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SPRING 2009

A photo taken at Rowan's Kidsilk Haze workshop in May

Alison Crowther-Smith, a Rowan Design Consultant is teaching 3 workshops for us this Spring.

ROWAN TEXTURED KNITS WITH ALISON CROWTHER-SMITH

This day is about learning how to add an extra special finishing touch to your knitting
It will cover: several frequently used and some less obvious all-over texture stitches; bobbles; cables; beads; reading and plotting textured designs on knitting graph paper.
On the day you will: knit several sample swatches.

Skill level: this day is aimed at knitters who are at a basic to intermediate level.

Date: Friday, 23 January 2009

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

ROWAN KIDSILK HAZE WORKSHOP “GORGEOUS GIFTS & ACCESSORIES”

This day is about introducing knitters to the unique and beautiful speciality yarns Kidsilk Haze and Kidsilk Aura

It will cover: all the skills needed to be able to knit most effectively with Kidsilk Haze, including gaining confidence with the yarn, most suitable cast-on methods, gauge options, applications for using the yarn, knitting with beads and sequins, simple lace stitches, picking-up-and-knitting for frills and edges, knitting frills and decorative cast-offs; using KSH with other yarns.

On the day you will: be amazed at the endless charm and applications of this yarn; learn all the skills above and depart with a free pattern using one or more samples, including a beaded panel with a decorative frill and a flower corsage.

Skill level: knitters will need to be confident at a basic or intermediate skill level.

Date: Thursday, 12 March 2009

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

ROWAN GORGEOUS EXTRAS WORKSHOP WITH ALISON CROWTHER-SMITH

This day is about: learning how to add an extra special finishing touch to your knitting

It will cover: knitting in beads or sequins; knitting a lacy or decorative border;

picking-up-and-knitting a border or a frill; decorative cast-ons and cast-offs;

knitting a corsage – flowers and leaves – suitable for appliqué or to wear as a corsage

On the day you will: learn all the skills needed to be able to add these gorgeous finishing touches, so that you can knit the patterns you want or have the confidence to add them to designs;

knit several swatches

Skill level: this day is aimed at knitters with basic to intermediate ability or above.

Date Friday, 15 May 2009

Time 10.00 - 4.00pm

Price £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

CLAIRE CROMPTON'S PROFESSIONAL FINISHING TECHNIQUES – Due to the exceptionally high demand for this workshop 3 separate dates have been organized

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. Bring along an unfinished project for help & advice.

Topics include: How to sew in ends neatly, blocking & pressing pieces, shaping that makes sewing up easier to do, picking up stitches evenly for a neckband or button band and how to make buttonholes, a technique for making smoother shoulder seams using short row shaping and three needle cast off, and how to set in sleeves.

You will need: Bring the following samples, knitted in smooth DK or aran yarn:

1. Knit two identical samples of stocking stitch to measure 10cm x 10cm (4in x 4in)
2. Knit two identical samples of stocking stitch the same size but do not cast off the stitches, leave them on the needles

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.

Dates Fridays, 6 February, 17 April, 19 June 2009

Time 10am – 4pm

Price £40.00 (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 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 & 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 any pattern you need help with. I'll also offer advice on yarn, needles, knitting techniques, stitches etc.

Date Friday, 27 February 2009
Time 10am – 4pm
Price £40.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & 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, 6 March 2009
Time 10am – 4pm
Price £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

KNIT TO 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 eg. DK, aran, chunky, etc. We will be using simple maths in this workshop, with extra help to anyone who finds numbers tricky.

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: Calculator, a tension square (if you already have your yarn), and a well fitting garment to take measurements.

