



Registered Charity no. 518270



# CLWYD WEB

March 2004

[http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd\\_web](http://www.spindizzy.net/clwyd_web)



## Next Meetings

<p><b>Apr 17</b></p> 	<p><b>Excursion – proposed visit to the Hat Museum in Stockport</b>  <a href="http://www.hatworks.org.uk/">http://www.hatworks.org.uk/</a>          Joyce has volunteered to coordinate this visit. She will be taking her car, and Helen will also be going for people near Wrexham. Entrance is £3.95 (concessions £2.50)</p> <p><b>Learn about Stockport's historic links with hatting</b> and how the industry flourished employing over 4,500 people by the end of the 19th century</p> <p><b>Watch the hatting demonstrators</b> as they reveal the art and mystery of hat making. See the planking kettle where mercury was once used in the felting process and discover the origins of the term 'mad as a hatter'.</p> <p><b>Enjoy the stunning display of hats</b> through the centuries from the fur felt hats of the early 1800's to catwalk fashion of the 21st century.</p> 
<p><b>May 15</b></p>	<p><b>NOTE VERY EARLY THIS MONTH!</b>          Riita Sinkkonen Davies <a href="http://www.rasdavies.co.uk/">http://www.rasdavies.co.uk/</a>          Will be giving a workshop on flax preparation and spinning, and showing the many uses of linen. More next newsletter!</p>

By the time I can hand around copies of this newsletter, P&M Woolcraft will have set up at Llysfasi and sold all the goodies to the early arrivals. They are hoping to start getting set up at around 9am! We'd like to urge everyone not to let their start time slip especially on workshop days. So please do your best to get to Llysfasi promptly so that we can get started by 10am. and make the most of what's on offer!

**February Meeting.** We warped – rigid heddle looms, table looms, inkle looms, twinkle looms. In fact we got all tied up!

**NEWI Science Festival.** Confusion is all cleared up, and we will be at NEWI on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, so if anyone else would like to volunteer, please contact Joyce.

**The Bradford Guild** have organised a weekend workshop at Alston Hall (just north of Preston) website [www.alstonhall.u-net.com](http://www.alstonhall.u-net.com) 9-11 July 2004 Choose one of either of inkle loom (lettering & figures) or fancy yarn spinning. Prices for full programme are & £107 up to £125 depending on room choice. There are daily rates available. Limited numbers so book a.s.a.p.

Jane Jenkins has further details & a form or contact [spinningliz@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:spinningliz@tiscali.co.uk) or [margaret@blundellm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:margaret@blundellm.freeserve.co.uk) direct to book.

### Calling all N. Wales Weavers.

Last month all the guilds were contacted by an American weaver who would be in the UK to do a series of workshops and was looking for interested guilds to host one. Unfortunately it was very short notice and even combining interested people from several of the N. Wales Guilds, we found it difficult to get enough interest. Because of the problem of gathering people together, Hilary Millar and I wondered if it might be worth forming a Weaver's group of some sort for the North Wales area. At the moment, this would be no more than a list of names so that if any of the local guilds is putting together a weaving workshop, we can easily notify anyone with an interest, and get a creditable number of participants for workshops. At the moment, no one guild can really find enough people for some workshops. What do you think? I'm not trying to lure people away from this guild, but to pool resources from several different guilds.

## **Bryn Mair.**

As you know, we are currently clearing all our guild equipment out. This means that it will have to be lodged with various guild members. Janet Major is putting together a list of what equipment and books are where and we'll be able to distribute that next month. Remember, all these things are available for loan to members.

The group who go to the Monday meetings are discussing a replacement venue. Cilcain village Hall and Ruthin Gaol are possibilities, or meetings might be held in members homes. I'll need to get the web pages and guild membership leaflets changed.... So, I'll need HELP from anyone who can produce a translation of the new Bryn Mair paragraph for the Welsh version of the guild leaflet when we've decide what to write!

## **The Back Page!**

*I'm sure you'll all be pleased to know that we've been invited to participate in the 10th world sheep to jumper competition.....any volunteers!!! (Perhaps we could do this informally for PR sometime. We could wash the fleece (gasp!) and I'll bring my knitting machine)*

**Baa gum ... Wooldorf Astoria sheep set a world record David Fickling in Sydney Saturday March 13, 2004 The Guardian**

*It is described as the sheep-farming equivalent of breaking the four-minute mile: a 275,000 bale of wool produced in a climate-controlled barn - and so fine it has to be kept in a bank vault.*

*The waist-high bale of the finest wool ever produced was auctioned in Australia yesterday to a Chinese company which hopes to turn it into suits worth £41,000 apiece.*

*At 11.9 microns in thickness, the wool is twice as fine as the finest human hair, with roughly the diameter of a grain of talcum powder. (Ed's note, I still have a bit of that 18 micron wool left that we used for the fine spinning! Maybe I should auction that)*

*The Sydney auction saw the 90kg bale, produced by a sheep farm nicknamed the Wooldorf Astoria, sell for more than £3,000 a kilo.*

*Frank Yao, an agent for the Chinese wool importer*

*Kathaytex, said he had been expecting to pay more than twice as much and considered the deal a bargain.*

*Fine wools produce a metre of fabric for every 230 grams of wool, meaning the bale will only produce enough wool for about 300 suits.*

*Rick and Bim Goodrich, who raised the sheep at their 50,000 acre property in southern Queensland, said conditions at the facility were a trade secret. But it is known the 700 sheep who produced the wool were descended from Saxon Merinos imported from Germany, and had been kept in a climate-controlled barn, where they were protected from stress, fed a special diet, and played soothing music. The Goodriches have been farming sheep for six generations, since the family pioneered the trade in the region in 1846. They kept the record-breaking bale in a bank vault before the auction.*

*The wool was described by the auctioneers Elders as a breakthrough for an industry which had seen hard times since the 19th century.*

**Freeform knitting cushion covers**  
*More cushion ideas. Last month a woven cushion cover; this month a knitted one. Inspiration from Jan Messent's Wool'n Magic and from a new book by Prudence Mapstone call Freeform: Serendipitous Design Techniques for Knitting and Crochet.*

*Unfortunately, I've been so busy planning that I haven't got to the sample stage yet - so instead I'm just showing some of the ideas from these interesting books.*



*A crochet "scrumble" from Freeform Knitting by Prudence Mapstone*

*A cushion inspired by Lichens on a rock from Jan Messent's Wool'n Magic.*

