

Yarn Club – ‘Spring into Bloom’

‘Spring into Bloom’ proved to be our most popular club ever and Julie put her botanical art colour skills to good use when dyeing the floral colourways for this one. Pictured are *Cherry Blossom Pink* in Falklands Merino Lace, *Iris Among the Bluebells* in Baby Alpaca 4-ply and *Violets with Verve* in BFL Lace. - - - ❁ - - -

Yarn Club – “Sunny Sundaes”

And a final call for our summery Yarn Club. There are still one or two places available [here](#) – until end of July.

The yarns we’ll feature are Merino Silk, Alpaca Silk and Alpaca Silk Cashmere, and you’ll have a choice of laceweight or 4-ply yarns. Prices are as follows, including shipping for all three skeins:

UK £72.40

Europe £75.40

Rest of the World £80.20

The three skeins in the ‘Spring into Bloom’ Yarn Club; from the top: Cherry Blossom Pink in Falklands Merino Lace, Iris Among the Bluebells in Baby Alpaca 4-ply and Violets with Verve in BFL Lace



Top of the Pops

Accessory	Rank 17	Rank 18	Pge 18
Patterns	1	1	40.6%
Threads	2	4	7.3%
Miscellaneous	6	2	18.3%
Crochet Kits	3	3	15.0%
Fabrics	5	6	10.5%
Markers	4	5	8.4%

sales of hardware (crochet hooks and knitting needles), earrings, beads, and shawl pins. One of the things we have noticed is that our sales of markers have dropped quite dramatically; they are obviously lasting too long, so they don’t need replacing!!

Obviously, the main focus of ‘Watercolours & Lace’ is yarn. Nevertheless, we do like to complement this with various accessories. This table shows the ranking of our accessory sales for the first half of 2018. The right-hand column - ‘Pge 18’ - gives an indication of the percentage of accessories sales each type of item contributes.

The ‘Miscellaneous’ group is this growing (and groaning) bucket that holds most things, and we will perhaps have to consider splitting this into sub groups. For example, it currently includes



Kim

'A Twisted Yarn' is now well into its fourth year and we want to continue to recognise the many wonderful people that we have met over the years since Watercolours & Lace started exhibiting in 2014. Our latest 'spotlighter' is ...

Kim, who currently lives in North Wales, is unusual amongst the 'spotlighters' we have met so far because she is exclusively a crocheter. She remembers: "I first learned to crochet when I was a child in Kenya. I was about 8 years old when my Granny came out to stay with us and showed me how to do it. Endless chains to practise getting the tension right, then simple squares, before moving on to patterned work-pieces. I think I made my first shawl when I was 9 and, by the time I was 10, I was 'hooked'. I never could get the hang of knitting..."



Kim remembers the days walking home with a bunch of school friends, with balls of wool in their pockets, and work slung over their shoulders. Kim discovered the delights of tapestry, cross-stitch and embroidery much later on in life and found them just as enjoyable – a change is as good as a rest, as they say – but crochet remains her favourite pastime. She remembers, as a junior doctor, in the wee small hours between calls:

"I always had a ball of wool in my coat pocket and I'd crochet for Britain, which kept me awake with no need for copious amounts of caffeine!"

Kim is particularly proud of this piece (left) from a couple of years ago. It is a Simply Crochet pattern, in Stylecraft Special double-knit yarn. In her words: "It's a simple enough pattern, but the colours are just beautiful. As with all pieces like this, it starts easily, but the later rows take simply ages and it is easy to get bored, which is when mistakes happen. Then it's time

to do something else for a while and come back to it, refreshed."

