



Ceredigion Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers

May 2017 Newsletter

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Workshop Reports

February Meeting - Angora Rabbit Fibre Spinning with Rachel Auckland

Report by Suzanne Rees

After two years of mainly spinning wool it seemed time to tackle another fibre that I knew nothing about - other than back in the 70s when I had a beautiful pink angora jumper that shed onto every surface it touched!

Rachel Auckland had certainly prepared well for the workshop, she started with a fascinating history of the angora rabbit and explained how, sadly, the main production of angora can be extremely cruel.

As a keeper of angora rabbits herself she was able to tell us about the best way to keep them and to collect their fluff. For those without the space for sheep or alpacas it is certainly worth considering it if you want to spin your own fluff.

After the talk, which was held in the little side room, we went back to the main hall and started to spin. Angora is more like silk to spin in as much as the fibres do not hook on to each other the way that wool does. One of the most difficult things I found was preparing the fibre for spinning, having moved over to combing all my wool this was back to making rolags and then remembering how to long draw! We all learned that it is certainly easier to spin angora when it is blended with a bit of wool, without it it is soft and slippery and flies off everywhere – but what a beautiful soft yarn it makes eventually.

It was great to learn something new and well done Rachel for such a well prepared workshop.



March Meeting - Colour in Weaving with Helen Marriage and Pat Griffiths

Report by Ceredwin

On 11th March Helen Marriage and Pat Griffiths ran a 'Colour in Weaving' workshop. The aim of the workshop was to help people feel more confident about choosing colours for their weaving projects.

Pat and Helen had spent a year together studying a course on colour and were very kindly willing to pass on their knowledge to others.

We began by looking at the colour wheel, identifying primary and secondary colours and then at the effects of these colours when combined with those on the opposite side of the wheel. We also investigated the importance of shade and tone and the effects of adding white, grey or black to paint colours.

Then came the practical application of this knowledge as we were given small cardboard 'looms' made by Helen, and told to choose some colours we liked. After having woven these on both warp and weft we could see how the colours blended or contrasted with each other.

Next, we choose colours we didn't particularly like and combined them on a mini loom with colours that we felt 'lifted' or brightened the original shades. It was amazing to see how the juxtaposition of certain colours altered both the original shades and the finished product.

The day was completed by looking at the many beautiful pieces of weaving done by Helen and Pat in the past and seeing how much better we could now discriminate the effectiveness of the colours they had used.

I'm sure all those who attended wish to thank Helen and Pat for running this very enjoyable and informative workshop.

April Meeting - Needle Felting with Frankie Jefferson and Gail Evans

Report by Suzanne Rees

A great fun workshop run by Gail and Frankie learning to make penguins, teddy bears and lots of little dogs and other animals. As always it looks so easy when someone who knows what they are doing make something but then trying to get a penguin to look like anything other than an oblong piece of wool proved to be somewhat challenging! But I was delighted by the end of the workshop to find that I understood the principles and took home a delightful little fellow who was instantly recognisable and immediately fought over by the little ones!! I shall certainly be having another go soon and look forward to continuing to build on the basic rules that Gail and Frankie so ably taught us.



News

Worlds Longest Thread

Many congratulations to Ann Fisher, Lyn Drane and Nicky Evans who recently competed in the World's Longest Thread competition. The competition is held biannually in Bothwell in Australia and competitors from all over the world sent in their entries to make the longest thread possible from 10g of fibre. Ann was placed third in the category for wool spun on a wheel with a thread of 505.215m per 10g. Lyn was placed 9th with a length of 193.131m and Nicky 10th with a length of 169.720m. Ann also competed in the category for alpaca spun on a wheel and came second with a thread of 227.266m per 10g. Congratulations to all three! If you'd like to take a look at some of the pictures or fancy competing yourself in 2019 (the 40th anniversary of the competition) then further details can be found on their website:

<http://www.bothwellspinin.com.au>. Who fancies a Ceredigion WSD group entry?

Facebook

We now have a group on Facebook for Ceredigion WSD members. Please feel free to join if you wish and enjoy a bit of chit chat in between guild meetings. The group is a closed group so only people in the group will see what you post. We're only allowing current members to join and all applications are checked by the group administrators (myself and Linda Hull). The link to join is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/263381314072537/> or search for 'WSD Ceredigion'.

Show and Tell

Here are just a few items from the show and tell table over the last few guild meetings:





Next Meetings

13th May

Silk Spinning with Sue Hoyland

10th June

A Day of Dyeing

15th July (3rd Saturday)

Spinning Art Yarn with Bettina Becker

Remember: If you have any news, achievements or upcoming events you'd like to share with the everyone please let me know.

END