

Yarn Clubs – Mediterranean Flowers

Our summer club, “Mediterranean Flowers”, which ran in July, August and September, was very well supported. The yarns were “Lazy Lavender Days” in Alpaca Silk Cashmere Sparkle Lace, “Beautiful Bougainvillea” in Mulberry Silk 4-ply or Lace, and “Geranium Glory” in Silk Yak Merino 4-ply. These flowery colourways were very popular and Julie will be adding them to our range over the winter period.

*The samples from our “Mediterranean Flowers” Yarn Club (from top):
Lazy Lavender Days (Alpaca Silk Cashmere Sparkle);
Beautiful Bougainvillea (Mulberry Silk) and
Geranium Glory (Silk Yak Merino)*



Norfolk Landscapes

First skeins for our latest club, Norfolk Landscapes, were despatched in October and the November skein is due to follow in the next week or so.

New Design



Sorcha (see note below) is a neat shrug, knitted in laceweight yarn in a traditional Shetland lace pattern. Julie has worked her laceweight samples in Blue Faced Leicester Wool and our Mohair Lace yarn and the 4-ply version in our Suri Alpaca Silk blend. The main piece is a simple rectangle worked flat, and the ribbed cuffs and edging can be worked in the round, or knitted flat so the cuffs can be fastened with buttons, making it more adjustable. The design is easy to adjust in size by adding extra repeats of the lace stitch and longer cuffs. Both laceweight sample versions in the small size were worked using less than 100g of yarn, and the 4-ply version will need 150-200g. The pattern will be available on Ravelry and our website very shortly.

Note: *Sorcha* is a girl's name of Irish origin meaning "bright, shining". The 'ch' is hard and so the word is pronounced as SOR-KA.

Workshop



Crochet Flower Brooches - Makit Lacemaking, Quilting & Needlecraft Christmas Fair, Solihull

This one-hour workshop takes place on Saturday 30 November at the Makit Christmas Fair at Cranmore Park, Shirley, Solihull from 1.30 to 2.30 pm. Tickets are available [here](#).

Julie will show you how to crochet a pretty flower brooch in hand-dyed yarn. The workshop is suitable for confident beginners who can work chain, slip stitch, double crochet, half treble and treble crochet stitches.

Everything you need will be provided, including hand-dyed 4-ply yarn, complete pattern instructions, crochet hook, beads for the flower centre, felt for backing the brooch and silver-plated brooch

pin.

Starting at the centre, the brooch is worked “in the round” in several layers of petals. Tiny seed beads are then sewn on in the centre, the brooch is backed with toning felt and the brooch pin sewn in place. It can then be attached to a hat, scarf, jacket, etc. Places are limited, so booking is recommended.

Top of the Pops

One thing that we have noticed – especially in our recent swing in the north, with Yarn Dale and Loch Ness Knit fest – is how popular our crochet designs are.

The table on the right has a list of all our current patterns, and you can see that the top three sales, over 2019 to date, are all crochet designs. And number 4 is another crochet pattern – for a cowl!

The columns on the far right indicate when the patterns were first issued, and their release order. So, for example, ‘Forest Flowers’ was our first design, for a shawl and released in June 2013. Just about six years later we released ‘Trinitas’ in March this year – our 21st design.

At the same time, it is very reassuring to see that a small number of ‘favourites’ have stayed in the Top Ten for the last four years – ‘Abbey’, ‘Highland Heather’ and ‘Eilidh’, released in April, January 2014 and September 2016 respectively.

There will, of course, be more patterns in 2020 – including a new Mystery Knitalong.

| | | | | Patterns | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Name | Type | Release Order | Release Date |
| | | | 1 | Trinitas | cr-shawl | 21 | Mar-19 |
| | 5 | 2 | 2 | Nicole | cr-shawl | 16 | Jul-17 |
| 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 | Irene | cr-shawl | 12 | Dec-16 |
| | | 18 | 4 | Rhiannon | cr-cowl | 20 | Oct-18 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 5 | Giselle | cowl | 10 | Jul-16 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | Abbey | shawl | 3 | Apr-14 |
| 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 | Highland Heather | shawl | 2 | Jan-14 |
| 7 | 10 | 5 | 8 | Catriona | hat | 7 | Jan-16 |
| 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | Eilidh | shawl | 11 | Sep-16 |
| | 11 | 12 | 10 | Olwen | shawl | 19 | Jun-18 |
| 4 | 2 | 8 | 11 | Mountain Mist | shawl | 6 | Mar-15 |
| 10 | 13 | 8 | 11 | Donna | cowl | 9 | Jul-16 |
| 9 | 12 | 11 | 13 | Forest Flowers | shawl | 1 | Jun-13 |
| | 18 | 12 | 13 | Penelope | shrug | 17 | Dec-17 |
| | 15 | 12 | 13 | Lindsay | hat | 14 | Mar-17 |
| | | 16 | 16 | Quentin | Vest | 18 | Apr-18 |
| 3 | 17 | 20 | 16 | Bronwyn | garment | 8 | Feb-16 |
| 13 | 15 | 18 | 18 | Jessica | scarf | 13 | Dec-16 |
| | 9 | 12 | 19 | Kelly | shawl | 15 | Mar-17 |
| 5 | 6 | 10 | 20 | Spring Equinox | shawl | 4 | Apr-14 |
| 12 | 14 | 17 | 21 | Megan | shawl | 5 | Jun-14 |

