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SPRING WORKSHOPS 2010

Don't forget you receive 10% off all yarns and accessories at workshops and loyalty card holders receive 15% off!

PROFESSIONAL FINISHING TECHNIQUES WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

(Due to the exceptionally high demand for this workshop 3 dates have been arranged.)

It is often the finishing details that make the difference to a garment and this workshop will show you techniques to make sure your garment has a professional finish. You will learn how easy it is to sew up all your unfinished projects using mattress stitch.

Topics include: How to sew in ends neatly, blocking and pressing pieces, shaping that makes sewing up easier to do, picking up stitches evenly for a neckband or button band, making neat buttonholes, sewing on borders, and setting in sleeves.

You will need: make four identical samples of stocking stitch to measure 10cm x 10cm (4in x 4in), using a smooth DK or aran yarn. If you usually work the edge stitches differently (slipping or knitting on every row), please knit or purl them the same as the rest of the row. Do not press or steam any of the samples as we will be doing that in the workshop.

Bring plenty of your yarn for knitting and sewing up.

Bring along an unfinished project for help and advice.

Dates: Fridays 29 January, 19 March, 4 June 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

FAIR ISLE AND INTARSIA COLOUR WORKSHOP WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

The basics of both these techniques can be quickly learnt and you will soon using more than one colour in your knitting. In the workshop you will knit a sample of both to make into a drawstring bag.

Topics include: How to get an even tension in Fair Isle when stranding yarn, using yarn bobbins to avoid tangles, weaving in ends, how to read charts, and how to hold two yarns at once.

You will need: Bring along two contrasting colours of smooth (not textured or fancy) DK or aran weight yarn to work the basic samples, or bring more colours if you want more of a challenge.

Date: Friday 5 February

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

KNITTED BAG DESIGN WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Knitted bags are a great way to try out new yarns and stitches. Learn how to design your perfect bag, ranging from simple rectangles to more shaped pieces. In the workshop, we will write a pattern for a bag in any thickness of yarn to begin knitting on the day. Topics include: Making different handles and straps, how to attach bought handles, adding a lining and sewing in a zip or attaching magnetic closures. You will need: Bring some yarn (any texture or thickness) that you want to knit into a bag.

Date: Friday, 19 February 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

MODULAR (MITRED SQUARES) KNITTING WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Modular knitting (aka mitred squares or domino knitting) is a great patchwork technique, and easy to learn. Squares are joined together as you knit so no seams to sew and stunning colour effects can be created using one yarn at a time. You will knit a sample using the basic square and be able to use this as the base for a bigger project.

Topics include: How to pick up stitches and join shapes together, building on the basic square to make other shapes, and ideas for throws, rugs, bags, scarves and sweaters.

You will need: Bring along plenty of yarn (DK or thicker) in different colours, especially multi-coloured like Noro or hand-dyed yarn.

Date: Friday, 5 March 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

UNDERSTANDING A KNITTING PATTERN WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Knitting patterns give a lot of information but they often assume that you know a lot too, which can be daunting for the novice knitter. In this workshop you will knit a small shaped bag, taking you step-by-step through the knitting pattern and de-coding the jargon and abbreviations. Take home a pattern for an adult stocking stitch sweater as your next project.

Other topics include: Knitting and measuring a tension square, how to choose the correct size to fit you and find the instructions on a multi-size pattern, an explanation of common abbreviations and phrases, and simple shaping techniques to use when the pattern doesn't tell you how.

You will need: at least 2 x 50g balls of smooth (not textured or fancy) aran weight yarn and 4.5mm needles.

Bring along any pattern you need help with.

Date: Friday 16 April 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

KNIT YOUR OWN DESIGN WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Learn how to write a pattern for a casual stocking stitch sweater using your own measurements. You can either work from your own tension square or write the pattern for any standard thickness of yarn e.g. DK, aran, chunky etc. We will be using simple maths in this workshop.

Other topics include: How to alter the basic pattern to create different styles, drawing your garment on graph paper for colour knitting, how to add cable panels and work in different stitches, taking measurements from yourself or a favourite garment, how to work out yarn amounts, and how to use what you've learnt to alter existing patterns.

