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SPRING WORKSHOPS 2011

Workshops sell out very fast. Don't forget to ring as soon as you get your new schedule! Participants of workshops will receive a voucher entitling them to 10% or 15% discount on all yarns and accessories. This can be used on the workshop day or up to a month after the workshop.

MORE BLANKETS & THROWS WITH DEBBIE ABRAHAMS

This workshop offers 12 individual projects using Rowan yarns. Textured stitches, multi-colour designs, striped patterns, beads, sequins and buttons are used to create unique furnishings for the home.

You can follow the instructions for a set project, or have fun experimenting with your own combination of a selection of squares. There are 100 individual squares in the book to choose from. This workshop will enable you to learn a brand new knitting technique, or brush up on your existing skills. You will choose a square to knit up during the workshop from "More Blankets & Throws". Choose from textured stitches, cables, intarsia and fairisle patterns and beads. Debbie will provide yarn for this workshop.

Date: Monday, 11 April 2011
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (including home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

PROFESSIONAL FINISHING TECHNIQUES WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

(Due to the exceptionally high demand for this workshop 4 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 28 January, 18 March, 27 May, 3 June 2011,
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 be 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, 4 February 2011
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, 25 February 2011 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, 4 March 2011 **Time:** 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES FOR NOVICE KNITTERS WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

In this workshop you will learn some of the essential techniques every knitter needs to know to progress from scarves to garments. Work two samples trying different techniques and sew together to make a useful drawstring bag.

Topics include: how to knit and measure a tension square, basic pattern reading, different increases and decreases to shape your knitting, finishing techniques such as picking up stitches, blocking, and mattress stitch for sewing up your garment.

You will need: a ball of some smooth (not textured or fancy) DK or aran yarn and needles.

Date: Friday 25 March 2011
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 15 April 2011
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

ENTRELAC KNITTING WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Entrelac is a fascinating patchwork technique, making a fabric that resembles woven knitted strips. This effect is created by working rows of blocks that lean either to the right or to the left. All joined as you knit so no sewing up to do. It looks complicated but the basic steps are easily learnt. In the workshop you will knit a sample of all the steps so you are ready to start either a scarf or a bag.

Topics include: how to knit base triangles, side triangles and rectangular blocks, picking up stitches, short rows, working two colours, and ideas for projects using stocking stitch and other stitches.

Date: Friday, 6 May 2011
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)

KNITTING CABLES WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Cables look complicated but are simple to knit. Add extra texture to your knitting with traditional cable patterns as well as travelling stitches and more innovative cabling techniques. You will knit samples in the workshop which can later be finished into a bag, cushion or scarf.

Topics include: how to read cable instructions and charts, knitting simple and more complex cables, using a cable needle, how to fix a cabling mistake, measuring tension.

You will need: a ball of aran weight yarn (any smooth yarn that says aran on the ball band, any colour)

Date: Friday 13 May 2011
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 to give 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 17 June 2011 **Time:** 10.00 – 4.00pm

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

KNIT THE SHIMMER STOLE WITH ALISON CROWTHER-SMITH

Come to this special one-day workshop and learn to knit the Shimmer Stole with Alison Crowther-Smith. Worked in Kidsilk Haze and Shimmer, it features a delicate over-lay lace pattern, using the two contrasting yarns to great effect. The resulting pattern looks complex - but is in fact relatively easy to master. On the day, you will practise the techniques and gain confidence with the pattern and the yarns. Then, and at your own pace, you will cast on the project and spend a happy afternoon knitting together. By working through the pattern and the stitches first with Alison, you will then have the skills and confidence to complete the project at home, having first had the opportunity to resolve any areas of concern.

The project takes 3 balls of Rowan Kidsilk Haze, plus 1 ball of Rowan Shimmer and is worked on 4mm needles. You will need to buy these on the day using your discount.

Date: Thursday, 3 February 2011 Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

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

INTRODUCTION TO SHIBORI FELTING WITH ALISON CROWTHER SMITH

This workshop introduces you to the interesting art of Shibori Felting. Learn all you need to know about felting hand-knitted projects in your washing machine. The workshop covers felting basics and the technical information you need to understand the process.

You will knit and felt 2 swatches, using the Shibori techniques, take home a free pattern for a project at home and begin the process of using this skill to design or adapt patterns for yourself.

