

The convention runs from 4pm on Friday 8 September through to 4pm on Sunday 10 September. Our Annual General Meeting starts at 11am on Saturday 9th September.

## The location

The Convention is being held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, as it was last year. This is pretty much in the middle of England, although (with apologies to our Scottish, Welsh and Irish members) is a good bit east and south of the middle of the UK as a whole.

Full directions are available on The Hayes website: <https://www.cct.org.uk/the-hayes/how-to-find-us>. If you are receiving this information by post, we have included a printed copy of that information.



## Cost of attending (and our refund policy)

Fully residential – Friday 4pm till Sunday 4pm	£ 275
Day delegate – Saturday only	£ 70
Day delegate – Sunday only	£ 70
Day delegate – Saturday and Sunday	£ 120

If you are delivering a workshop, you are entitled to a £25 discount. Please deduct £25 when making your payment.

The Hayes is not open on a Sunday night, but there are plenty of hotels nearby and close to the major stations.

If you want to arrive on the Thursday, The Hayes is offering room, dinner on Thursday, plus breakfast and lunch on Friday, at £95 per person. This is subject to availability.

## Booking your place

If you are reading this online, the best way to book your place is to complete the online booking form. We will contact you to confirm details and to arrange for payment.

If you do not have an email address and prefer to receive all your information by post, please complete the paper form enclosed, which includes instructions for paying.

In either case, you can choose to pay a deposit (£50 to secure your place, as places are limited) and pay the balance by 30 June, or you can choose to pay the full amount on booking. (If you are booking after 30 June, you must pay the full amount on booking.)

As we have to pay for the places we've booked whether they are taken or not, we cannot offer refunds. Unless someone else takes your place, we can only refund within the first 14 days of booking. After that, you are liable for the full cost of your place. We suggest you take holiday insurance to cover the cost of having to cancel.

## The programme

Although we will do our best not to change the programme, sometimes we have to for a variety of reasons. We will inform you if a workshop you are allocated has to change.

### Friday 8th September

Start	End	Event
4pm	Ongoing	Registration
5pm	5.15pm	Welcome and introductions
5.15pm	6pm	Talk: Kelly Ferguson
6pm	7pm	Dinner
7.30pm	8.30pm	Keynote: Emma Vining

### Saturday 9th September

Start	End	Event
8am	9am	Breakfast
9.30am	10.30am	Keynote: Alison Ellen
11am	Noon	Annual General Meeting
Noon	1pm	Lunch
2pm	4pm	Workshop
4pm	4.30pm	Break
4.30pm	5.30pm	Keynote: Amy Twigger-Holroyd
6pm	7pm	Dinner
7pm		Show & Tell Fringe events, yarn sale, market place

### Sunday 10th September

Start	End	Event
8am	9am	Breakfast
9.30am		Clear rooms and check out
9.30am	11.30am	Workshops
Noon	1pm	Lunch
1pm	2pm	Talk: Barbara Smith
2pm	2.15pm	Closing remarks and raffle
2.15pm	4pm	Socialising
4pm		Deadline for leaving

## The speakers

Our speakers have generously offered their time and expertise. We intend to record these sessions for those members who are unable to attend in person. All the talks are of interest regardless of the crafts you practise.

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### Kelly Ferguson – The Pudsey Blanket

Knitted Pudsey began life in late 2021, when Kelly Ferguson brought together a group of yarn craft enthusiasts in Pudsey to create a giant knitted and crocheted map of the town. Pudsey is a town mid way between Leeds and Bradford, which has a rich heritage in the spinning, weaving and textile trade, so a re-creation in yarn seemed appropriate.



Kelly had previously been involved with *Knitted Leeds*, which was organised by Nick and Natasha Milton of *Spring Into Wool*, and you may have seen Kelly giving a talk about it at the 2020 *Unconvention*. Both *Knitted Pudsey* and *Knitted Leeds* are part of a wider project called *Knit Your Town Project*, which is the brainchild of Sue Howell who started the project with *Knitted Newbury*. The maps are approximately 7 feet wide by 5 feet high and are built onto a backing base of 315 squares of 10cm. Created mainly in acrylic materials to ensure longevity, the maps contain around 40 local landmarks, personalities and historical references in yarn form.