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Great Escapes

Weekend Courses

Julie is delighted to have been invited to run knit and crochet courses by Jane Dickinson of **Great Escapes**, who organises craft weekends at beautiful country house hotels in the South of England. Details of the courses listed below are detailed on their website [here](#) and places can be booked direct with Jane by downloading a booking form [here](#). All weekends are fully residential and run from 4pm on Friday to 4pm on Sunday, and **the price is inclusive** of two nights single en suite accommodation (no single supplements are charged), all meals, tuition and sample materials as stated.

Non-stitching partners are welcome, as well as those who would like to work on their own projects without tuition (so you can bring a stitching friend with you if you prefer) - for details and costs please contact Great Escapes direct. Some free time is built into the itinerary on Saturday afternoon for those wishing to explore or spend time with partners, or of course to continue working on your project in a relaxed setting.

One of these weekends could be a perfect present to add to your Christmas list, or for a special birthday next year!!

Introduction to Knitted Lace Shawls - 15-17 May 2020

Gorse Hill, near Woking, Surrey: £405 per person

In this workshop you'll practice by working a doll-sized version of one of Julie's designs, using an included sample of hand-painted yarn in pure wool or alpaca, before starting work on a full-sized shawl. You'll be given a pattern to take away with you to complete your shawl.

This course is suitable for knitters who can cast on, knit, purl and cast off, and work basic increases and decreases such as yarn over/yarn forward and knit two together. Circular needles will be used, although straight needles can be used to start with. A selection of Julie's hand-painted natural fibre yarns in 4-ply and laceweight will be available for you to buy for your full-size shawl, plus circular needles if required.



shawl. A selection of Julie's hand-painted natural fibre yarns in 4-ply and laceweight will be available for you to buy for your full-sized shawl.

Introduction to Crochet Lace Shawls - 6-8 November 2020

Moor Hall, near Windsor, Berkshire: £405 per person

Suitable for crocheters who can confidently work the basic stitches. If you've mastered the "granny square" and simple repeat patterns and now want something more challenging, this weekend will help you get there!

You'll try the basic techniques by working a mini, doll-sized version of one of Julie's crochet designs, using an included sample of hand-painted yarn in pure wool or alpaca, before starting work on a full-sized shawl. You'll also get a copy of one of Julie's patterns to work on and take away with you to complete your

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Do You Know - #58 - Swaledale

We have continued to look at the list of Sheep Breeds hosted by Wikipedia, although we were surprised at their classifications. What we mean is that each of the breeds of sheep is given an indication of its primary use; of the 320 breeds listed, no fewer than 189 have 'MEAT' as their main or only use. The 'surprising' feature is that this group of 'Meat only' includes Bleu du Maine, Blue-faced Leicester, Boreray, Dorset, Exmoor Horn, Herdwick, Hill Radnor, Kerry Hill, Norfolk Horn, Shropshire, Soay, Teeswater, Badger-Face Welsh Mountain, Wensleydale and White-Faced Woodland – all of which have featured in past episodes of 'Did You Know'!

This time, we are moving a little closer to home and focussing on a breed that can be used for both ...

Swaledale is a breed of domestic sheep named after the Yorkshire valley of Swaledale in England. They are found throughout the more mountainous areas of Great Britain, but particularly in the Yorkshire Dales, County Durham, and around the Pennine fells of Cumbria.

Swaledales are noted for their off-white wool, curled horns and white around their nose and eyes. They are used for the production of lamb/mutton, the North of England Mule sheep, and as Pedigree breeding stock. Together with the Rough Fell, Herdwick, and Dalesbred sheep, they are one of the four variations associated with the English Lake District.

