

# Commu-knitty

We take a closer look at inspirational craft stories and meet people from the world of yarn! Got a knitty story to tell? Get in touch over on page 25

## GET INVOLVED

### Helping the homeless

*The Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project is doing incredible work in America to raise awareness for the un-housed*

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CHARITY PATTERN  
on p71

National Homeless Person's Memorial Day is held every year on 21 December, the longest night of the year, to remember those who have tragically died while experiencing homelessness, often decades before their time.

#### PICTURE THE SCENE...

It's 21 December 2021, and the Homeless Memorial Blanket Project has surrounded First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania with over 250 knitted and crocheted blankets, made by crafters across 10 different states. As the sun sets and the night begins to draw in, local agencies dedicated with mitigating homelessness gather at the church to spread the word of the important work that they do, and the help that they need from the local community.

The group are hoping to fill the West Lawn of the US Capitol with more than 500 blankets



After the event, the blankets are distributed to those in desperate need of warmth and care

#### BIGGER AND BETTER

This winter, the project hopes to build on the success of 2021 by taking blankets from all across the US (and hopefully other countries!) to cover 9,000 square feet of the West Lawn of the US Capitol in Washington DC in a stunning art installation that will draw attention to the homelessness crisis affecting the nation.

Twin and full-sized blankets are needed (45x80in and 60x80in). The project encourages crafters and craft groups to make as many blankets as possible and ship 10 to the event in DC and distribute the others to outreach organisations in their area. Find out more at [www.memorialblanket.org](http://www.memorialblanket.org).

## Small business shout out!



SPIN & BLETHER  
ANDREA FINNIGAN



UP AND  
COMING DYER!

#### Tell us about yourself...

I am the small batch indie dyer behind Spin & Blether, based in Northern Ireland.

My fascination with yarn started a long time ago when I was very young, watching my Grandmother's amazingly fast knitting, and has grown in many directions since. As a super-keen knitter, crocheter, spinner, dyer and 'teach me more' weaver, it appears that I have a love affair with yarn, fibre and colour. I can quite honestly say that I have never met a ball of yarn I don't like! My sock yarn dyeing adventure began through dyeing warp for myself for weaving, and having enjoyed it so much I have just kept on going.

#### What can knitters find at your online shop?

My Etsy shop, which only opened September 2021, has listings of gloriously coloured made to order, self striping sock yarn skeins and gobstoppers. Colour striping in 4, 6, 8 or even 12 shades! Although quite labour intensive, they are a complete joy to make and the results are so lovely and the combinations never ending. I am constantly thinking of new techniques, colourways and designs that I hope my customers enjoy as much as I do.

#### What are your highlights for 2022?

By the end of the summer I look forward to offering a beautiful Christmas Advent Yarn, with 24 gorgeous stripes. I can't wait to knit this myself and I am very excited to be able to finally share it with you all.

#### Where can we find out more?

My Etsy shop, if you would like to come and visit, can be found as [spinandblether](https://www.etsy.com/shop/spinandblether), and I can also be found on Instagram by the same name.

IMAGES: VERONIKADAN (TOP), PAT LAMARCHE (BOTTOM)

## Sheep Showcase – Castlemilk Moorit

The soft and silky handle of this gorgeous tightly-grown, demi-lustrous wool makes it hugely popular with crafters

Sir Jock Buchanan-Jardine developed this breed on his Dumfriesshire estate at Castlemilk (after which they are named) in the 1900s by crossing Shetland Moorit ewes with Manx Loaghtan and Mouflon rams. Long-legged with a short tail, the ewes have two uniform wide-spreading horns, while the rams' horns spiral.

Discover more British sheep breeds at [www.britishwool.org.uk](http://www.britishwool.org.uk).