Local schools were involved whereby the children ran a competition to design a square, with the winning design being recreated by the creative group.

*Knitted Pudsey* took approximately 18 months to create and was launched on Yorkshire Day (1st August) 2023, being displayed in a local yarn shop and will in the long term be on display for the local community to view.

#### About the speaker

Kelly Ferguson is a self confessed craft addict, enjoying both yarn and fabric crafts. She was taught to knit at a young age by her gran, who was a prolific knitter. She much prefers crochet, and she is self taught, using a variety of sources such as online tutorials and books as well as taking the International Crochet Diploma. In the twelve years she has been crocheting, she has enjoyed learning the variety of techniques, her favourites being Tunisian and Mosaic crochet. She joined the Knitting and Crochet Guild about four years ago and is currently the Leeds Central Branch Coordinator.

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### Emma Vining – Collecting Patterns: Design inspiration from the world around us



Emma's design inspiration comes from many diverse sources, and she loves working with a wide variety of textures and cables that provide plenty of contrast in her knitting. In this keynote talk for Convention 2023, Emma will describe how she collects pattern inspiration from both the natural world and the built environment, and how she uses these ideas to develop her original hand-knitting designs.



## About the speaker

Emma Vining is a hand-knitting designer with a passion for all aspects of knitting and design. Her knitting patterns regularly feature in *The Knitter* and *Knitting* magazines, and she enjoys working on design collaborations with independent yarn companies. She is the author of *A Knitter's Sketchbook: Design Inspiration for Twists and Cables* and *A Knitter's Guide to Shawl Design*, both published by Crowood Press.

You can find Emma's designs on her website, [www.emmavining.com](http://www.emmavining.com), and on Instagram and Twitter, as Purlemma. Her patterns are available on Ravelry, LoveCrafts and Payhip.

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## Alison Ellen – Shaping Knitting: How different stitches alter the knitted fabric

The theme of this talk and of her latest book explores how stitches alter the width and length of knitted fabric, from knit and purl, bias knitting, cables and crossovers to (less obviously) different methods of colour knitting.

### About the speaker

Alison has run a small business designing, producing and selling hand knits since the 1980s with the help of knitters in the UK, dyeing her own yarns to produce a rich range of colours.



Having trained in textiles, she approaches knitting as a way of making a fabric and building a seamless garment. She enjoys the challenge of creating pieces that will be a joy for everybody to wear (we are all different!), an important aspect highlighted by interactions with customers at craft fairs.

Alison shares her ideas in the UK and abroad through exhibitions, lectures, teaching and her books, encouraging people to experiment with knitting and have confidence in exploring and designing. Her

website is [www.alisonellenhandknits.co.uk](http://www.alisonellenhandknits.co.uk)

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## Amy Twigger-Holroyd – Reknit Revolution: Adventures in knitting and sustainability

In this talk, Amy will present twenty years of exploring sustainability through knitting – including early encounters with the high-street industry, the development of her 'craft fashion' knitwear label *Keep & Share*, varied experiences of supporting others' making practices, her move into academic research, and her current *Fashion Fictions* project. She will particularly focus on



her research into reknitting: the use of knit-based skills, techniques and knowledge to rework the items in our wardrobes. This practice has a long history but needs to be reinvigorated for the contemporary context. From Amy's perspective, every stitch is a unit of possibility, ripe for reconfiguration, and reknitting can be a radical and transformative act. All are welcome in the 'Reknit Revolution'!





### About the speaker

Dr Amy Twigger Holroyd is a designer, maker, writer and researcher, and Associate Professor of Fashion and Sustainability at Nottingham Trent University.



### Barbara Smith – Tales from the Mill

The Guild's Collection is an unparalleled record of household knitting and crochet in this country. Barbara will show the scope of the collection, from publications to textile art, via knitting needles and crochet hooks, and including a few things that you might find surprising. The main part of the talk will show some of the knitted and crocheted pieces in the collection which have rarely if ever been shown and tell their stories. Some of these will be on display for you to examine closely at the end of the talk.



