

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

...and the problem of what to buy for family and friends starts to rise to the top of the list of things you should have done last week. This is a guide to just some of the companies that sell things made out of alpaca. Most of the goods for sale come from Peru but there are some made out of fibre clipped from British alpacas.

Boztdown Alpacas have a range of worsted spun alpaca throws plus their own tartan. There are black baby fine fibre shawls which can be worn as scarves with a coloured silk design, shawls and pure alpaca and alpaca/silk fabrics suitable for suits, dresses, coats and jackets. Tel. 0118 984 3827 email joy@boztdown-alpacas.co.uk website www.boztdown-alpacas.co.uk

The UK based **Alpaca Fibre Forum** make products, some of which are retailed by the forum and some by its members. For more information contact Su Lenk email: aff@azsualpacas.com web: www.azsualpacas.com fax: +44 (0)1362 821333

John Arbon Textiles in Lynton in Devon stocks the British Alpaca Fibre Co-operative's range of socks, cushions, rugs and a new hand knitted jacket designed by Sasha Kagan. There are three types of cushion made either in British alpaca or Peruvian alpaca plus custom-made hand and machine tufted rugs and a range of gloves, slippers and teddy bears. Tel. 01598 753644 email llamas@btopenworld.com website www.jarbon.com

Wall's catalogue includes elegant knitted cardigans, cropped pure alpaca jackets, skirts and coats. They also have extremely desirable hats, scarves, a gilet and slippers all made of alpaca fur. All the fur items are made from animals that have died naturally. To order telephone 020 7372 7373. www.wall-london.com

Quipu, pronounced keypooh, is a small business, based in Weymouth, which has been run by Chris and Mary Bunney for more than a decade. Their link with Peru were established in the 1980's when Chris worked on some challenging community projects. Although not affiliated to any Fair Trade group they have their own system - every year they visit their suppliers, place orders and immediately make a down payment of at least half the total cost. Final payment is made when the goods are delivered to the shippers which could be several weeks before the goods arrive in the UK. They then know that the cash goes directly into the family business and that they benefit straightaway from the trade. Quipu stock teddy bears, rugs, slippers, model llamas, scarves, shawls and ponchos and knitwear. Tel. 01305788474 email mary@quipucrafts.co.uk website www.quipucrafts.co.uk

The Alpaca Centre near Penrith. Wide range of alpaca goods and clothing including the 'Spirit of the Andes' collection of clothes and some product from the British Alpaca Fibre Co-operative. Tel. 01768 891440

The Alpaca Collection

This is the company set up by accountant Richard Hartley, lots of alpaca knits for men and women in the catalogue and with some stock in 120 shops all over the UK but not necessarily the whole range. Knitted lined jackets with deep pockets and patterned long coats make up the core of the women's range while for men there are sweaters, cardigans and waistcoats. Price range is £35 to



£139 and 24 hour delivery is available. Tel. 01789 778004: email enquiries@thealpacacollection.co.uk

Charlotte is a one-woman craft business making personalised alpaca/wool hats – prices from £10.50 to £14.50. Tel. 01603 627448

Concepts of Peru

A fair trade supplier of high quality classic alpaca knitwear working directly with producer groups in Peru.

This recently formed company is run by Jenny Randall, who as a knitter and advisor has worked with several groups in Lima and Arequipa and has been importing alpaca knitwear and crafts since 1994. Classic cardigans, tunics and skirts in a variety of colours that can be teamed together as well as accessories, men's knitwear and gifts for children. For a brochure ring 020 8855 3282 or e-mail: concepts.peru@virgin.net

Peruvian Connection

Everything here is made in Peru in Peruvian alpaca and pima cotton and it also helps the World Wildlife Fund conserve the area's cloud forest. Prices range from £26 to £600, Christmas orders by November 28.

www.peruvianconnection.com

email sales@peruconuk tel. (UK) 0800 550000 (Overseas) +44 1491 878400

Spirit of the Andes is a young British company founded in June 1993, as a result of a chance encounter between a Scotsman experienced in knitwear retailing, and a Peruvian lady experienced in the art of handloom knitting. All of the designs are produced in small quantities as Limited Editions. Many number less than 90 pieces in total, with as few as 30-40 pieces of some styles, so it would be unusual to see another one being worn.

Alpaca is our speciality, very difficult to work with, but unsurpassable for its lightness, warmth and comfort

www.spiritoftheAndes.co.uk

The American breed society **AOBA** has a website at www.aoba.org. If you go into their product area you can contact individual ranchers who produce alpaca goods.

An American company that supplies many of the farms in the USA and Canada will also ship to Europe. It is run by Lourdes Jasper and their website is www.alpacawholesalers.com

The Australian Alpaca Co-operative sells a wide range of goods. Their website is at www.alpacacoop@telstra.com

Things for your alpacas

Headcollars, leads and cria coats are all made by Mary Roach in the UK. You can contact her on 01299 896827 or email mary@mrharness.co.uk. Or there is

the American catalogue Useful Items for Llama and Alpaca Homes and Farms which has hundreds of items listed in it from halters to books and videos, alpaca weathervanes and all manner of medical stuff. Their website is at www.useful-items.com.

