



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

Featured in the newsletter this month:

1. General News
2. Web shop news
3. Ravelry news
4. Buttercup Miniatures group on Ravelry
5. Exclusive offer for newsletter subscribers

1. General news

Finally the UK appears to be coming out of the cycle of stormy weather that has dogged the last few months. Hopefully the first signs of spring are now with us, and lifting spirits again.

The Royal Mail has announced further postal increases with effect from 31st March 2014. Some increases on certain parcel sizes are quite large considering the Royal Mail had TWO postal price increases last year, the second of which we absorbed. Unfortunately this means we will be discontinuing some bulkier items on the web shop. Sadly this will mean that from mid-day on Friday 28th March 2014 we will have to pass on these increases and raise our postal charges.

In order to reduce the impact of the postal increases above, all NEW pattern designs will only be available to buy as instant downloads from our Ravelry store, new patterns will NOT be available on our web shop. (See Web shop news below).

2. Web shop news

As mentioned above the severe weather that disrupted parts of the country affected us too. We had to suspend needle making temporarily due to downed trees and branches around our workshop. Knitting needles are slowly being restocked again, apologies for the delay.

Following on from the postal increases mentioned above, we have decided to discontinue the range of crochet cottons, due to the increased cost of Royal Mail delivery. We have received a number of complaints about cost of posting a £1.45 ball of crochet cotton. Mistakenly some people believe "that just needs a stamp on an envelope, so should be sent post-free". The actual cost of postage alone will now be £2.80 due to the size of crochet cottons and the Royal Mail sizing rules require them to be sent at Small Packet rate. We hope you agree that it has now come to the point where it is not realistic to charge UK customers £2.80 for £1.45 worth of goods. The effects on our overseas customers are an even bigger disincentive.

As the majority of people now prefer purchase patterns via Ravelry, any new patterns (starting with the patterns listed in this newsletter), which we release will **ONLY** be made available via our Ravelry Store and will not be available to buy as ready printed patterns on the Buttercup Miniatures web shop.

New postal charges

These will take effect on our web shop from mid-day on Friday 28th March 2014, as orders received from this time will be posted out after the new rates come into effect

UK and BFPO Nos:

- Orders up to £ 7.50 postage = £ 2.75
- Orders of £7.51 to £14.99 postage = £3.45
- Orders of 15.00 to £24.99 postage = £3.95
- Orders over £25.00 postage = £ 4.95

Europe:

Orders up to £ 7.50 postage = £ 4.00

Orders of £7.51 to £24.99 postage = £8.95

Orders over £25.00 postage = £ 10.50

Rest of the World:

Orders up to £7.50 postage = £4.75

Orders of £7.51 to £24.99 postage = £ 10.95

Over £25.00 postage = £ 15.00.

Our postage rates for the rest of the world will still be based on the lower zone 1 costs and we will bear the higher costs where applicable.

3. Ravelry news

We are often asked 'What are the advantages of buying patterns from your Ravelry store?'

Our answers:

1. The Ravelry patterns offer instant access as soon as payment is made - no waiting days or weeks for delivery once they are despatched by us.
2. They are offered at a cheaper price than the printed patterns on our web shop
3. They incur no postage and packing charges.
4. The pattern layout is less crowded and the type is larger, plus additional photos may be included, which were not in the original printed pattern.
5. We offer a choice of either UK or US crochet terms on many of our crochet patterns, all our ready printed patterns use UK terms only.
6. Ravelry is by far more environmentally friendly requiring no transportation to our customers, with no need to print out the whole pattern - just any pages required, and if viewed only on screen no paper or ink at all.

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We have three new patterns available to purchase as instantly downloadable pdf patterns on our Ravelry store:

1:12th scale knitting

FP 159 1:12th scale Man's striped Fairisle slipover price £ 2.75 <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/112th-scale-mans-striped-fairisle-slipover>



Non-miniature (Human sized) crochet patterns

AC 2 Crochet handkerchief edgings £1.50 <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/handkerchief-edgings>



AC 3 Wedding reticule £1.50 <http://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/crochet-wedding-reticule>



Either of the above patterns would make wonderful Mother's Day gifts too.

Please note:

1. NOT ALL the Buttercup Miniatures patterns on Ravelry are for miniatures, Frances also has some non-miniature crochet patterns for sale on Ravelry.
2. All our patterns for miniatures have 1/12th scale, 1/24th scale or Teddy in the title. Any other patterns listed are for full (human) size items.
3. Check your Ravelry cart carefully **BEFORE** making payment, in order to make sure you purchase the correct scale pattern, as **we are NOT able to give refunds for instant downloads.**

4. Buttercup Miniatures group on Ravelry

Any new patterns and existing patterns made available as instant downloads are listed on our Ravelry group as they become available, often with introductory discounts, but this information may only be viewed by Ravelry members.

If you wish to join us on the Buttercup Miniatures group on Ravelry, we have regular pattern offers, KALs (knit-a-longs), CALs (crochet- a-longs) comparing notes and sharing photos, as well as more general discussions and help with many aspects of miniatures, knitting and crochet.

For more details of our Group and how to join Ravelry see here: <http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsblog/?p=3058>
Ravelry is completely free to join.

5. Exclusive offer for newsletter subscribers

This was a special offer for newsletter subscribers only.

If you wish to subscribe to our newsletter, please fill in the short form on this page of our web site:
<http://www.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsletter.asp>

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

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