### About the speaker

Barbara Smith is the publications archivist for the Knitting & Crochet Guild's Collection.

## The Workshops

All of the workshops are 2 hours long, with a ½ hour break. Each group will determine when the break is to be held, and it could be at the end of the session. You will be in a group of no more than 12 people, in a light and airy room.



Hand-knitting



Machine-knitting



Crochet

## Saturday workshops (2pm to 4.30pm)



### Stitches for shaping with Alison Ellen

Different stitches in knitting produce different textures and patterns, but also affect the way the fabric pulls up, pulls in, makes it thicker or thinner, and therefore can be a great design tool for shaping your designs from within the structure.

We will experiment with some basic stitches used to create shaping, which could also be used to shape modular (domino) knitting, which is usually seen in garter stitch, and entrelac stitch (usually stocking stitch), so even these ways of knitting in building blocks can be shaped to make more fitted garments.

A handout will be supplied to give clear structure to the workshop, with exercises to start people off, and to take away as reference and to continue in their own time.

### Skills required

This workshop is accessible for all levels of knitting.

### Preparation

Please bring yarns for sampling, plain not textured (so we can see the stitches), and needles in suitable sizes for your yarn. A crochet hook may be useful, scissors and a notebook.

The tutor will have needles and crochet hooks to borrow.

### About the speaker

Alison has run a small business designing, producing and selling hand knits since the 1980s with the help of knitters in the UK, dyeing her own yarns to produce a rich range of colours.

Having trained in textiles, she approaches knitting as a way of making a fabric and building a seamless garment. She enjoys the challenge of creating pieces that will be a joy for every body to wear (we are all different!), an important aspect highlighted by interactions with customers at craft fairs.

She shares her ideas in the UK and abroad through exhibitions, lectures, teaching and her books, encouraging people to experiment with knitting and have confidence in exploring and designing.





## An introduction to thrummed knitting with Clare Griffel

You will take a look at the tradition of thrummed knitting, which incorporates small pieces of unspun wool into the knitted fabric, so as to produce a warm felted lining to an item. You will be able to practice creating thrums from wool tops, and will make a start on knitting a pair of thrummed wrist-warmers.

### Skills required

Cast on, knit and purl.

### Preparation

Please bring:

- a skein of aran yarn,
- a pair of 4.5 mm straight needles.

Clare will provide the fleece for the thrums.

If possible, cast on 36 stitches and work a couple of inches in k1 p1 rib before the workshop.

### About the speaker

Clare has been knitting since the age of 7 – a very long time! She particularly enjoys interesting methods of construction and innovative textures. She is also a wet felter, so thrummed knitting provides the ideal fusion of yarn and fleece.



## Top-down jumpers – what is helpful to know before I start one? with Rachel Lemon

This workshop will look at the various different forms of top-down jumpers from yokes and raglans to those with fitted sleeves.

We'll look at the practicalities and you'll have the chance to practice any of the various knitting techniques which are mentioned.

### Skills required

Cast on, knit, purl, increase and decrease.

### Preparation

Please bring:

- Pen or pencil and paper to make notes
- Non-patterned DK yarn
- 4 mm needles.

If possible, please cast on 30 stitches and complete a few rows of stocking stitch, ending with a purl row.

### About the speaker

Rachel started knitting in primary school and has never stopped. She particularly loves colour work from colder countries on small needles.







## Seamless joining and shaping with Amy Twigger-Holroyd and Alison Peck

One of the key properties of the knitted structure is the ability to create seamless three-dimensional shapes using partial knitting techniques. Building on this knowledge, Amy developed a range of alternative techniques that join pieces seamlessly during the knitting process. These techniques are versatile: they can be used to join panels neatly, to create seamless gathers, and to embellish fabric with decorative frills and edgings.

Amy will introduce you to these principles – signature techniques of *Keep & Share*, that she's been playing with for the last ten years – and guide you in producing sculptural and seamless samples with many potential applications.

### Skills required

Basic knowledge of machine knitting. The ability to cast on and knit stocking stitch.

