



Welcome to the Buttercup Miniatures December newsletter, with a special welcome to all our new subscribers!

Featured in the newsletter this month:

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1. General news

Firstly we would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year for 2013!

We are sending this newsletter out much earlier than normal, as some of the final posting dates to countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Africa fall very soon. Please note that if you live outside the UK and wish to place an order in December to arrive in time for Christmas, check the last posting dates below or on our web shop before ordering. Any areas greyed out on the web shop will have already passed the last posting dates, if this is the case we will still post items to you, but Royal Mail cannot guarantee arrival BEFORE Christmas. If you want your items for Christmas please check the dates before you place your order. We will continue to process orders normally and will endeavour as far as we are able to maintain the level of service we normally provide.

Although the main office will be closed over the Christmas holidays, the web shop and Ravelry store will still be operational, full details are given below.

2. Office closures during Christmas and New Year

The main office will be closed from mid-day 19th December 2012 until 2nd January 2013. Any orders placed via the web shop will be processed and despatched as soon as possible, but please bear in mind we can only despatch when the Post Office is open and Royal Mail may not operate a full service over the Christmas period.

Please note that as we will be operating with a skeleton staff over the Christmas period, the main office will NOT be staffed during this time, so telephone calls will NOT be answered between 19th December 2012 and 2nd January 2013 and any orders received via our web shop may not be despatched during this time.

If you have a query regarding an order placed on the web shop during this time please **e-mail** us via the web shop. We will endeavour to answer your query as quickly as possible (usually within 24 hours). All other e-mail queries will be answered when the office reopens on 2nd January 2013.

Don't forget that patterns can still be purchased and instantly downloaded at any time from our Ravelry store (see section 5)

3. Advent Calendar 2012

Just a reminder that the Advent Calendar on our blog pages <http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsblog/> has started and a new part of the pattern will be added each day until 24th December 2012. **The Advent calendar will remain available FREE on our blog pages until 6th January 2013, when it will be removed and become available to purchase from our Ravelry store.**

If you wish to join us on the Buttercup Miniatures group on Ravelry, we are knitting the Advent calendar as a KAL (knit-along) and comparing notes and sharing photos during December 2012. (For details of how to join Ravelry see here: <http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsblog/?p=3058>)

If you missed any of our previous Advent Calendar patterns these are all available to buy as instantly downloadable pdf files from our Ravelry store. More details of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 Advent calendar patterns, with photos can be found on our Advent Calendar 2011 customer gallery: <http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsblog/?cat=31>

4. Web shop news

Price increases from 1st January 2013

Unfortunately we will be forced to raise our prices on some items from 1st January 2013, this is due to the increased cost of raw materials, although we have tried to keep these price increases to a minimum.

All sets of 4 double-ended knitting needles will increase in price from £4.50 to £4.95 per set. Single ended knitting needles will remain at £3.50 per pair for now.

We will also need to increase some printed pattern prices for the first time since we started business in 1999. Patterns currently priced at £2.00 will increase to £2.20 and those priced at £3.00 will increase to £3.25 (prices for downloads on our Ravelry store will remain unchanged.)

New 1:12th scale pattern:



FP 157 1:12th scale knitting pattern for a Ladies bolero, skirt and vest top **£ 3.00**

http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/Miniature-knitting-Patterns/1-12th-scale-knitting-patterns/Ladies-patterns/Ladies-summer-skirt-set-pattern/prod_1963.html

Don't forget that 'This month's special offers' category offers a varied selection of items each month. See: http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/offers-this-month/cat_70.html for details of all this month's offers. Remember these offers will change to new offers at the beginning of January 2013.

5. Ravelry news

Don't forget that most of our patterns are available to buy as pdf downloads throughout Christmas and New Year on our Ravelry shop <http://www.ravelry.com/stores/buttercup-miniatures-frances-powell-designs>, so you do not have to be without your knitting or crochet over the Christmas and New Year period. Our Ravelry shop is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year!

New 1:12th scale knitting patterns

FP 157 1:12th scale knitting pattern for a Ladies bolero, skirt and vest top **£ 2.75**

See <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/112th-scale-ladies-summer-skirt-set> to purchase, plus full details and more photos.

6. Last posting dates for Christmas 2012

Just a reminder that Royal Mail have announced the last posting dates for Christmas 2012, these are as follows:

Wednesday 5th December - Asia, Australia, Far East (including Japan), New Zealand

Friday 7th December - Africa, Caribbean, Central & South America, Middle East

Monday 10th December - Eastern Europe, Canada and USA

Wednesday 12th December - Western Europe

Tuesday 18th December - UK destinations

Please remember these are the last dates Royal Mail will guarantee mail to arrive in time for Christmas, however if we receive your order on the final posting dates above, we may not have time to process your order in time to meet Royal Mail's deadlines.

All orders will be processed in the order they are received, so during busy times like this please place your order as soon as possible to help us avoid a backlog of orders.

Any orders received on the web shop between 20th December 2012 and 2nd January 2013 can only be posted out to you on days when the Post Office is open and accepting mail, so please be aware that there may be a delay in despatching your order, if it is placed during this time. Remember most of our patterns are available to buy as pdf downloads throughout this period on our Ravelry shop <http://www.ravelry.com/stores/buttercup-miniatures-frances-powell-designs>, so you do not have to be without your knitting or crochet over the Christmas period.

Frances

<http://www.buttercupminiatures.co.uk>

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