



Rachel of Prick Your Finger talks yarn. Right: Staff at Handweavers.



# YARN IN THE CITY

Zoe Willis reports on a dynamic new event bringing crafters and yarn shops together for a day of knitting-fuelled antics

**! What were 80 knitters and crocheters doing running around London on Saturday September 21st? Imagine a pub crawl but with balls of yarn rather than pints and shots, and you've got Yarn in the City: The Great London Yarn Crawl (GLYC).**

The brainchild of North American ex pats Rachel Brown and Allison Thistlewood, the GLYC sees teams of participants diving into different craft shops around London on set



Shelves of goodies waiting ready for crawlers to get rummaging!

'routes', travelling by bus, tube and DLR in between. Allison had previously volunteered at a similar event in Toronto, the TTC knitalong, and after one long afternoon yarn shopping suggested to Rachel that they set up a similar participatory event in the UK capital.

The pair persuaded nine different shops to sign up, including Loop, iKnit, and the Village Haberdashery, and scored goodies for participants from indie yarn companies such as The Uncommon Thread, Kettle Yarn Co and Lioness Arts. Soon enough, Ravelry forums and knitting blogs were on fire as word quickly spread. On the day itself crawlers split into teams and thronged the shops, with both staff and participants thrilled by the fun, collaborative spirit on display. Between locations they colonised London buses, unravelling newly purchased skeins or knitting en masse, before finally gathering for a huge afterparty and to compare hauls.

"I don't think the GLYC could have gone any better if we tried," says Allison. "Rachel and I are extremely proud of what we achieved with our funny little idea from almost a year ago. We're humbled by the response to the event, pleased that so many people put their trust in us, and that they had such a good time." And the crawlers seemed to agree too: "It's the best day I've ever spent with strangers!" beamed one happy participant.

Rachel and Allison are promising that 2014's event will be even bigger and better. Keep up to date at: [www.greatlondonyarncrawl.com](http://www.greatlondonyarncrawl.com)

## MOLLIE MAKERS

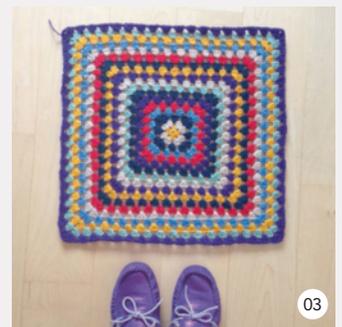
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01



02



03

01 @Made\_By\_Hannah stitched our felt foxes from issue 32 02 We heart @Sewkidding's felt tree baubles 03 @Dis\_ sent us her lush colour-burst granny square on Instagram



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