### Preparation

Nothing. Machines, yarn, tools and other materials will be provided. You may wish to bring a notebook. If you prefer to bring your own machine, please get in touch to find out if this is possible.

Please be aware that long, loose sleeves (particularly knitted garments) may get caught in the carriage. Short sleeves, close fitting sleeves or sleeves that can be 'pushed up' out of the way are required.



## Tunisian crochet on a double-ended hook with Lindy Zubairy

In this workshop, you'll make a flat square of 'brioche' style work using the double ended hook and two colours, experimenting with a variety of effects. You will, then, move on to working in the round.

### Skills required

At the very least, you need to be able to create a crochet chain and work a traditional double crochet stitch before you start. Ideally, you will have already had some practice at Tunisian crochet and know the simple, purl and knit stitches.

### Preparation

Bring:

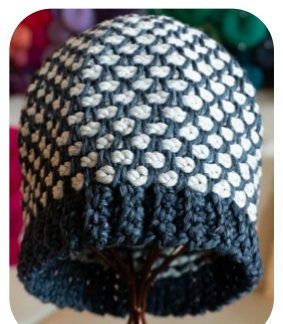
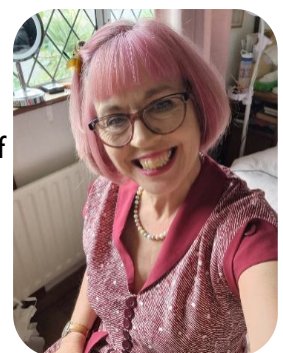
- A double ended hook
- two contrasting colours of yarn appropriate to it.

Bear in mind that with Tunisian crochet, the hook should be at least two sizes up from the one you would use for the yarn weight in traditional crochet.

That is, if you are using DK, you'll need a 6 mm hook; aran, at least a 7 mm;

and chunky, at least an 8 mm. Try [www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk](http://www.purplelindacrafts.co.uk) to buy hooks online. Make sure the hooks are the same size both ends.

A notebook would be good too, though, there will be a recap handout of what is covered in the workshop for you to take away.





## About the workshop leader

Lindy has had a number of Tunisian Crochet Designs published in the crochet press over the years and taught weekend residential courses in Beginners and Improvers Tunisian at Denman – the college of the WI.

She designed and produced the 'Let's Get Together Wrap' as a Tunisian Crochet-a-long exclusively for the Knitting & Crochet Guild during the first few weeks of lockdown, a project that introduced many members to the basic stitches (and beyond) via a series of videos published via Facebook.



## Corner to corner crochet with Kelly Ferguson

Corner to corner crochet, or c2c as its commonly known, is a fairly new crochet technique and is based on various slanting diamond or brick patterns. For this reason, is a popular technique for making Afghans especially those with geometric or pixelated designs (graphgans), but you can also use it to make other square or rectangular items such as dish cloths and scarves.

The process uses a combination of chains and treble crochet (UK terminology) stitches to create small squares that you connect using slip stitches. Instead of beginning with a long foundation chain, each block is made individually and worked diagonally increasing or decreasing to form the shape required.

The workshop will cover the basics of c2c crochet including increase rows, decrease rows and colour changing.



## Skills required

Attendees should know how to chain, slip stitch and treble crochet.

## Preparation

Please bring:

- double knitting or aran weight yarn in a variety of colours
- a crochet hook appropriate to the weight of yarn being used (4mm or 5mm)



## About the speaker

Kelly Ferguson is a self confessed craft addict, enjoying both yarn and fabric crafts. She was taught to knit at a young age by her gran who was a prolific knitter. She does however much prefer crochet, and is self taught, using a variety of sources such as online tutorials and books as well as well as taking the International Crochet Diploma.

In the twelve years she has been crocheting, she has enjoyed learning the variety of techniques, her favourites being Tunisian and Mosaic crochet.

She joined the Knitting and Crochet Guild about four years ago and is currently the Leeds Central Branch Coordinator.

You may also recognise her from a couple of videos we made for the 2020 Unconvention about the Gladys Sampler and Knitted Leeds.

Please do ask her about either or both.





## Stained glass window with Margaret O'Mara

Learn how to crochet this beautiful stained glass window (lattice) effect, which is based on a granny-square.



