



Hilltop Cloud

## *Time Travellers Club*

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May-16

Dear Club Member,

[www.hilltopcloud.co.uk](http://www.hilltopcloud.co.uk)

I first discovered Bohus Stickning when I learnt to knit. I fell in love with the beautiful colours, modern style yoke patterning, and one day promised myself I'd knit one. The company was a knitting co-operative in Sweden that was active between 1939 and 1969.

Emma Jacobsson was the wife of the governor of Bohuslän, and together with a group of local women they set up the co-operative to provide a source of income for families during a time of high unemployment. There was no knitting tradition in the area so the designs they created were unique, and modern.

Emma, by all accounts, was a bit of stickler to work for. The kits used the highest quality Angora/Wool blend yarns, dyed to exactly the right shades. The intricate designs were worked and re-worked by a team of designers until she was happy. The sweaters were sold in local stores, mostly to tourists from cruise ships, but as time went on they were also shipped over to high end American department stores. As time went on the Bohus jumpers fell out of fashion, natural fibres were no longer desirable, and many people expected to pay less for their clothes. The designs faded in to obscurity, though thankfully the samples, shade cards and many patterns were donated to the Bohuslän Museum.

In 1995 the publication of the book "Poems in Colour" by Wendy Keele revived an interest in these beautiful jumpers, with many knitters now wanting to create their own Bohus. In 1999 Solveig Gustafsson began working with the museum to properly re-create the Bohus jumpers. She worked on 70 patterns, painstakingly matching colour, and fibre composition. These items match the true beauty of the original designs, and were the ones I fell in love with several years later.

As for my dream of making my own Bohus... I turned 30 in June. My present to myself was a Bohus kit for the jumper I fell in love with. I now wear my very own Wild Apple, and it was worth every penny.

Happy Spinning,

Katie

PS. You can buy Bohus kits from [www.angoragarnet.com](http://www.angoragarnet.com) and see pictures of many of the beautiful designs. Photos are also on the museum website [www.bohuslansmuseum.se](http://www.bohuslansmuseum.se)