You will need: a calculator. Optional: tension square (if you already have your yarn), and a well fitting garment to take measurements

Date: Friday 14 May 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

KNITTED FLOWERS AND JEWELLERY WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

This is a great way to use up some of your yarn stash. In the workshop you will knit one of several different flowers. In the second half of the workshop, knit a necklace of knitted beads or flowers. Topics include: How to make different flowers and leaves, and make into corsages, developing the basic necklace.

You will need: Bring a selection of yarns in different textures, colours and thicknesses especially 4 ply (or thinner) and DK.

Date: Friday 21 May, 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

ADVANCED DESIGN FOR HANDKNITS WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

A more advanced design workshop, introducing shaping into a garment giving a more structured fit. Armhole shaping, waist shaping, and sleeve shaping all add refinements to the basic garment shape. We will be using simple maths in this workshop. For experienced knitters or those who have attended 'Knit Your Own Design' workshop.

Topics include: Writing instructions for a stocking stitch sweater with set-in sleeves and side shaping. Alternative necklines. Using different shaping techniques such as darts and full fashioning.

You will need a calculator

Date: Friday 18 June 2010

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

LUXURY LITTLE KNITS WITH ALISON CROWTHER SMITH -2 separate dates

These workshops introduces knitters to the unique and beautiful speciality yarns such as Rowan kidsilk haze and Alchemy haiku. It will cover all the skills needed to be able to knit most effectively with these luxury ysarns including the most suitable cast-on methods, knitting with beads and sequins, simple lace stitches, picking-up-and-knitting for frills and decorative cast-offs.

On the day you will be amazed at the endless charm and applications of these yarns and will depart with a free pattern using one or more of your new skills to complete a beautiful project at home; knit at least 2 samples, including a beaded panel with a decorative frill and a flower corsage.

Date: Friday, 23 April & Friday, 11 June 2010

Time: 10.00-4.00pm

Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

Anniken Allis who has had great success with her patterns in "Yarn Forward", "Let's Knit" & Knitting magazines is teaching 5 workshops for us

CONTINENTAL KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS – 2 separate dates

This workshop proved a huge hit last time around! The Continental way of knitting is faster and more efficient than most English styles. You will learn how to carry your yarn in your left hand and knit and purl continental style, as well as continental long-tail cast on and Norwegian purl

Dates: Tuesday 9 February & Friday, 9 July 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

EASY LACE KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Lace knitting is extremely popular at the moment and is used in shawls, garments, socks and accessories. This workshop will teach you how to read charts, work the stitches and decreases required for lace knitting, add beads using a crochet hook and how to work shaping within a lace pattern. We'll practice working several swatches from various lace charts.

Following this workshop you should be able to work simple lace patterns used in garments, shawls or accessories.

Date Tuesday, 23 March 2010
Time 10.00am – 4.00pm
Price £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea time treats)

BASIC SOCK KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS – 2 HALF DAY WORKSHOPS

Socks are incredibly popular and there is something magic about turning your first heel. Discover how to knit a sock from the top down, knitting in the round on double-pointed needles, how to knit a heel flap, turn the heel and work a toe. We'll be knitting a mini-sock in this workshop to practice all the techniques involved in making a sock. You will be given an adult size sock pattern to take home. **WARNING** – socks are very addictive.

Dates: Tuesdays 20 & 27 April 2010
Time: 10.00 -1.00pm on both days
Price: £45.00 (includes home –cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

TOE UP SOCKS ON CIRCULAR NEEDLES WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Working socks from the toe up is fun and it's easier to make sure you use all your available

Yarn without wasting any. This workshop will teach you how to work a closed cast on, knit the toe, increase for the gusset, turn the heel and work the heel flap, and how to do a stretchy cast off. In addition you'll learn how to knit socks on circular needles using magic loop method or two circular needles. You can practice knitting two socks at a time

Date: Tuesday, 25 May 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

ADVANCED LACE KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Knitted lace shawls and garments are very popular and this workshop will teach you the techniques you need to know to knit a complicated lace shawl with edging and lace garments. You will learn how to read more difficult charts, work the various stitches and decreases needed for lace knitting add beads to your lace using the crochet hook method, work an applied border, provisional cast on and suitable cast/bind offs.

