



CLWYD WEB

June 2004



http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web

Registered Charity no. 518270

Next Meetings

July 17.	<p>Dyeing PURPLE at Myra's</p> <p>Last years dyeing day was tremendous. Good food, good company and a wide range of pastels greens that Laura Ashley would have loved J This year Myra will be setting up to let us try our hands at purples. She hopes to get a selection of different vats going, so bring along 3 or 4 small samples (e.g. half an ounce each) in protein (i.e. animal) fibre - wool, camellid, goat, rabbit, silk and surprisingly soy silk – a protein fibre made from a plant. Bring along some means to identify them too – e.g. coloured synthetic ties that won't take dye, maybe a plastic bag to take them home, in case they're still damp! And finally - bring a plate of food! (map and instructions to get there at the end of the newsletter.</p>
<p>August At homes & Shows</p>	<p>LLanarmon yn Ial 14th August Flint & Denbigh 19th August Ruthin 21st August Cilcain 30th August ? Association of Guilds of WSD National exhibition. August 1st – 20th</p>

All our best wishes to go to Rosemary Williams who had a mild stroke last week. She should be moved to Ruthin Hospital by now. Also we look forward to seeing Joe again soon, and hope he's improving.

Town Twinning in Brittany



From Jane Jenkins. The craft fair was great fun & we were plied with chocs, nuts, coffee and pain au chocolat for breakfast! Not likely to get that treatment at a craft fair here! The French exhibitors were very interesting and the standard of craftwork was very high. They were all very friendly & I have a raft of web sites & email addresses to look up. Trying to teach hairpin lace in French to someone who couldn't crochet was very challenging!

Jane J. - p.s. I am selling my spinning wheel – Haldane Shetland (pretty upright little wheel – looks decorative in a corner!) integral lazy Kate + 4 bobbins. £80. ... and any offers of brown fleece are still welcome.

Meanwhile the stay at homes were flax spinning – small turnout with a group off to Brittany, but an excellent day.

Flax spinning workshop : Riitta Sinkonnen-Davies Clwyd Guild : 15th May 04

Notes by Janet Major

Other than a spinning wheel the following are needed:
Distaff – about 30cm long. A cone for this can be made from a sheet of A3 card (wrap in crumpled tissue paper if the card is too shiny!) Broom handle & a means of fastening this to a table leg on the left of the spinner. Small bowl and sponge Towel. Hackles (or dog comb!) Linen 'line' (available from Rita, approx £2.00per 100g)

Setting up Arrange the distaff. Put water in the bowl & damp the sponge – seems to work best if this sits on your lap

Spinning the line 'line' using a distaff Take a 'finger width' from the line. Grip it tightly in the middle and pull through the hackles. Start at the end & work up to the centre. Turn & repeat from the other end – so all the fibres are 'opened out' [Keep the waste as 'tow' – see later]



Loading the distaff – the aim of this is to pull the fibres out into a web wrapped on the distaff. Try and have no fibres at all in a bundle – it is well worth taking time over this stage!

Lay out the opened line into a U-shape (on a table) with the ends of the U to the left. The distaff needs to be on the right, point furthest away from you. Ease some fibres out from the curved bit of the line towards the right where the distaff is by alternately holding the top & bottom 'ends' of the U. When these fibres have been pulled as far as the distaff, wrap the distaff from the right. This takes the fibres around the distaff, gradually pull out more fibres as above & wrap around the distaff. [The web will be loose at the top of the distaff, no need to worry about it]

The result should be a fine open web on the distaff. Put this on the top of the broom handle

Spinning – using the distaff This needs two hands & the success seems to depend on keeping the fibre damp with the right hand & allowing the twist to reach the distaff – with the left hand.

Keep the fingers on the right hand in front & damp all the time – hence the sponge. Pull out some fibres from the distaff and twist around the leader from the spindle on the wheel. Pull the front hand from the right to the left, moving the thread between the thumb & first finger. Control the twist with the twist with the right hand.

Alternatively - use your right hand to draw down and the left to pull and roll. That is it! Just practice is needed now.