Kim first came across Watercolours & Lace about a year ago in one of the crochet magazines to which she subscribes. She ordered our Nicole Crochet Shawl pattern and some yarn and was very pleased with both. Kim then discovered that "*Julie hand-dyes her yarns, but it is clearly her attention to detail and eye for colour that make the results so beautiful.*"

Kim can be seen wearing Julie's Irene Crochet shawl, right, crocheted with our Falklands Merino lace yarn in "A Zest for Lime"

Kim spent the early part of her career as a doctor in the Royal Air Force, after which she became a civilian GP. It was while doing a locum job at RAF St Mawgan that she met husband Michael, who was a pilot on Search and Rescue Seakings. After giving up medicine in 2006, she studied Law at Bangor University, achieving a First Class Hons in only 2 years and then going on to attain her Masters in only one more year (with the highest mark ever awarded). She is now studying for her PhD and says that Law is far more challenging than medicine. They now live in North Wales, surrounded by animals. Kim asks: *"Am I ever going to give up this wonderful hobby? Not if I can help it!"*



A fair amount of her day is taken up with looking after the animals on their 10 acre smallholding (at last count, 6 cats, 5 dogs, 3 ducks, a chicken, a pig and a Shetland pony). Not to mention six puppies. If anyone is looking for a beautiful little pedigree Bichon Frise ... ?

Kim spends a lot of time each day preparing pieces for a local crafts competition that runs every August in Llaingoch, Anglesey – 3 prizes last time. Michael cannot crochet (a loser!) but does come in handy occasionally for undoing the resulting knots when one of the cats/puppies runs off with a ball of yarn.

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2018 – "A Twisted Yarn" is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

Julie and Alan have visited the 'animal farm' that Kim supervises (and, yes, the pig, Maud, is in charge) as we called in to see her on the way back from Dublin at the end of May (we are always pleased to arrange personal deliveries if this tallies with one of the shows we are attending). We were the beneficiaries of Kim's hospitality and had personal experience of most of the dogs and cats!

Show Offer

As usual, the newsletter is tailed with a list of the shows that we are planning to attend during the year. Now, we know that this list is always top heavy, in that the majority of shows are in the north of England. Or, to put it another way, there are very few yarn shows in the south. Which is why we are delighted to be featuring at the very first 'Southern Wool Show' in Newbury at the beginning of September.

Julie is also delighted to be offering a two-hour workshop titled "An Introduction to Knitted Lace Shawls". You can find more details and book your place via our website here. Numbers are strictly limited to ten, so to guarantee your place, book now.

The organisers are hoping for a big turn-out at the racecourse for the new one-day show and have offered us two free tickets to give away.

What you need to do ...

Please just complete the following sentence - in another thirty words or fewer - and send in via e-mail alan@watercoloursandlace.co.uk: Deadline date is Friday, 5 August.

"I would enjoy seeing Watercolours & Lace at the Southern Wool Show in Newbury, because _____

_____"

DO IT NOW !!



New Yarns

The fourth and last of our new range of 4-ply yarns is now available. This is a 100% Corriedale Wool yarn with a nice firm twist, which makes it ideal for socks but also gives a lovely crisp finish for shawls and garments. Another standard 4-ply at 400m/100g, it's giving some lovely colourways. Pictured are Storm from the North, Crimson Carnations and Heavenly Hazelnuts. (See our feature on the Corriedale breed in 'Did You Know', next)

(Right - Our new CRS – Corriedale 4-ply. From top: Storm from the North, Crimson Carnations and Heavenly Hazelnuts)

We've also managed to obtain another fine laceweight yarn, a blend of 70% Merino, 20% Tussah Silk and 10% Cashmere, some of which Julie is hoping to dye in time for Fibre-East at the end of the month. This is a 1,200m/100g yarn, very similar in style to our Merino Silk and Merino Cashmere Fine Laces, combining all three fibres in one yarn and will be ideal for the finer versions of our crochet shawls, Irene and Nicole, as well as many of our knitted designs. We have only just received this, and will be dyeing some for the 'August' edition.

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

Did You Know - #46 - Corriedale

Corriedale was featured amongst the first DYKs - from May 2015, number 8 in the series. But back then, we could only show a small amount of information, so have decided to refresh it. We have also just found some new Corriedale 4-ply (see 'New Yarns')

Corriedale sheep are a dual purpose breed, meaning they are used both in the production of wool and meat. The Corriedale is the oldest of all the cross-breeds developed almost simultaneously in Australia and New Zealand. The Corriedale is internationally farmed, in Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America, Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Patagonia. Corriedales are one of the most popular sheep breeds in Uruguay. On the Falkland Islands, Polwarth and Corriedale form the main sheep breeds.