Following this workshop you should be confident to tackle a more complicated lace shawl with an applied (knitted on) border.

Date Tuesday, 22 June 2010
Time 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

KNITTING WITH WIRE WITH PAT COOPER

Pat is a talented Textile Artist who has many unique pieces of work displayed in local Galleries in the West Country. Pat will teach the basics so that you can get used to

knitting with wire. You will be working with very fine wire that is suitable for knitting. By adding beads and fine knitting yarns it is possible to get very interesting textures making 3D pieces suitable for bracelets, necklaces and brooches.

It should be possible to finish a bracelet during the day's workshop.

Date: Wednesday, 2 June 2010
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch & teatime treats)

ROWAN DESIGNER WORKSHOPS 1 & 2

Design Workshop 1 BACKWARDS KNITTING WITH FREDDIE PATMORE

Eliminate the dreaded wrong-side row with this workshop featuring an unusual technique that leaves you able to knit an entire garment without turning your work at all. Speedy stocking stitch, here we come! Ideal for the purl-despising confident knitter, practice your new skill throughout the day by testing your new skill out on short-row shaping and a stained glass window style entrelac project.

Date: Friday, 26 March 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats.)

Design Workshop 2 KNITTED TEXTURES WITH SARAH THORNETT

Have you found yourself in a knitted rut where you are picking out projects that always use the same yarns or the same techniques and want to break out and learn something different. On this day we will look at 2 main yarn fibres and explore what they add to your knitted project. We will be adding depth & texture to your work with stitch patterns such as cables showing how impressive stitch patterns can be created simply.

This workshop is for anyone wanting to explore further knit techniques, but will lead onto a project, which can be started on the day and finished after the event.

Date: Friday, 12 March
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats.)
FELTING WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO INLAY FELTING WITH GERDA HATTON-ELLIS

Using a technique called inlay felting allows more control over shapes and patterns. You will make a small wall-hanging with a pattern of your choice.

If you have any favourite patterns or cards, please bring them along. Simple geometric shapes work the best. Please bring a sharp pair of scissors. Fleece can be purchased on the day.

Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats.)

MAKING SEAMLESS FELT WITH GERDA HATTON-ELLIS - 2 DATES BOOKED

Gerda is introducing you to the art of making seamless felt on this day. You will be able to make a small bag, spectacle case or bowl without seams. If you have your own fleece, please bring it. It needs to be carded or combed. Alternatively, you will be able to buy fleece on the day.

Dates: Tuesdays, 16 February & 18 May 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats.)

ADVANCED 1 DAY FELTING WORKSHOP WITH GERDA HATTON-ELLIS

This is the opportunity to learn all the basics of making fine felt and Nuno felt.

For this workshop it is an advantage to have some experience of felt –making. These types of felt are particularly suitable for scarves. Although we do not have enough space to make scarves during class, this day will provide you with enough experience and ideas to make one at home. We will make some samples of cobweb felt and nuno felt. In Nuno felting the wool fibres are felted into a piece of woven fabric. The fabric needs to be fine with an open weave such as cheesecloth, silk chiffon or painting silk. You can felt into man-made chiffon, but it is not easy.

A range of fabrics will be available to purchase on the day, or you can bring your own (approx.15" square) that you want to try.

Date: Tuesday, 9 March 2010
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

INTRODUCTION TO NEEDLE POINT FELTING WITH CAROL TIMMS – 2 dates

With Carol's expert help you will be taught how to make a small 3d sculpture such as an animal shape or a raised and textured shape on a felted wallhanging or bag.

You will learn basic Needlepunch techniques which include how to wind sheep's fleece (with or without pipe-cleaners) to add fine detail with a barbed needle. You can then leave it "wispy"(making several small ones for a mobile perhaps), or give it a warm, soapy massage and make a cuddly toy which will survive rough play!