Spinning –alternative method Prepare the line by pulling through the hackles – but this time a larger amount of line can be used. Lay the towel on the table and wrap the line (longwise) in the towel with the left hand end just visible. Place this on your lap – another chair may be needed on your right. Again it is necessary to damp the line as it is spun. This time the right hand will be controlling the twist and the left hand damping the linen as it is spun.

Once spun the linen is made into a skein- it is rarely necessary to use more than 1 ply thread from linen 'line'. This must now be boiled to soften it – weight the skein and then take half the mass in soap (flaked natural soap from a Health Food Shop seems an economical way of doing this) plus the same mass (- half the skein) of soda. Dissolve the soda and the soap before adding the linen. Boil for 1 – 2 hours. (It will go mud coloured). Remove the yarn and rinse a few times. [Do not let it cool in the pan, it will be submerged in the muddy gel that results.] To soften it even more it can be boiled again. Reskein – otherwise it will get stiff & glued together.

Bleaching Best done outside on sunny days. Damp it, lay it on the lawn & turn now and again

NB. The tow

This can be carded as with wool. This gives softer yarn than from linen line. Rita recommends that it is spun from the rolag so that as many of the linen fibres are in line as possible. It could be plied with wool – best to boil it first! It can be blended with wool on the carders. When you make a rolag, roll it from left to right, not top to bottom as you would normally

Riitta has her own web-site www.rasdavies.co.uk

From Sue Abbott and the Cilcain Craft Group

Barbara has a new form of transport !!!!!!!



The groups who met at Bryn Mair now meet at Cilcain Village Hall. The cost is £6.50 a day for the group (10- 3.30). In order to cover this we have invited interested parties from the village to join us. The Mondays have now become general craft days and although the first and third are still basically spinning others do occasionally join us. The same applies to the other Mondays. We use the committee room and kitchen. All very pristine and centrally heated. (Not a blue bottle in sight). Come and see for yourself, bring

your lunch. (but if you forget the pub is next door).

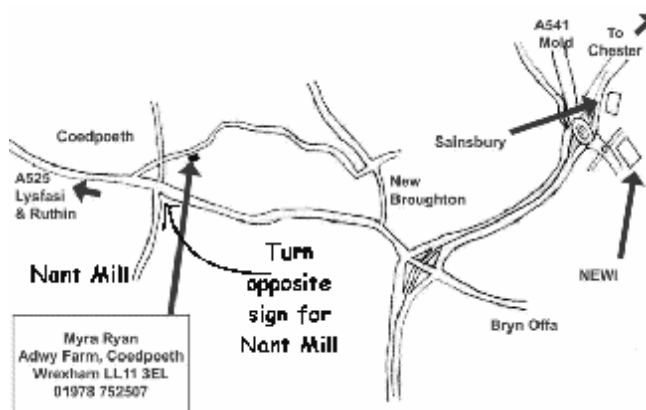


Floss, Barbara, May, Kate and Joyce.

Hope to see you sometime, Sue

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How to get to Myra's



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).

VENUS transit

A once in a lifetime event (except that the next one will be in 8years but not visible from the UK). We put on a really big do at the Observatory with loads of high tech gear from the visiting local Astro. Group. But the real thrill was putting together a transit viewer from a shoebox and binoculars (eat your heart out Blue Peter) and showing my nephew and niece the perfect little black circle moving across the Sun.

A Celebration of Silk. Three full days 10th-12th August 2004 with Priscilla Lowry and Fiona Nisbet at Shropshire Wildlife Trust Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury. Sericulture, silk spinning, inkle weaving ribbons, dyeing knitting, stitching, paper, Slides (More details from Fiona 01948 871618 email fionanisbet@yahoo.co.uk or Chris J. has some flyers). (And Priscilla will be giving us a silk workshop next year)

Please Contact Chris J (01606 47217) or email me at chris@spindizzy.net if you have anything of interest for the newsletter.

Below – I've enclosed a list of the places we hope to be demoing – do please let us know if you can help here.

