

This is the correspondence between Fiona and Mr. 'Lightnarty' who was selling the ripstop fabric on ebay!

We typed in the word 'ripstop fabric' and google took us to someone selling 10 metres of ripstop fabric on ebay. Fiona contacted him by email to see if he had any more....

Fiona: Dear lightnarty, I am contacting you about the ripstop nylon you are selling on ebay. We want to make 300 windsock fish (i.e. windsocks in the shape of fish) in a primary school art project. We want the children to make the fish themselves and attach them to poles to be carried rather like flags at Notting Hill Carnival in August. We would probably paint on the ripstop with pens or paint. Do you think this fabric would do? Is it easy to sew, and would it take paint? Do you have lots or just the 10 meters I am already bidding for?!

Lightnarty: hi..i wont ask what a windsock fish is sounds cruel ..it is exactly as you say and has been bought from me already for kites balloons and a school project to do with kites some 2km having gone out i have 50 mts in both the olive green and white the price would be slightly less than the bid price per 10mts and the post on 50mts would be £8.50 the two colours could be mixed. It was originally used for a hot air balloon – this is the leftovers.

Fiona: Thanks for your reply.

I am interested in all the white but not the green (if you get a brighter colour by any chance I would be interested in that but olive is too dark) What is the best price you can do for all the remainder of the white plus postage. Just let me know how we can proceed and I will pay and go for it! windsock fish are like those wind direction things you get on airport runways but much smaller and fish shaped, and carried by children on the end of a pole!

Lightnarty: hi..i have had alot enquireies recently about this must be the windy weather was it 50mts you were after of white i had other colours but they went on a balloon i cant do less than £5 for 10mts as i can sell it at that and more on ebay..can you confirm it was 50mts of white you wanted

Fiona: Actually can I have 70m of white, or as close as you have to that, we want it. Also the 10 m I bid for on ebay. Also If you have any scraps or off-cuts of any other colours I'd like those too. (but not olive green – its too dark) Tell me how you want me to pay. We are very keen to start making our fish! Fiona

Lightnarty: hi..70mts will be ok post will be £7.50 all the colours mainly orange went with the rolls but the white takes a spirit felt pen very well great for fish eyes. Send cheque to:light n arty, 1 bankfoot walk, cheetwood, manchester m8 0fr. Postage is...70mts is 7 x £5 plus post £7.50...ohh lost the calculator call it £40

Fiona: Hello!

First cheque sent for £42.50 – did you get it?

2nd cheque (for the ebay 10 m) I will post today (I will add £3 worth of stamps for postage. I'm in London. So good luck with packing up 80 metres...

Lightnarty: ...got a trumeter material measure made life a little easier...post will be £7 and the material will be £25 ...you got it in time the last lot being the last lot on ebay went for around £10...my daughters are jealous their school never made windy fish!! sad seeing ones at manchester university doing international business management..let me have your address agin and it will be posted tuesday if i get it in time

Fiona: Hope you got the cheque today or will get it tomorrow.
Don't mean to push you but it would be really great to get the fabric ASAP as we have a meeting on Friday and it would be just fab if it had arrived by then

Lightnarty: hi..i cant do anything untill the weekend as it takes the help of my daughters to handle it..it has to be done over their bed i'm not a material shop with nice big tables ..the post on a parcel takes around 4 working days

Fiona: If you have the energy it would be great if you could put a piece about 1m in an envelope in the post - no accurate measurement required, just chop a piece off - so we could make one fish as a sample!. If not, it doesn't matter, just send all 80 together in a big pack at the weekend!
Thanks for all your help and happy ballooning!

Lightnarty: hi..it will go in the same post charge you may be the cause of my daughters leaving home

Hope your daughters don't leave home! Good luck, Fiona

Lightnarty: hi..bribed them its ready for the post on monday it has the odd flaw so there is extra measure to compensate ..its the way it comes dont no till you open a roll...dont know what else your kids get up to but the stripped material it will be wrapped in is roller blind material and its same but with green stripes is available in a full roll 100mts at £10 plus £10 post good canvas when used the wrong side

Lightnarty: hi..i was about to send you a few metres of grey i found 298 ?? is the whole of the south of england going to be covered in fish we are on the last roll of white i can fullfill the ebays won people then let you have whats left around 50 meters i would guess

Oh yes please!

As much white as you can send, and any grey, if it is pale that is.... dark grey fish might look as if they have already gone off, where as pale grey could be brightened up to look troutish!
Just send what you can and let me know what the cost will be. Thanks, Fiona

Lightnarty: hi..3mts of light trout is in the post and we will sort the rest of the white this weekend

Got the fabric – its great! Already made two fish out of it....298 more to go! We were wondering if you have any more? Like another 80 meters or so? Fiona

Lightnarty :hi..something very fishy going on down therea goverment plot perhaps ? two army guys were going to use 400mts of it to build a hot air balloon to go over the pennines ..i keep waiting for the news report of two guys wrapped around the television masts that are up there! Yes still have some white and grey – how much do you need?

Fiona: Another 30 metres?

Lightnarty: ok

Fiona: The first batch of windy fish are progressing well.... Big sharks are proving a favourite but a few angel fish are finding their way in too. Once they are all done and photographed, I will put some pics on the website and give you the address to look at them. Who knows, Manchester university could make fish if you have more fabric in the future! Incidentally, the kids here making them are very excited about the fact that their fish could have been a hot air balloon instead!