BOOKS

The Complete Alpaca Book by Eric Hoffman. Long awaited new version of journalist and alpaca breeder Eric Hoffman's comprehensive and authoritative guide to the alpaca.

In 1995 he teamed up with Murray Fowler DVM and published *The Alpaca Book*, which sold out of two editions. The book is often referred to as the "Bible" of the alpaca business. He was also editor of the *Alpaca Registry Journal* for seven years. It's a hardback, with three-colour sections. In all there are 28 chapters and about 350 pages covering prehistory, behaviour, anatomy and conformation, management, fibre, reproduction, neonatology, diseases, herd health, genetics, nutrition, international movement of alpacas, training, shearing, showing and more.

Available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235

Alpacas: Synthesis of a Miracle by Mike Saffley.

This is the human story of the alpaca as told in the biographies of the renowned alpaca breeder Julio Barreda and textile producer Frank Webster Mitchell.

To order send a cheque for £79 made payable to Minchinhampton Alpacas, at Greylands, High Street, Minchinhampton, Glos. GL6 9BN. Or phone with credit card details 01453 883449 email adrian@hidays.co.uk

The Camelid Companion: Handling and Training Your Alpacas & Llamas by Marty McGee Bennett

Everything you ever wanted to know about camelid behaviour and training your animals.

Su Lenk UK and Eire 01362 820097 email su@azsualpacas.com
Irene Grether Europe +41 (0) 716511272 email grether@alpaka.ch

Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids (Second Edition) by Murray E. Fowler DVM. The Vet's bible. Includes 23 chapters on nutrition, diseases, reproduction, health care and surgical procedures for the alpaca, llama, vicuna and guanaco. Available in Europe from Chas

Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235
Also available from the Australian Alpaca Association +61 (0) 398737700 and the online bookstore www.amazon.com. If you go through the AOBA (US breed association) website www.alpacainfo.com and then click on amazon.com AOBA will receive a donation for any book you purchase.

Caring for Llamas and Alpacas by Clare Hoffman, DVM and Ingrid Asmus.

Basic information for prospective, new and experienced owners. Troubleshooting charts for quick identification of emergencies.

Available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235 and the online bookstore www.amazon.com. If you go through the AOBA (US breed association) website www.alpacainfo.com and then click on amazon.com AOBA will receive a donation for any book you purchase.

Llama and Alpaca Neonatal Care by Veterinarians Brad Smith, Karen Timm and Pat Long.

Covers what to expect and what to do during the birth and neonatal care of the alpaca cria.

Available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235

Also available from the Australian Alpaca Association tel.+61 (0) 398737700

Hummingbirds to Elephants and Other Tales

by Murray Fowler

A new autobiography by the author of *The Alpaca Book* and *Medicine and Surgery of South American Camelids* A light hearted and entertaining book covering his life in the veterinary field.

Available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235

Alpaca Breeder's Birthing Handbook

by Ewen McMillan B.V.Sc (Hons), M.A.C.V.Sc and Carolyn Jinks

Ewen McMillan lectures in alpaca medicine at Melbourne University and Carolyn Jinks runs one of the largest stud farms in Australia. Intended to be both an introduction and a ready reference for the new and inexperienced alpaca breeders offering good hands on information on all aspects of birthing. 24 page booklet.

Alpaca Breeder's Reproduction Handbook

by Ewen McMillan and Carolyn and Allan Jinks

The second book in this excellent series contains easily readable and helpful advice on the basic biological events and deals with the management issues from a practical perspective. 28 page booklet

Both booklets available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235

Also available from the Australian Alpaca Association tel.+61 (0) 398737700
www.alpaca.asn.au

Yacca the Alpaca by Jakaitis, a childrens' picture story book.

Available from the Australian Alpaca Association tel.+61 (0) 398737700
www.alpaca.asn.au

In Search of the Ideal Llama: The Field Guide – Assessing Conformational Traits in Llamas

by Richard, Maggie Krieger Paperback. 100 pages (November 1, 1994)

Saltspring Island Llamas & Alpacas; ISBN: 0969907419.

Available from the online bookstore www.amazon.com. If you go through the AOBA (US breed association) website www.alpacainfo.com and then click on amazon.com AOBA will receive a donation for any book you purchase.

Hands on Spinning by Lee Raven Paperbac. 120 pages (October 1987)

Interweave Press; ISBN: 0934026270

Available from the online bookstore www.amazon.com. If you go through the AOBA (US breed association) website www.alpacainfo.com and then click on amazon.com AOBA will receive a donation for any book you purchase.

VIDEOS

Alpacas behaving badly ? Give up the wrestling and train your animals with the aid of these two videos demonstrating the Mallon Way. Titled *The First 24 Hours* and *Halter Training Basics* John Mallon works his cowboy magic on the most recalcitrant of animals.

Available in Europe from Chas Brooke of MileEnd Alpacas at alpcauk@aol.com tel. 01398332235