### Skills required

Attendees should know how to chain, slip stitch, double, half-treble and treble crochet.

### Preparation

Before attending the workshop, work a 7-round granny-square, with a chain space between each group of trebles and 3 chains at each corner. Use 7 bright DK yarns from your stash or a variegated yarn. Sew in all the ends.

Please bring to the workshop:

- Black or dark grey DK yarn
- 4.50 and 4.00 crochet hook
- Tapestry needle for sewing in all your ends

### About the speaker

Margaret O'Mara has been crocheting for just over 50 years, and the last 30 includes teaching in several venues, including South Notts College (its name when she taught there). She holds the Practical Diploma in Crochet, Master of Advanced stitches and Techniques from the USA, and teaching certificates to teach adults from both the USA and the UK. She enjoys teaching people tips they might not have come across that can improve the look of their work.



## Sunday workshops (9.30am to 11.30am)



### Design a gansey with Rita Taylor

Because ganseys are all virtually the same square shape the interest comes from the textured designs featured on them.

There were no written patterns and the knitters made up their own motifs according to the requests from their clients or family members.

This is what you will be encouraged to do in the workshop. Then you can knit a sample of all or part of it, either at the workshop or later.



### Skills required

Cast on, knit and purl.

### Preparation

Please bring:

- 2.75 mm needles (straight, DPN, circular)
- if you have some 5-ply yarn please bring it along.

Rita has kindly agreed to bring some Frangipani wool for participants to use, but if you already have some 5-ply, please bring about 25g so we can see how different yarns impact on the fabric we create.



### About the speaker

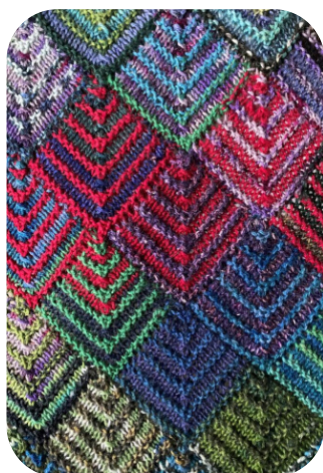
Rita has been knitting ganseys for at least 20 years and is also examining and cataloguing them for Sheringham Museum. See also [www.heritagehandknits.co.uk](http://www.heritagehandknits.co.uk)



### Patchwork knitting with Lynda Fiendley

About fifteen years ago, Lynda came across patchwork knitting, and has used it many times since. Lynda love these features: it is

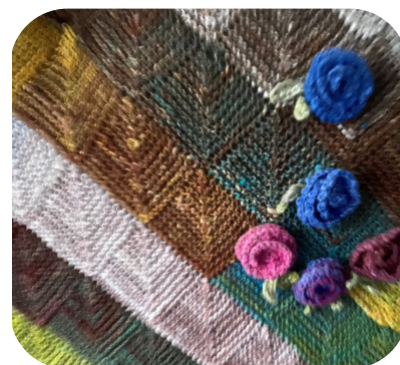
- Simple
- Multi-directional
- Good for using remnants of yarn
- Good use of colour.



Lynda has since made wall hangings, bags, neck warmers, waistcoats and cardigans using the technique.

During the workshop we will use basic mitred squares to make a bigger piece: skills acquired will be joining the squares, as well as following the instructions for the basic square.

Lynda will also provide the basic instructions and several patterns and suggestions for items to be made.





## Skills required

Cast-on, knit and purl.

## Preparation

Please bring:

- Small quantities of yarn in different colours (4-ply or DK; wool or acrylic)
- Needles suitable for the yarn.

## About the speaker

Lynda Fiendley is a retired teacher, with a lifelong passion for fibre crafts, including spinning, weaving, crochet and hand and machine knitting. Hand knitting is her primary interest, and she has been practising it for over sixty years.



### EEK a Steek! with Steve Foreman

A **steek** is a vertical cut in knitted fabric. Stranded knitting jumpers often use steeks to allow the to be knit in the round and the fabric is then cut to open the arm holes. Steeks can also be used to convert jumpers to cardigans.