Well suited to the exposed regions in which they predominantly live, the Swaledales are very hardy, thick coated, able bodied, and bold. The ewes make excellent mothers and are known for being able to rear lambs well, even in adverse conditions. They are of a medium build, with black faces marked with bright white around



the nose and eyes, and both males and females grow curled horns, however the male's horns are much larger. Their coats are thick and very coarse and are considered a uniform white or off-white colour. The wool they produce, although durable, resilient and usable for a number of applications, is worth very little, with the British Wool Marketing Board paying approximately 40 pence per kilo of wool. The marketed fleece and fibre may contain kemp that is not white, so some yarns and prepared fibres from the Swaledale are grey. The sheep are also known for their tender and good-flavoured lamb and mutton.

The Swaledales as a breed are related to Scottish Blackface and Rough Fell sheep, both of which are also predominant in upland locations in the United Kingdom and noted for their ability to thrive in exposed locations. Although

the specific origins of the breed are unknown, a non-indigenous and exotic ancestor for the Swaledale was considered by two noted names of the eighteenth century, John Naismyth and Charles Findlater. Published in 1796, Naismyth's opinion in *Young's Annals of Agriculture* was that the origin of the black-faced highland breeds was "impossible to trace". Robert Trow-Smith in his book *A History of British Livestock Husbandry, 1700–1900* wrote: "... it has already been suggested that this family stood outside the mainstream of ancient British sheep..." and that the root of the Swaledale and Scottish Blackface breeds could be the Argali. This tenuous link between domestic sheep and the wild Argali has since been proved to be insupportable due to a significant difference in genetic make-up and number of chromosomes.

Stanley Richardson's latest addition to his flock has to be one of the most unusual in the UK. The Cumbrian farmer admires the breed so much he decided to commission a sculpture of one of them from his neighbour, award-winning sculptor Andrew Kay.

"He lives down the road and it just seemed silly that he is making these sculptures and we have not got one. We are known for our sheep. Andy does not do sheep normally but he did one as a one off and he had the horns just right. It made sense we should have one. An important thing with a Swaledale is the head and horns, he's got that just right again," said Stanley.



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On the Road ... this year and next

It is a long time since we wrote 'On the road ...': we were looking back at what we put down in August, where we were saying that we would be at shows "for nearly all the next NINE weekends!" And that is the real reason why we couldn't produce a Newsletter in September or October.

So, now we have just a single one-day show to come this year – at Solihull.



We continue to apply for events and have our names down for 22 next year. All those from January to June are shown in the table. We will have to wait until February to learn if we

have been successful in applying to 'Woolfest'.

We hope to catch up with as many of you as possible next year.

On the Road ... in this year ...

All shows confirmed

YarnLace

| | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 | 31 Aug-1 Sep | Southern Wool Show | Newbury Racecourse |
| 12 | 14-15 Sep | Handmade & Creative Market | Norfolk Showground |
| 12 | 21 Sep | Suffolk Lace Day | Community Centre, Kesgrave |
| 13 | 29-30 Sep | Yarndale | Skipton Auction Mart |
| 14 | 5 Oct | Fenland Fair | Burgess Hall, St Ives |
| 15 | 12-13 Oct | Bakewell Wool Gathering | Agricultural Centre, Bakewell |
| 16 | 18-19 Oct | Loch Ness Knit Fest | Leisure Centre, Loch Ness |
| 17 | 16 Nov | Southern Counties Lace Fair | Havant Leisure Centre |
| 18 | 30 Nov | Lace, Quilt & N'craft Xmas Fair | Cranmore Park, Solihull |

... and in 2020

All shows confirmed (except "Woolfest" at the moment)

Yarn

Lace

Escape

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 22 Feb | Ware Lace Day | Sele Farm Community Centre, Hertford |
| 2 | 14 Mar | Fenland Lace Day | Burgess Hall, St Ives |
| 3 | 15 Mar | Essex Suppliers' Fair | Chelmer Valley HS, Chelmsford |
| 4 | 18-19 April | Spring Into Wool | The Grammar School, Leeds |
| 5 | 25-26 April | Wonderwool Wales | RW Showground, Builth Wells |
| 6 | 2-3 May | Knit & Stitch | Rheged Centre, Cumbria |
| 7 | 9 - 10 May | Cornish Fibre Festival | R Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge |
| 8 | 15-17 May | Great Escapes – Knitting | Gorse Hill Hotel, Woking |
| 9 | 6-7 June | Fibre Rocks | Dela Warr Pavilion, Bexhill |
| 10 | 20-21 Jun | Woolly Weekend | Denham Village Hall |
| 11 | 26-27 Jun (TBC) | Woolfest | Mitchell's Auctions, Cockermouth |

And finally ...



December Offer

5% off any purchase between £10 and £49.99

voucher code **CWIHQ7**

10% off any purchase of over £50

voucher code **OKJE2**

At any of our public stands or on-line at

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See website and Newsletter for details of upcoming shows

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