Date: Friday, 20 March 2009
Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Price: £40.00 (includes home- cooked lunch and tea time treats)

KNITTED BAG DESIGN WORKSHOP WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

Knitted bags are a great way to try out new yarns and stitches. Learn how to design your own 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 3 April 2009
Time 10am – 4pm
Price £40. 00 (includes a home-cooked lunch and tea- time treats)

MODULAR (MITRED SQUARES) KNITTING 1 DAY WORKSHOP 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 there are no seams to sew and stunning colour effects are 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 8 May 2009

Time: 10am – 4pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

KNITTED FLOWERS & JEWELLERY 1 DAY WORKSHOP WITH CLAIRE CROMPTON

This is a great way to use up some of your yarn stash. In the workshop you will knit two Styles of flower and learn how to adapt a basic pattern to make more flowers

Topics include: How to make different flowers and leaves, and make into corsages, developing the basic necklace with knitted beads and embellishments, and how to knit with beads

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

Date: Friday, 29 May 2009

Time: 10.00-4.00pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

ADVANCED DESIGN FOR HANDKNITS 1 DAY WORKSHOP 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, with extra help to anyone who finds numbers tricky. 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 or short row shaping.

You will need: Calculator

Date: Friday, 5 June 2009

Time: 10am-4pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home-cooked lunch & 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 course of the day’s workshop.

Date: Wednesday 15, April, 2008

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & teatime treats)

Anniken Allis, who is having great success with monthly patterns appearing in new “Yarn Forward” magazine, is teaching 5 interesting workshops this term.

INTRODUCTION TO SOCK KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Socks are such a popular project, especially as there are so many magic self-patterning yarns around at present.

Topics include: How to use double pointed needles/knit in the round. Basic sock construction & alternative methods. Different heel flaps. How to obtain the perfect gusset. Toes and how to graft (kitchener stitch), stitch patterns. Extra items to be taught include how to get the perfect fit (measuring foot/gauge) and how to adapt a basic sock pattern to suit different patterns. Anniken will supply a basic sock pattern & a tutorial sheet on “sock formula”

Date: Thursday, 26 March 2009

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price: 40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

EASY LACE KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Lace garments are an important trend for this winter. They are light yet warm to wear And use surprisingly little yarn. Lace is quick and easy to knit once you have mastered a few simple techniques that are practised at this workshop.

Topics include knitting different lace stitches, yarn overs and decreases. How to read charts, How to block lace. Adding beads to your lace making

Date Thursday, 7 May 2009

Time 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea time treats)

ADVANCED SOCK KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Suitable for knitters who have knitted at least a couple of basic pairs of socks.

Topics include: how to knit socks with 2 circular needles or magic loop method
how to knit socks from the toe up
how to knit 2 socks at the same time on 2 circular needles
Discussion on suitable yarn to use for socks

Date Thursday 21 May 2009

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea time treats)

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED LACE KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

Suitable for knitters who are comfortable knitting lace but would like to try some new techniques.

Topics include Reading more advanced charts and lace patterns.
Different cast-ons will be taught including the provisional cast-on. lace cast-on.
Also covered will be different bind-offs and applied (knitted on) borders.

Date: Thursday, 4 June 2009

Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm

Price: 40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

CONTINENTAL KNITTING WITH ANNIKEN ALLIS

This is an unusual workshop. Anniken is often asked if she would teach the basics of continental knitting, which is much faster and neater than our British methods!

As well as Continental knitting with Norwegian purl, she will also teach how to do the long tail cast-on which is particularly used in Lace knitting.

At this workshop you will work on a project with various stitch patterns to practice continental knitting

Date: Thursday, 18 June 2009
Time: 10.00 – 4.00pm
Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

CROCHET WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO CROCHET - 1 DAY WORKSHOPS WITH CELIA BATORIJS 2 SEPARATE WORKSHOP DATES

Many exciting new patterns include crochet as well as knitting, so this term we are offering 2 workshops which will provide you with the basics of crochet. Celia will teach different crochet stitches and if you want, you will learn how to make flowers and small items suitable for making a corsage for a dress or bag

Date: Thursdays, 19 February & 19 March 2009
Time: 10am – 4pm
Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

BEYOND THE BASICS/ INTERMEDIATE - CROCHET WITH CELIA BATORIJS

For those who know the basics of Crochet and want to learn a wider range of stitches. You will learn how to shape for garments & how to add crochet to your knitting projects. Participants of the beginner crochet workshops will be well qualified to take part in this one

Date: Thursday, 28 May 2009
Time: 10am – 4.00pm
Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)

PEG LOOMING WITH VAL GRAINGER – 2 SEPARATE WORKSHOP 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.

