



January-16

Time Travellers Club

Dugood Bach
Mallwyd
Machynlleth
Powys
SY20 9HR

Dear Club Member,

www.hilltopcloud.co.uk

When I sit down to plan out colours one of the things I check is to see what notable anniversaries might be happening, to see whether I can use those events as inspiration. I was very pleased to discover that 2016 is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter.

Her little books with their lovely watercolour illustrations are a part of so many childhoods.

Her famous books started out as letters, written to the children of one her former governesses. Alongside her writing she would do little sketches. One day, she ran out of things to write about, so wrote a story about 4 rabbits called Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter. That story went on to become *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, and 23 other little books followed.

In her later life she became a dedicated farmer, and used her wealth to buy many hill farms in the Lake District. She became a leading breeder of Herdwick sheep (in 1943 she became President of the Herdwick Sheep Breeders Society) and is one of the people credited with the founding with the Lake District National Park. On her death her properties were passed on to the National Trust who were able to continue her work in maintaining traditional hill farming.

I couldn't think of a more fitting way to start 2016, celebrating a woman who made her own way in the world, loved sheep, and wanted to preserve the British countryside.

Happy Spinning,

Katie