

Waulking “Kelp” tweed at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 17 July 2014.

The tweed was woven by Sam Goates, Buckie, (*Woven in the Bone*), on a Hattersley loom. Sam says:

“The name *Woven In The Bone* comes from the poem of the same name by Donald S Murray (in his book *Weaving Songs*). In this case the tweed is inspired by the iodine black and deep seaweed greens... so I have called it *Kelp*.”

This was the fifth tweed waulked by Sgioba Luaidh Inbhurchluaidh.



After cutting a piece from the end to keep unwaulked for display purposes we had a little over 10 yards length, 34" width.

We stitched the ends together to form a continuous loop, soaked the cloth in *maistir* (warm water with a little ammonia), wrung it out as much as possible and soaped it thoroughly with pure soap.



Did we use natural ammonia? We're not saying!





Only four of us were available for the waulking, so it was quite hard work, although we did have help from time to time from volunteers (some being more effective than others).

We waulked for two hours, had a break for lunch, then waulked for another hour. We lost the first inch fairly quickly, but after that it was quite stubborn.

We had been given a formica-topped table, but part way through we changed it for a wooden one.

This made a noticeable difference, as there was now a little bit of friction to help the shrinking. The sound was better too!

We finished up with 29" width, nice thick texture.

We reckon we lost about 30" in length.



We gave it two rinses in clean water. (Forgot to undo the stitching till it was in the tub!)



Beth from New Zealand, whose ancestor was a weaver in Appin, not only spent a long time waulking with us, but took charge of the hose to fill the tub for rinsing.



We then rolled the cloth tightly on a board and left it overnight.



Next day we re-rolled it in reverse and left for another night before hanging up, to make sure it would dry nice and flat. It took a lot of scrubbing to get the blue dye off our fingers!



We cut off a small piece for display purposes before hanging up, with Tim's help.



It took about thirty songs for the *luadh*, with a clapping song for each of the two rollings.

Taking part were Frances, Eleanor, Myra and Irene. Rhona had the important job of explaining to people what we were doing.

Sgioba Luaidh Inbhurchluaidh

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