



CROWDRUMMIN HERITAGE

A Natural Fibre Company case study



Feet for a Queen

In 2013 Karen Ashton exchanged her cottage and smallholding in rural East Anglia for a 33-acre farm in Longford, Ireland and imported a starter flock of Ryelands from the UK as she adored the quality of their wool.

Aware of The Natural Fibre Company's reputation for adding value to fibre and the convenience of total processing from fleece to yarn taking place under one roof, Karen sent her first small batch of fibre to us and she was delighted with the result. In early 2020 Karen was then invited to showcase her flock and wool at the Project BaaBaa event as part of Galway's European Capital of Culture 2020 celebrations and needing more yarn produced, we were happy to help again, turning around the required supply in time for the prestigious event (which was sadly later postponed due to COVID19).

Karen says *'From my first contact the wealth of experience and knowledge with all aspects of wool processing shown by the staff gave me confidence that the finished product would be as beautiful as it is. Communication is excellent and everyone is so friendly and helpful, as was the case*

when Project Baabaa came along. The information on the website is superb and has taught me so much about getting the best out of my fleece such as storing and washing it so that it doesn't deteriorate before arriving at their mill in Cornwall'.

As well as selling wool, Karen has developed a hand knitted bed sock under the 'Feet for a Queen' label which is based on a well-known story that Queen Elizabeth I so loved a pair of stockings made from Ryeland sheep wool that she decreed she would only wear their wool.

'My love of wool was born through working in fashion, yet I am now so aware that the manmade fibres have replaced this wonderful product in the majority of our fast fashion items. My passion and purpose is to prove that money can still be made from wool creating 'slow fashion' garments of integrity and longevity, created in an ethical way with all the participants getting an equal share of the profits'.

For more information:

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