

Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063

January 2013

"Blodwen"

Many years ago I used to attend the Gymanfa Ganu (pronounced: ga-mon-vagon-e) in Baraboo, Wisconsin. I won't keep you guessing as to what it is. Basically, it is a singing of sacred Welsh hymns (in the US some in English, but usually in Welsh). Songs are sung in traditional Welsh vocal style-anywhere from 4 to 8 part harmony. The sound is fantastic-especially when the lyrics are in Welsh and the church has good acoustics.

Legend has it that when the English conquered Wales, they placed a ban on the speaking of the Welsh language. That ban, however, did not say anything about singing in Welsh. Each village had their own choir, and through the music would teach their native language to their children. Eventually the squabble ended (as part of the settlement, the heir to the English throne became the Prince of Wales).

Today, the tradition of the Gymanfa Gaunu remains basically the same. Singing lasts for hours, and, in keeping with tradition, includes the singing of the hymn "Blodwen". The hymn was written as a reminder to the Welsh people that no matter how they were oppressed, God's grace is boundless, and sufficient to carry them forward.

As we start 2013, we need to remember that fact. This year will be full of challenges-far more than the past. The state of the economy, increased tax burdens, the government unwilling to rescue the middle class-every aspect of life seems against us. However, all is not lost. God has the resources and ability to provide for us. All we need do is ask and believe.

It is so easy to fall into the trap of despair. Once you're there, it is almost impossible to get out. When you need a refuge, stop in the shop. Stay positive (and I don't mean positively negative). Take time for yourself. Knit often, pray constantly. It's going to be a tough year- but we'll all get through it.

"Though the path be weary....
...Boundless is Thy Grace!"

February Classes

Knitting Techniques Crash Course Tuesday Feb 5 7PM-9PM

Here is a one night class to introduce you to multiple knitting techniques such as cables, stranded knitting, alternate cast-on and bind-off methods, multiple increase and decrease methods, and a host of others. This one night class can make you a better knitter, and remove the fear of attempting new techniques. The class fee is \$15, and the class is limited to six students.

The Cable Sampler Scarf Tuesdays Feb 12-26 7PM-9PM

Here's a simple project that will expand your knowledge of working with cables. The project is simple, but the results are fantastic. You'll learn to read a cable patterns as well as cover how to combine multiple cables into a single project. The class fee is \$45, and does not cover materials or tools. The class is limited to 4 people.

The Basic Sock Wednesdays Feb 6-27 7PM-9PM

Cast aside your fear of knitting socks and cast-on your stitches! Here is a class on the basics of making a sock, from cuff to toe and a heel in between. You'll learn to use double points, turn a heel, and close the toe. The class fee is \$60, and materials are not included. This class is limited to 4 students, and knitting outside the class will be required to complete the project.

Needle Tatting for the Beginners Thursday Feb 7 7PM-9PM

You're only one night away from learning a new skill. Needle tatting is simple, quick, yet just as complex looking as shuttle tatting. You can even use the same patterns. If you can wrap a string around your finger, you can do needle tatting. The class fee is \$15 plus materials. This class is limited to 6 students.

Knitting Tricks for Beginners Thursday Feb 21 7PM-9PM

If you are new to knitting, consider this class an investment in your future. We'll cover the basics like 1) how and when to use markers 2) using a life-line 3) counting your rows and stitches 4) calculating you gauge 5) how to choose the best needles for your project 6) basic cast-on methods and when to use each 7) when to fix and when to rip... and a host of other basics. These tricks of the trade will save you time and frustration, so you can enjoy your knitting. The class fee is \$15 and is limited to 6 students. Participants should bring needles and yarn.

DON'T FORGET:

The shop will be closed Jan 25-27 for our annual Winter Retreat.

Those who have purchased tickets should meet at the shop on Friday, Jan 25. We are planning an 8AM departure.