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***** EUREKA *****

MEMBER OF
THE GUILD OF
MASTER CRAFTSMEN



May 2007

Dear friends,

Almost the middle of May and I have heard the cuckoo three times. It may sound silly but it cheers me up as so many of our normal visiting creatures have disappeared. At some time in the 16th century Edmund Spenser wrote "The merry cuckoo, messenger of Spring, his trumpet shrill hath thrice already sounded." It seems strange to think that this maybe our last spring letter – on the other hand, it may not. As yet we have not yet fully established quite what we propose to do when we close the shop doors. Obviously we will have some fabrics over – not too many I hope but we will, if you read the letters from start to finish, keep you informed of what we intend doing. At the moment fabrics are moving quite well and we still have several big shows to do.

We were delighted at the N.E.C. spring "Sewing for Pleasure" at how much and how many of the silks sold. As you are all aware from our last few letters, we have from 20% - 50% off all our wools and silks. This, for the quality that they are is very good value for money. We now also have some cottons at £4 per metre. Antistat linings are also at £3 per metre 150 cms wide. However, do be aware that when we do the shows the shop may well be denuded of stock. On the other hand there are lots of ribbons, laces and other haberdashery items including – knicker elastic of which you may wish to avail yourselves. We do not wish to close the shop with miles of elastic as catapults are illegal and at our vast ages we feel that our aim may not be as accurate as it might once have been!

We have just had a delightful week away and have come back full of the joys of spring (that might be figuratively speaking only). We must admit to sleeping a lot and dining well. We went back to our old haunt of Madeira and found we were remembered. That is a) flattering and b) worrying.

Our skirts are very good value. We accept that our attempts at photographing them are not very good but you can always return them if you let us know. A little different from cut lengths of fabric. These can always be bought from free samples. All we ask is that you return the samples so that we may re-use them. After all, each cut gives us less capacity to sell you the lengths that you need. Next time we go to the US we will see our way clear to buy or not.

Just to refresh your memories some of our fabrics are cotton gingham – now in limited colours, seersuckers, downproof, voile, plain lawns, plain poplins, quilting, batiks, moleskin, broadcloth, jersey, drill, pique, shirtings, ticking, calico, osnaburg, muslin, denim and sheeting - also some others. They range from 90 cms upwards. Woolen crepes, challis, baratheas, coatings, jerseys, skirt weights etc;. Silks, there are habouti, chameuse, matka, embroidered, beaded, hand painted, linen look alike, dupion, tweed etc.. Then there are the Linens. Either 100% linen or cotton and linen mixes in plains, checked or floral. We also have white cotton collars, gloves, and assorted roses, buttons and zips. Last but not least there are various colours in nylon nets. Plenty for you to think about and purchase. Enjoy a trip to Campden with lunch next door at Joels (open Tuesday-Saturday incl.) and of course, the main object of your visit – us.

After the Malvern Quilt Show where we have a new, but smaller stand – that is this month (May) from the 17th to 20th at the Three Counties Show Ground, Malvern we will be at the shop until it all blasts off again in late September with the ICHF show at Exeter. that is from 27th September till the 29th. But more on that later. We are toying on going to Las Vegas in mid September but we are not sure.

I know from those of you who have been coming in it is obvious you are really looking at your wardrobes and replenishing them with good cotton, wools, silks etc. Whilst now thinking of the summer to come also muse on the autumn. We have had and look to be having another prolonged hot, dry spell. Great – but, nature has a way of fooling us. Winter could be warm again however, it could be a long, tedious cold affair which is not unknown. Think on those sorts of things and take heed – as the old Guide and Boy Scouts used to say, “Be Prepared”, until the phrase was given a new slant by Tom Lehrer.

On the software side, Wildginger has come up with a new program under the “Wild Things” umbrella. It is called “Wild Things-Vintage”. We have it up and running on our website, but unlike the original Wild Things it is not free. I do not know if there will be any more in this series, but if it has a suffix in the title then there is a charge. The original Wild Things is still available (free). There is a budget version of the Pattern Master series called Click & Sew. All is explained on our website. We only have a very limited stock of Martha’s Favorites.

The software side of the business will continue after the shop has closed, so those of you who have programs, please do not worry, backup is still there. We hope to continue the website even if the software side is all that is left.

Please dear friends, if you receive this missive by post, and you have an e-mail address, please tell us. The recent rise in postal charges is making the newsletter an expensive item. If you do not want to give your e-address, you can still access it on our website. Also if not required any longer, please tell us.

Finally, we wish everyone a very enjoyable Summer time. Look after yourselves.

Anne and Ron