Appearance and behaviour

Corriedales have a long life span, and are hardy and evenly balanced. They are docile and easy care mothers, with high fertility rates. They adapt well to a wide range of climate conditions. They are large framed, hornless with a broad body.

Corriedale sheep produce a thick stapled, bulky fleece, which is popular with spinners and can be used for a range of hand-spun garments. Their dense fleece is medium-fine and high yielding, with good length and softness.

History

This breed was developed in New Zealand in the late 19th Century by extensive breeding and culling as a cross between Merino and Lincoln sheep. The goal was to develop a breed that would thrive in lower rainfall areas and supply long-staple wool. James Little was the original breeder. The breed name comes from a property in the South Island. A similar programme also ran in Australia shortly afterwards.

The breed was developed between 1868 and 1910 and then the breed was gradually distributed to many of the sheep-raising areas in the world. For example, the first Corriedale sheep were imported to the United States in 1914. The Corriedale was later used as one of the parents of the US-developed Targhee breed. Corriedale sheep also contribute about 50 percent of the genetics used in the Gromark breed of sheep, which were developed in Australia.



Today the breed is distributed worldwide, making up the greatest population of all sheep in South America and thrives throughout Asia, South Africa and North America. After the Merino sheep, it is the second most significant breed of domestic sheep in the world.

Characteristics

The Corriedale sheep are large animals with beautiful appearance. Both rams and ewes are generally hornless. They are usually white in colour with white face and black points. But they do vary in colour - from pale silver through to black including various shades of fawn or moorit*. It may be self-coloured or occasionally spotted.

Some of the colour variations – from white to brown



Their nose and hooves are black. Corriedale sheep are very hardy and strong animals and are well suited to most climates. They are long-lived animals and are docile in terms of temperament. The ewes are excellent mothers, with very high fertility.



Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2018 – “A Twisted Yarn” is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

Corriedale sheep have a medium-fine, dense fleece with a long staple. This is often semi-lustrous and is useful for producing soft yarn and felt. They produce high quality wool with a fibre diameter of 25 to 30 microns. On average, a mature ewe will produce around 4.5-7.7 kg wool with a staple length of 3.5 to 6 inches. The wool is preferred by many hand spinners, mainly because of its unique combination of desirable qualities.

Corriedale sheep produce a heavy, even bright fleece of good quality. It has a long dense staple with pronounced crimp, soft handle and an even tip. The fleece is very popular with spinners and can be used for a range of handspun garments.

* Note: Moorit means mid-brown, between a fawn and dark brown

Project Prize Draw

We've just drawn a project from the Ravelry thread (<https://www.ravelry.com/discuss/watercolours-and-lace/2375825/351-375#367>) for our latest prize draw winner. But before we reveal the winner, we would also like to mention two runners up with wonderful images of finished projects. Firstly, thank you Tatyana (based in California) for your stunning shawl – “teardrops of fall” by Alla Borisova, finished in our British Alpaca Silk Lace ‘Blue gentian’.

We also really enjoyed seeing Orla’s “Carousel” by Lidia Ziginova, knitted in our Fine Silk Lace in the ‘Faded Peacock’ colourway. We were delighted to meet Orla at our recent trip to Ireland for ‘Woollinn’ in May.

So, to the winner, who is Angela from North Yorkshire, with a wonderful example of Julie’s ‘Mountain Mist’, which featured no fewer than 2, 800 beads! Her ravelry name is Tatsdent, and she says: “I live in North Yorkshire with my cat and my dog and I’m really lucky to be on the edge of The North York Moors. They are truly spectacular.” Thank you Angela, and so is your shawl.

