

New Designs



Our latest Fair Isle design is now available - *Celtic Wynter* (yes, Julie changed her mind about the name!!) can now be ordered direct from our webstore or downloaded via Ravelry. The sweater can be knitted with or without sleeves and uses a main shade with two or three contrast colours (or more if you like to go really crazy with colour!!).

We now have yarn packs available in four colourways here - or of course you are welcome to choose your own colour combinations from the 4-ply Julie suggests are perfect for the design: Devon Wool Blend 4-ply, BFL 4-ply and Shetland Jumper Weight. Our BFL and Shetland 20g mini-skeins are perfect for the contrast colours as you only need small quantities of each. The yarn packs include the pattern and represent a saving of around 7.5% on the individual yarn prices.

Celtic Wynter colour packs – clockwise from top left:

Midnight Storm; Plum in the Shadows; Bitter Chocolate; Beautiful Bougainvillea

New Award-Winning Yarn

We've known Helen Ingram from Woolly Chic for some time, having met her at numerous yarn events over the last few years. Early in 2020 we were intrigued to hear that she was seeking sponsors to help develop a new eco-friendly 4-ply yarn which she called HeartSpun. We were delighted to contribute in a very tiny way and following the launch of the yarn last year have now taken delivery of our first consignment for dyeing. It's a blend of 70% British Blue Faced Leicester Wool and 30% Tencel™ plant-based fibre (read more about this sustainable fibre in our "Did You Know" feature later in this newsletter), spun in Yorkshire.

Our HeartSpun colour ways, clockwise from top left: Golden Glow; Stormy Nght; Leafy Greens and Passion for Petunias.



This beautiful yarn has recently been recognised by industry experts and has won the British Knitting and Crochet Trade Sustainable / Eco Product of the year award for 2020. The judges said that HeartSpun was "A soft and silky, high quality yarn with a beautiful sheen. It's exciting to see a woollen based yarn strengthened with renewable fibres."

The yarn knits as a 4-ply with a slightly longer than standard 420m/100g and feels very similar to our BFL/Silk 4-ply blend. The first few skeins are in the webstore now, it can be custom ordered in many of our 4-ply colourways and is offered at £22 per 100g skein. Julie will be using the yarn for some new designs later this year and multi-skein yarn packs will also be available at a discount.

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2020 – "A Twisted Yarn" is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lace, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

Yarn Club - Spring Garden

We know many of you enjoy our Yarn Clubs, but recognise that sending three separate monthly packages represents a considerable added expense, especially given the recent increases in international mail.

We would therefore like to trial a slightly different approach. For the first club of 2021, we are planning to produce three skeins in the same yarn base (still in a choice of 4-ply or laceweight and all new colourways to our range), all of which would be dyed in a particular theme but featuring three shades/tones that will work together or separately. We know many customers like to make larger multi-coloured/toned projects, which these would be ideal for. The three skeins will all be shipped at the same time, which will reduce the postage costs by between 30% and 65%, depending on the destination.

Subscriptions for the first new Club, *The Spring Garden in Alpaca Silk* - featuring the soft and subtle pinks and purples you'd find in spring flowers - will be open until the middle of February in the normal way, and the three skeins will be dyed and shipped together at the end of February. We will then open up subscriptions for the next club throughout April, with shipping during May; and so on. Basically, you will be paying for your three skeins up-front as you do now, but will receive them all during the second month and will pay less for shipping. The cost will be as follows:



3 skeins of Alpaca Silk Laceweight or 4-ply yarn:

£55 + shipping by region

UK £3.95,

Europe £7.45,

Zone 1 £11.50,

Zone 2 £13.50,

Zone 3 £15.35



We hope our regulars will be willing to try this new approach, and that it may also encourage others to give the clubs a go. The cost of the yarn itself is always discounted from the normal single skein price by at least 5-10%, so it represents good value. And, if you want to make the shipping cost go even further, you can add extra skeins from the webstore to your parcel too, as a number of our regulars already do. Just add the extras to your shopping cart, or alternatively give us a call or drop us an email, telling us which skein(s) you want to add, and we'll set up a custom listing for you with adjusted or zero shipping as appropriate.

- Winter's Just Desserts

The last club of 2020 was quite successful, with lots of skeins in colourways of the Winter's Just Desserts theme heading out around the World.

Our Winter's Just Desserts Yarn Club, from top: Baby Alpaca in Rhubarb Crumble; Alpaca Silk Cashmere in Christmas Pudding and Merino Silk in Very Berry Pavlova

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2020 - "A Twisted Yarn" is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lace, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

On the Road ... 2021

As we go to press there really isn't any good news. Here in the UK, we are all in lock-down again, with our death toll being the worst in Europe.

On top of that, we have just heard that most of the major shows in the first half of the year have been cancelled - "Wonderwool"; "Woollinn" and "Fibre East", whilst we also know that the Glastonbury Music Festival has also been lost. We do not think that we will be able to see any of you again until much later this year.

Lockdown Knit and Crochet Along

Sadly we didn't get many entries for our knit and crochet along last year but we appreciate many people have had lots of other things on their mind and other projects to work on. However, we did manage to award seven prizes of £25 vouchers to the following people (some are Ravelry users and others sent us their project pics via email):

Crochet designs

Glenda Coates for her Irene shawl in Falklands Merino Lace

Susan White for her Rhiannon cowl in British Alpaca Silk Lace

4-ply shawls

Paulineinstitches for her Ulyana shawl in British Alpaca Silk 4-ply

Laceweight/fine lace shawls

Emma Grace for her *Eilidh* shawl in Shetland Cobweb Lace

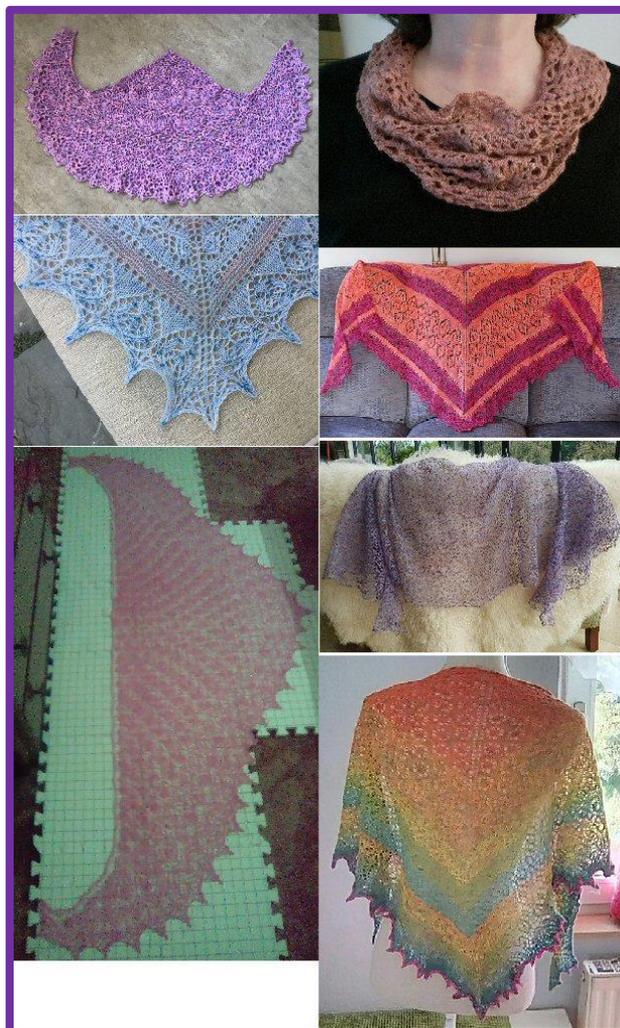
Heather MacMillan for her *Spring Equinox* shawl in Alpaca Silk Lace

kiki1306 for her *Forest Flowers* shawl

Susan Martin for her *Ulyana* shawl in Falklands Merino Lace

Clockwise from top left: Glenda Coates; Susan White;

Pauline-in-stitches; Emma Grace; Kiki1306; Heather Macmillan and Susan Martin



Congratulations to all the winners - we hope you enjoy spending your prizes and using your chosen yarns.

Shipping to Europe

As the UK left the European Union on 31 December, our European customers may now find they are subject to charges on packages received from the UK in the same way as on items from other countries outside the EU, eg USA. Each country is subject to different rates and the fees may include duty, VAT and/or handling charges, depending on the value of the goods received and the carrier delivering the package.

Please be assured that these charges are not levied by us and we do not receive any of the monies. We regret we cannot add these charges to your bill at the time you purchase from us, as they are added and payable once the package arrives in the receiving country.

We are unable to advise on what individual charges may be and recommend that you check with your own Government/carriers' websites prior to placing your order so that you are prepared for any resulting requests for payment before your package is delivered.

Visit our website at www.watercoloursandlace.co.uk

© 2020 – "A Twisted Yarn" is published by Watercolours & Lace, 18 Pristow Green Lane, Tibenham, Norwich, NR16 1PX

Did You Know #70 – HeartSpun

This is another slight deviation from talking about specific sheep yarns. This month we want to mention a specific yarn which has been developed with a Yorkshire mill and combines a fairly well-known sheep breed with wood pulp to produce something that is both super soft and silky, as well as strong and environmentally friendly.

The trigger for ‘Heartspun’ began back in 2012 when Helen Ingram was struggling to find good quality British wool for her business. She was able to small amounts of Welsh wool spun from the fleece of sheep farmed by her family in Pembrokeshire and has been writing knitting and crochet patterns for this yarn ever since.

Nowadays, of course, there is much more choice of British yarns available and, with knitting and crochet becoming more and more popular, British sheep farmers are getting paid a better sum of money for their fleeces. However, we often hear British wool being criticised for being “too itchy, too coarse or too scratchy” and that knitters prefer to use acrylic because it is cheap, or merino wool because it is soft.

So Helen got in touch with a spinning mill in Yorkshire and together they have produced a yarn that counters all those arguments and produces yarn that is both super soft and silky, as well as strong and environmentally friendly.

The Sheep

HeartSpun Yarn will be spun from the fleece of Blue-Faced Leicester sheep, which is both strong and soft and drapes beautifully once knitted. These elegant sheep are blessed with a fine, soft and semi-lustrous fleece. BFL’s fleece is known for its softness, but the fibre is also hard wearing and has wonderful stitch definition, making it equally ideal for both more durable items and lace garments.

Tencel™

Tencel™ is made from renewable wood pulp from Eucalyptus trees grown in certified sustainable forests in Europe and South Africa. It is 100% biodegradable and the production of Tencel™ requires less energy and water than fibres such as bamboo, cotton and viscose. For more information on the environmental credentials of Tencel™ visit <https://www.tencel.com/sustainability>

The Yarn

Combined together, the two elements create a beautiful soft yarn with a luxurious smooth sheen. It is strong, breathable, naturally anti-bacterial and hypo allergenic. It also allows dyes to penetrate deeply into the fibre resulting in impressive colour brilliance. The yarn is called “*HeartSpun*”, as it will be spun out of a love for both British wool and the environment.