Date: Thursday, 24 March 2011 Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

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

LUXURY LITTLE KNITS WITH ALISON CROWTHER SMITH

This workshop 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 yarns 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: Thursday, 12 May 2011 Time: 10.00-4.00pm

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

KNIT THE GLOW SCARF WITH ALISON CROWTHER-SMITH

'Come to this special one-day workshop and learn to knit the Glow Scarf by Alison Crowther-Smith. Worked in Kidsilk Haze and Kidsilk Aura, it features an unusual lace pattern giving the impression of glowing round windows in the lace, using the two contrasting yarns to great effect. The resulting pattern looks complex - but is in fact relatively easy to master. On the day, you will practice the techniques and gain confidence with the pattern and the yarns. Then, and at your own pace, you will cast on the project and spend a happy afternoon knitting together. By working through the pattern and the stitches first with Alison, you will then have the skills and confidence to complete the project at home, having first had the opportunity to resolve any areas of concern.

The project takes 1 ball of Rowan Kidsilk Haze, plus 2 balls of Rowan Kidsilk Aura and is worked on 6mm needles.' You can buy the yarns at the shop using your workshop discount.

Date: Thursday, 16 June 2011 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 8 & 15 February 2011 Time: 10.00 -1.00pm on both days

Price: £45.00 (includes home –cooked lunch and 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, 22 February 2011 Time 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch & 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 practise knitting two socks at a time.

Date: Friday, 11 March 2011
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats)
INTERMEDIATE LACE KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

If you have already knitted a piece of lace this workshop will teach you the techniques you need to know to knit more complicated works such as a 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 Friday, 1 April 2011 **Time** 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price £45.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

CONTINENTAL KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

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 17 May 2011 **Time:** 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

FROM RAGS TO RICHES WITH ROWAN CONSULTANT AVRIL BEST

Ransack your cupboard; get to grips with your stash; reuse and recycle using the traditional craft of rag-work. Learn how to create your own yarn from worn-out clothes and remnants and have fun producing a unique bag in this one day workshop! Harness your individual creativity and get inspiration to customize and rework garments.

Materials needed: 10mm knitting needles/crochet hook. About 5 old shirts or the equivalent in remnants. Good sharp dress-making scissors. Skills needed are basic knitting/crochet & sewing.

NOTE: Avril will email or ring with instructions about how to cut up strips.

Date: Friday, 10 June 2011
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
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, 17, 24 February, 3, 10 March 2011
Time: 2.00- 4.00pm

Price: £40.00 for the 4 week course (includes tea-time treats)

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, 31 March 2011
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £45.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and 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, 6, 13, 20 & 27 April 2011
Time: 2 – 4.00pm
Price: £25.00 for 4 sessions

INTRODUCTION TO FELTING WITH GERDA HATTON-ELLIS – 2 Dates

Learn the principles of felt-making and make your own unique piece of felt.

Gerda will show you how to make beads and cover a pebble with felt or you may be

inspired to follow your own ideas and make a wall hanging or small bag.
Bring your own carded fleece, or you can buy fleece on the day.

Date: Thursday, 10 February, Thursday, 14 April 2011
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £50.00 (includes home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats.) Only 4 persons

COBWEB & NUNO FELTING WORKSHOP WITH GERDA HATTON-ELLIS

This is the opportunity to learn all the basics of making fine felt and Nuno felt (applying fleece to silk or cotton fabric). 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. 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. Fleece is also available to buy.

Date: Thursday, 17 March, Thursday, 19 May 2011
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £50.00 (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! Small charge for materials used.

Date: Friday, 18 February, Friday, 8 April 2011 Time: 10am – 4pm
Price: £50.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea-time treats). Only 5 persons

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: Mondays 7 & 14 March 2011 (2 whole days)
Mondays 6 & 13 June 2011 (2 whole days)
Time: 10am – 4pm
Price: £60.00 (including lunch & tea time treats) Only 4 persons

WILLOW BASKET WEAVING WITH JAN BAKER – 2 DATES

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. A small charge is made for materials.

Dates: Wednesdays, 16 February & 11 May 2011
Time: 10.00-4.00pm
Price: £50.00 (including home-cooked lunch and tea-time treats). Only 4 persons

PEG LOOMING WITH VAL GRAINGER - 2 DATES

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. A small charge is made for materials.

Dates: Thursday, 7 April & Wednesday, 4 May 2011
Time: 10am-4pm
Price: £50.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats) Only 4/5 persons