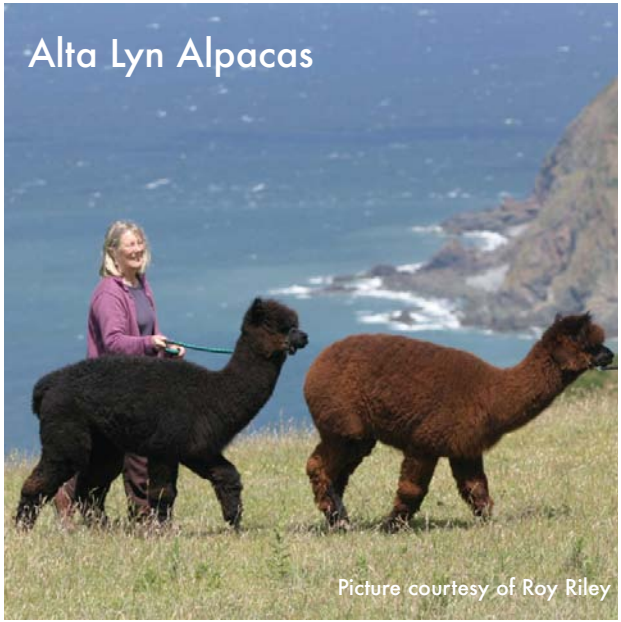


## Alta Lyn Alpacas



Picture courtesy of Roy Riley

## Huacaya alpacas enjoy the views from Exmoor

Anne Coombs' Alta Lyn Alpacas is a small herd of Huacaya alpacas at Lynton in North Devon.

She started breeding with just two pregnant females seven years ago and now has around 30 animals with another dozen young ones, or cria, expected this summer.

Her animals have adapted very well to living on Exmoor, not necessarily because of the fantastic views they enjoy to the sea and the Welsh Mountains.

Alta Lyn Alpacas have won prizes at The Royal Bath and West Show, the major agricultural event in the South West.

Anne uses some of the best genetics available and the fleeces get better every year as the breeding improves.

The Alta Lyn herd is farmed without the use of harmful chemicals and this increases its value as a natural 'green' product which has the added advantage of being suitable for people allergic to sheep's wool.

At the Alta Lyn farm there is a studio where people can learn how to spin alpaca and change its colour with natural dyes.

Alpaca fibre was prized by the Incas and used for clothing royalty. With this in mind the studio teaches weaving, knitting or crocheting and people can make clothing, rugs or works of art.

The Natural Fibre Company has been working with Anne to spin pure alpaca yarn in black and ivory, the natural white produced by alpacas. Yarn can now be bought from Alta Lyn Alpacas in black, ivory, fawn or dark brown. Small quantities of hand-dyed alpaca will soon be available along with a range of exclusive knitwear, made to order.

A display of the alpaca yarn and products can be seen at the Westcountry Game Fair on 17-18 March at The Bath and West showground at Shepton Mallet. Look out, too, for the opening of a new studio in the summer and courses planned for the Open Studio week during the North Devon Festival in June.

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