Project winner Tatsdent’s version of ‘Mountain Mist’, worked in Blue-faced Leicester Lace using the ‘Winter Storm’ colourway..



To enter the Prize Draw, simply post a picture of a recently finished project (any design, knit or crochet, as long as it was made in a Watercolours & Lace yarn), in the “Finished projects -prize draw” thread in the Ravelry Group at <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/watercolours-and-lace>, telling us which yarn and pattern was used (preferably linking to your project page). Every few months we’ll draw a winner - the prize will be a £10 voucher.

Out There

We are delighted to report that the latest issue of 'The Knitter' (Issue 127) features a new shawl design (called 'Wentwood') by the popular Anniken Allis which is knitted in one of our yarns. The fibre in question is Blue-faced Leicester 4-ply, in the 'Mystic Forest' colourway. Check out pages 33-36.

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2018 – “A Twisted Yarn” is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

On the Road ... 2018

We cannot say that we really enjoyed our first visit to Yarningham last weekend. We started on the wrong foot because this was a new venue for the organisers and they found that the dimensions of the 'main hall' did not match those they had been given. We ended up squeezed for width and depth, and our sales were adversely affected by the lack of display space.

We are really looking forward to the next few weeks, though. Firstly, our sixth visit to Fibre-East comes immediately after this newsletter hits your InBox. A couple of weeks later is our only August show, which will be our fourth British Wool Show. This year we are returning to York after an excursion to Thirsk last time. We are at the same venue as in 2016, but in a recently updated area, so we look forward to that.



And then will come the many excitements of September. More about that next time.

We cannot really say much about 2019 as yet, although we will again have a very quiet start to the year..

We do want to give a 'heads-up' to those of you who are north of the Border: we have once again applied for Edinburgh Yarn Festival next March. It should be our turn next year!

The table left, lists all the shows we are attending in the rest of 2018 ... and a few we hope to exhibit at in 2019.

On the Road ... in 2018

1	15-17 Feb	Craft 4 Crafters	Westpoint Arena, Exeter
2	11 Mar	Essex Lacemakers' Fair	Chelmer Valley HS, Chelmsford
3	17 Mar	Weald Suppliers Fair	Collyers College, Horsham
4	7-8 April	Spring Into Wool	The Grammar School, Leeds
5	28-29 April	Wonderwool Wales	RWS Showground, Builth Wells
6	12-13 May	Wool @ Junction 13	Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge
7	25-26 May	Woolin	ASAA Centre, Dublin
8	16 Jun	Wymondham Lace Day	Wymondham College
9	14-15 Jul	Yarningham	Uffculme Centre, Birmingham
10	28-29 Jul	Fibre-East	Redbourne College, Ampthill
11	10-11 Aug	British Wool Show	Auction Mart, York
12	1 Sep	Southern Wool Show	Newbury Racecourse
13	8-9 Sep	Perth Festival of Yarn	Dewars Centre, Glover St, Perth
14	15 Sep	Suffolk Lace Day	Woodbridge Community Hall
15	29-30 Sep	Yarndale	Skipton Auction Mart
16	6 Oct	Fenland Fair	Burgess Hall, St Ives
17	20-21 Oct	Loch Ness Knit Fest	Inverness Leisure Centre
18	10-Nov	Festiwool	The Priory School, Hitchin
19	17-Nov	Southern Counties Lace Fair	Leisure Centre, Havant
20	01-Dec	Lace, Quilt & Needle Xmas Fair	Cranmore Park, Solihull

All shows confirmed

Yarn and Wool Show

Lace and Needlecraft Show

and ... ahead to 2019

1	17 Mar	Essex Lacemakers' Fair	Chelmer Valley HS, Chelmsford
2	21-23 Mar (tbc)	Edinburgh Yarn Festival	Corn Exchange, Edinburgh
4	6-7 April (tbc)	Spring Into Wool	The Grammar School, Leeds
5	27-28 April (tbc)	Wonderwool Wales	RWS Showground, Builth Wells

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2018 – "A Twisted Yarn" is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lace, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX