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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2010



Welcome back to Spin A Yarn if you've had a break from knitting during the summer months. The late summer and autumn is an exciting time as we await the arrival of all the new yarns that I ordered way back in April/May.

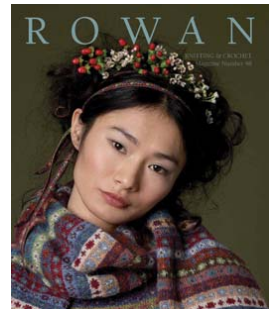
Prompted by last year's severe winter the yarn companies have introduced some beautiful new chunky yarns this season. "Put on another jumper" instead of turning up the heating will definitely be the attitude this winter. Realistic prices are also in demand so all the companies including Rowan are adding some acrylic to some of the natural yarns to produce a lighter and more affordable yarn.

New Rowan Yarns

You've probably noticed the stunning colourwork on the front of the new Rowan magazine 48. Fair Isle is high fashion again not just for the beauty of its colourways but also for its comforting warmth. All those extra strands of yarn being woven together make a wonderfully warm cosy fabric. The new Rowan chunky yarns the British Sheep Breeds Boucle, Renew, Drift and the stunning Silk Twist will be available in the shop by the time you receive this newsletter. As well as the complex patterning and rustic natural textures, the new Rowan magazine features 'Timeless classic styles' that look attractive at any age.

Noro Yarns

We're looking forward to welcoming back one of our favourite yarns this Autumn. Noro Kochoran is returning in a new selection of colourways. Its combination of Wool, Angora and Silk is a real winner and we are delighted that Designer Yarns and Noro have heeded our pleas!! The new Noro Chunky yarn Kochorash, a combination of silk and wool in mouth-watering colours is also bound to be a huge hit. The other exciting news from Noro is that it is introducing a lace-weight yarn called Sekkun in a Monet-type range of colours. I've ordered it in all the available colours and am expecting it to sell out fast because of the huge popularity of lace-weight yarns at the moment.



Lang Yarns

We have lots of stock of the beautiful new chunky yarns from Lang with stylish European pattern support. They also have introduced an amazing new yarn called Studio, especially made for felting. It is a boucle yarn which felts to a really soft fabric, perfect for jackets or bags. Embellishers will love the new Mille Fiamme super chunky yarn of variable thicknesses with a fleecy, stubby effect.

Meeting Louisa Harding

One of the highlights of our summer was meeting Louisa Harding up in Bradford. She was able to show us all the new samples from her latest pattern books "Dream Catcher" Blue Monday and Violet Sky. She explained that she was a dress designer before she became a knitwear designer. We now understand why her designs are so feminine and wearable, incorporating details such as darts and unusual shapings. We were thrilled to be given 3 samples to bring back to the shop. It's the first time we've ever had the samples before the new yarns and pattern books have arrived.

Debbie Bliss

Debbie Bliss has a new range of wonderful yarns coming in as usual. Glen is a fine Alpaca/Marino mixed with acrylic and Andes is a Baby Alpaca yarn mixed with Mulberry Silk. She has a new range of books coming in to support these new yarns. Also have you had a chance to look at both of her new 'How to Design' books, for adults and for babies?

Designers at Spin A Yarn

We musn't forget that we have our own wonderful designers available in Spin a yarn. Claire Crompton's workshops continue to be in demand. This term she has introduced 2 new ones, 'Essential techniques for Novice knitters' promises to help knitters move on from scarves to garments, while 'Entrolac knitting' is a technique that Claire is teaching for the first time at Spin a Yarn.



Anniken Allis is rapidly becoming well known as a designer. Her patterns have featured in all the British magazines (sometimes 3 in one mag!) as well as designing Lace patterns for Artesano. She's now aiming for the American market and having watched her success at targeting the British market I expect her to be successful in the States soon. Anniken is teaching 5 workshops for us this term. Do take the opportunity to book a workshop with Anniken. She is a real expert on socks and lace knitting.

Another new workshop which we are offering this term is Wire-work jewellery with Katie Gayle. Katie studied metalwork and Jewellery at the Epsom School of Art & Design and did a Masters in Art at the Royal College of Art. I couldn't resist showing you this photo of Katie's wonderful wire-work

necklace. Although please don't expect to produce such a wonderful piece of work on your one-day workshop!! We also have a Rowan consultant, Avril Best teaching us how to create a fashionable bag by knitting rags. This seemed to me to be a very appropriate workshop in the current climate!

Spin A Yarn in Print?

Another highlight of the year was being featured in the Gallery section of The Knitter magazine. We were invited to send in designs to the magazine and amazingly Spin A Yarn and its designs were featured in a two-page spread.

We're now thinking of producing a book so if anyone has any useful knowledge about how to go about this we'd love to hear from you. As you know we're very fortunate in having wonderful talented teachers to take all the workshops. We'd like to produce a book which features new patterns from our teachers and customers and intersperses the patterns with amusing tales and photos from our own local yarn shop.

New Yarns?

We're looking to expand our range of local yarns. Professionally spun yarn from local smallholders is usually welcome. We'd also like to hear from you about whether there are any special yarns that you would like us to stock in the future.

Finally, please don't forget to familiarise yourself with the beautiful, organic and natural Touchyarns and Rareyarns from New Zealand that we are fortunate enough to be able to sell. We are the only stockists of these yarns in the UK. These beautiful, organic and natural yarns were my original incentive to open a yarn shop when my daughters fell in love with them in New Zealand and I had to teach them to knit!



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my customers and sales team for their support and help in the shop

Best wishes from Joyce
xx



Rareyarn Accessories from RareHome

in

Fitted Jacket knitted
RareEarth Boucle