



BRAMBLECOT YARN

A Natural Fibre Company

case study



Jean Ayers and Bramblecot Yarn

The Bramblecot flock was started in 2008 by Jean and Bob Ayers following their move to a smallholding in the Bridport area of West Dorset. Their original four ewe lambs were Greyface Dartmoors followed shortly by a few cross bred Shetlands. Since then, the Shetland flock has developed into a registered flock with the Shetland Society and rather than being a sanctuary, the smallholding is mainly a fleece flock, where a few ewes are bred each year and their fleece shown at various competitions in the South-West.

Jean's Shetland fleeces have been processed at our spinning mill in Cornwall for several years and have proved popular with hand spinners. One batch was made into weaving yarn, producing a range of scarves and throws whilst the Greyface Dartmoor fleece was spun into craft and garden twine. Other batches have produced undyed Shetland knitting wool from laceweight to chunky.

Jean says: *'Taking the raw fleece to the NFC mill is really useful and convenient. The staff have always been approachable and helpful, enabling us to do this and to produce a range of finest quality wools.'*

Jean hand dyes her wool using a range of plants and flowers from the garden such as rose, hollyhock and dahlia, and dyes in solar pots. It's a very experimental process, resulting in beautiful and individual skeins of coloured wool. Her knitting yarn was recently used to create a crochet sheep garland which appeared in an article by *The Knitter* magazine as well as the *Wool on the Exe Book 1*, a collection of knitting and crochet patterns produced by a social enterprise community based in Exeter.

You can find out more about Jean's work with Shetland and Greyface Dartmoor wool by following her on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/BramblecotYarn.