Date: Wednesday, 17 March, 2010 & Friday, 28 May 2010
Time: 10am – 4pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

MAKE A NEEDLE-FELTED BOOK COVER WITH PAT COOPER

In this workshop Pat will show you how to make a book cover with knitting wools. This is done by using a hand-held felting tool.

If there is enough time during the afternoon you will also be shown how to make felted flowers. These can be sewn onto a brooch back

Date: Wednesday, 5 May 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats).

INTRODUCTION TO SPINNING WITH MARY MALLET – 2 DAY COURSES

Mary is a long time member of the Devon Guild of Spinners Weavers & Dyers. She is an experienced & talented teacher who will introduce you to the mysteries of spinning over a 2 day course.

You will learn how to prepare the fleece for spinning, how to card the fleece and how to ply & skein your newly spun yarn

All materials are included. If you have your own wheel, then bring it along.

If you don't, we will be able to lend you one for the course.

Dates: Monday, 22 February & Monday, 1 March 2010
Monday, 10 May & Monday, 17 May 2010
Time: 10am – 4pm
Price: £60.00 (including lunch & tea time treats)

WILLOW BASKET WEAVING WITH JAN BAKER – 2 DATES BOOKED

Jan Baker has 20 years of experience as a basketmaker and teacher.

At each workshop she will help you create small willow baskets using a mixture of different materials. Choose from buff and white willow from the Somerset Levels, locally grown willow from Manaton and hand dyed cane. Add beautiful yarns and any other natural material that you like- to create your own individual pieces.

Dates: Wednesdays, 3 & 24 February 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (including home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats).

PEG LOOMING WITH VAL GRAINGER - 2 DATES BOOKED

Val farms in the Blackdown Hills. She produces beautiful hand dyed yarn from her own Dorset Down & Wensleydale sheep. Val is teaching us how to use a simple peg loom using natural fleece to produce some beautiful & textured warm comfortable rugs, cushions or wall hangings. Val uses different techniques from most peg loomers and shows how to incorporate beautiful unusual yarns and silks with the fleece.

Date: Wednesdays, 31 March & 26 May 2010
Time: 10am-4pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

BEGINNERS CROCHET WITH CELIA BATORJYS – 4 Thursday afternoons

Many exciting new patterns combine crochet with knitting, and crochet is itself becoming more and more popular This is a 4 week course for complete beginners to get you started.

Celia will teach you different crochet stitches during the 4 weeks to give you the confidence to tackle most crochet patterns. You will learn how to make flowers and small items suitable for making a corsage for a dress or bag. You don't need to bring any yarn or hooks along. They are all provided.

Dates: Thursdays, 11, 18, 25 February and 4 March
Time: 2.00- 4.00pm
Price: £40.00 for the 4 week course (includes tea-time treats)

BEGINNERS KNITTING WITH LESLIE CHURCHILL – 4 Wednesday afternoons

This is a 4 week course for complete beginners to get you started. You will learn how to

cast on & cast off, knit, purl and how to combine these 2 stitches to form stocking stitch or moss stitch You will also be introduced to cabling and a simple lace stitch.

You will be given a pattern to knit a simple bag or similar project.

Dates: Wednesdays, 7, 14, 21 & 28 April
Time: 2 – 4.00pm
Price: £25.00 for 4 sessions

BEYOND THE BASICS – CROCHET WITH CELIA BATORJYS

Once the basic stitches have been mastered crochet can be used in all sorts of ways. This workshop covers some of the more advanced stitches to create interesting textures and fabrics for use in a number of projects.

Date: Thursday, 8 April 2010
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

KNITTING CLUB DATES

JUST COME ALONG!!

Morning Club 1st Tuesday of every month 10.30am – 1.00pm
5 January, 2 February, 2 March, 6 April,
4 May, 1 June 6 July 3 August 2010

Last Wednesday of every month 6.30pm – 9.00pm
27 January, 24 February, 31 March, 28 April,
26 May, 30 June, 28 July, 25 August 2010

There is a nominal charge of £2.50 to cover all drinks, sandwiches & cakes etc.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Spin A Yarn!!

Joyce, Ali, Sue, Yvonne & Patsy