Date: Wednesdays, 4 March and 6 May 2009
Time: 10am-4pm
Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch and tea time treats)
Number of persons is limited to 4

FELTING WORKSHOPS

INTRODUCTION TO FELTING WITH GERDA HATTON ELLIS – TWO DAY COURSES - TWO SEPARATE DATES

Gerda is a talented felt maker and teacher. She is teaching two felting courses which provide a real introduction to felting.

The first week of each course there is a morning session until 1.00pm when you will explore the various methods of felting. In the second week of each course when you have a whole day, you will be able to make something special to take home. Ideas of what you can make include a scarf, a hat, a tea cosy, a bowl, a wall hanging, a bag or a cushion.

Dates: 2 day course

Thursday, 29 January & Thursday, 5 February 2009

Thursday, 23 April & 30 April 2009

Time: 10am – 1pm on 1st day and 10.00am – 4.00pm on 2nd day

Price £50.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea time treats)

Number of Persons limited to 4

INTRODUCTION TO NEEDLE-PUNCH FELTING WITH CAROL TIMMS

Carol needs no introduction as she is one of the best known teachers of felt-making in the area. As the title suggests you will be taught how to make a needle punched small sculpture, such as an animal shape or raised and textured shapes 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) adding 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, 10 June, 2009

Time: 10am – 4pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & tea-time treats)

Number of persons is limited to 5

INTRODUCTION TO SPINNING – 2 DAY COURSE WITH MARY MALLET

Mary is a long time member of the Devon Guild of Spinners Weavers & Dyers. She has helped to stage exhibitions around the county and taken part in many demonstrations of spinning. 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 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, 9 March & Tuesday, 10 March

Monday, 18 May & Tuesday, 19 May

Time: 10am – 4pm

Price: £50.00 (including lunch & tea time treats)

Number of persons is limited to 4

WILLOW WEAVING WITH JAN BAKER – 2 SEPERATE WORKSHOPS

Jan Baker has 20 years of experience as a basket-maker and teacher.

Willow Basket workshop

The first workshop day 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.

Willow Fish, Flowers and Snails

The second workshop day she will teach how to make beautiful willow flowers, fish, snails & dragonflies using local willow and adding unusual yarns.

Dates: Baskets Wednesday, 18 February 2009

Willow Flowers Wednesday 25 March 2009

Time: 10am – 4pm

Price: £40.00 (includes home cooked lunch & teatime treats)

Number of persons limited to 4`

INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL DYEING with Shan Palmes and Joyce Mason

An exciting day is planned on 1 June 2009 to introduce the art of Natural dyeing.

Spring is the best time to use natural plants and other ingredients to dye natural fleece from Sheep, goats and alpaca.. An amazing variety of colours can be obtained from a range of natural ingredients. Dyeing with Indigo will also be covered.

All fleece and dyestuffs will be provided as well as lunch & refreshments.

Date: Monday, 1 June 2009

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Place: Mill Farm, Manaton (Note – directions will be provided)

Price: £40.00 (includes lunch & Tea time treats)

BEGINNERS KNITTING COURSE WITH JOYCE – 4 afternoons from 2.00 – 4.00pm

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.

Dates: 21, 28 January, 4 February & 11 February

Price: £20.00 for 4 sessions

KNITTING CLUB DATES – JUST COME ALONG!!

Morning Club 1ST Tuesday of every month 10.30am – 1.00pm

3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May, 2 June, 7 July

Last Wednesday of every month 6.30pm – 9.00pm

28 January, 25 February, 25 March, 29 April, 27 May, 24 June, 29 July

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

DON'T FORGET THAT ON THE WORKSHOP DAY ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE 10% OFF YARNS. LOYALTY CARD HOLDERS RECEIVE 15% OFF!!

Workshops are limited to 6 participants unless otherwise indicated