room is from 2 years back!). Luckier people may have empty cupboards now, so we would like to invite our guild shepherds to bring in any interesting fleeces that they 'd like to sell.

Show & Tell. We would also like to encourage the fine tradition of show and tell, and will try and reserve some time in each meeting for members to say something about their current projects in a very informal way or even just to Show without the Tell. (I've put in a request for a "DISASTER Show and Tell". We all have projects that we'd rather not think about, why not see if someone else has any tips).

Back to Back Challenge in aid of Cancer Research. First of all many thanks to all the guild members who stayed for the day or just visited and helped the team with PR (multilingual!), sandwiches and cheery advice. Also many thanks to staff of Ruthin Gaol, one of whom even provided the sheep after a battle with DEFRA. Thanks also to the timekeeper and adjudicators.

First the bad news, we didn't beat Shetland's 5hrs 9 mns, but we should have the Welsh record!

On Saturday, our team of 8 assembled at Ruthin Gaol with a very frisky Welsh X ewe for her first ever haircut. The idea didn't appeal and she headed over the hurdles. As the clock struck 10, Barbara started shearing (with a little sheep wrestling thrown in!) None of the elegance of a fleece taken off in one unbroken swathe, the moment a lock was snipped a spinner made off with it and started spinning.

Soon bobbins of singles were flying back and forth and by 10:30am the first ribbing was on its way. Now things got slower. We had a wet sheep! In fact wet fleece spins very well, it's nice and slippery. It doesn't knit at all well though, sticking to fingers and needles alike.

A steady trickle of visitors came through and showed great interest in our project. We also attracted some local visitors who had seen articles in the press. The support team explained what we were doing, and handed out leaflets to any who might be interested in joining the guild. They also fed and watered us. Meanwhile the clock ticked on, or rather it didn't! At some point we noticed that the clock had stopped and we fell back on the chimes of the church clock.

As the afternoon sped on, the sleeves were finished, but the struggle with the sticky wool was being to slow down tired fingers. At 5pm the Gaol staff had to close up. They wished us luck and left the inmates to lock up the Gaol. In the growing dusk, the last piece of knitting was cast off and immediately attacked by 4 of the team taking a seam each. Amazingly we left holes in appropriate places for our shearer to wear for a final photo (centre). We finished just as the church struck 8:30pm.



(More pictures and this newsletter, available at <http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd> under Features)



Sock idea time. Socks for people who don't do heels - The Spiral Rib Tube sock!



You'll need to sample though, I'm afraid. All you do is knit a ribbed tube, try something like a K3P3 rib in DK-ish thickness wool (wool/mohair mix is supposed to be for hard wear) on 4mm (8) needles. Make the number of stitches a multiple of 6 plus 1!. Knit in startling colours until it's as long as you want, then start knitting K2togs over half a dozen rows for a toe until you run out of stitches. Hey presto half a pair of socks.

Eds. Notes. *You get to put up with the ed. waffling if there's any space left, and it looks like I have half a column.*

Look at this recent prize winning knitted shawl.



This is what Lynn Close (of Hainsworth) wrote about her Misty Mountains Shawl:

“Katmoget Shetland lamb fleece. Carded into rolags that were dark at both ends and light in the middle, spun into 10m lengths of yarn, plied back on itself to produce 5m long yarn, dark at one end and pale at the other. Each diamond had its own length of yarn spun separately. Each diamond fades towards the top point.”

This is the sort of thing that makes me realise why I spin! I immediately thought of all sorts of variations (I'm a derivative sort of person I'm afraid). I started spinning rainbow lengths of wool and knitting diamonds where the first was indigo to blue, the next blue to green, green to yellow etc. You see where this is leading. But my diamonds looked more like beech leaves, and I always like autumn colours, so you may eventually see a shawl made of a heap of shaded, naturally dyed, autumn leaves. (The key word here of course, if eventually).