This workshop aims to take the fear out of cutting your knitting – and encourage you to think of scissors as your friends. We will explore how to plan your steeks, how to knit your fabric to make cutting a steek easier, several methods of reinforcing the area round the steek, picking up stitches for button bands and sleeves, and wielding the scissors.



## Skills required

You will need to be able to cast on, knit and purl, and cast off. Ideally you will be able to knit stranded colour work in the round, but you can still be able to take part if you can only knit flat in a single colour.



## Preparation

You will need to bring:

- 4mm knitting needles. Circular or DPNs if you knit in the round.
- DK yarn in four colours (only about 5g of each; two colours if you are knitting flat).
- 4 removable stitch markers.
- A 2.75mm crochet hook.
- A metre or two of 4 ply yarn.
- Sharp scissors.
- Paper and pen/pencil for notes.

## About the speaker

Steve started knitting when he was working away from home as a way of “turning off” in the evenings. He always has several projects on the go – and always one that contains something new. He learned stranded knitting by tackling a Fair Isle jumper with all-over motifs and, of course, steeks. Not a fan of stranded knitting in the flat (or weaving in ends) he has adapted other patterns to use steeks – including an acrylic cardigan for a grandchild that was worn daily until outgrown.





## Christmas is coming with Alison Peck and Pat Banyard-Smith

Of course, you can knit Christmas gifts (woolly hats and scarves, for example) for family and friends... but that isn't really what this workshop is about. Instead, we're going to be looking at a few specific techniques but using them on a small scale. You can adapt them to something bigger at a later date.

The options available include:

- Knitting a small stocking to hang on the tree (chocolate for inserting not provided!) or a slightly larger version for a wall decoration. You'll practise short-row shaping.
- Making Christmas cards using single-motif with some embellishment (beads, for example)
- Working on an advent calendar – adding pockets to a piece of knitting.



### Skills required

Basic knowledge of machine knitting. The ability to cast on, knit stocking stitch and cast off.

### Preparation

Nothing. Machines, yarn, tools and other materials will be provided. You may wish to bring a notebook. If you prefer to bring your own machine, please get in touch to find out if this is possible.

Please be aware that long, loose sleeves (particularly knitted garments) may get caught in the carriage. Short sleeves, close fitting sleeves or sleeves that can be 'pushed up' out of the way are required.



## My interpretation of the Divine Hat with Margaret O'Mara

Learn how to crochet Margaret O'Mara's Divine hat.

### Skills required

For competent beginners/ intermediate crocheter, It will be an advantage if you know how to do front and back post stitches, Most other stitches are trebles.

### Preparation

Please bring :

- 5.00 mm crochet hook
- 100 gram ball of double knitting yarn. You only need 70g, but for longer hat, or turn up brim you will need more yarn.

### About the speaker

Margaret O'Mara has been crocheting for just over 50 years, and the last 30 includes teaching in several venues, including South Notts College (its name when she taught there). She holds the Practical Diploma in Crochet, Master of Advanced stitches and Techniques from the USA, and



teaching certificates to teach adults from both the USA and the UK. She enjoys teaching people tips they might not have come across that can improve the look of their work.



## Crochet rose with Marianne Penny

You will learn how to crochet a rose.

The roses in the photograph used Scheepjes Maxi Sweet treat cotton thread and 1.75mm crochet hook. Using thicker yarn and a bigger hook will give a larger finished result. Suggested yarn/hook size combinations are:

- Fine thread – 1.25–1.5 mm hook
- 4-ply – 2.5 mm hook
- DK – 3.5 mm hook.

Marianne likes to use cotton to help hold its shape more effectively, but wool or acrylic yarns can be used too.

Join Marianne for some 'you time' to crochet this beautiful flower and hopefully you will also learn a new technique.

### Skills required

You will need to be able to use chain, double, treble and double treble crochet stitches and slip stitches to make this flower.

### Preparation

Please bring:

- Yarn in two colours (flower and leaf)
- Scissors
- Round nose needle suitable for the yarn
- Selection of crochet hook sizes to suit your yarn
- Stitch markers.

### About the speaker

Marianne Penny is a designer, dyer and craft tutor based in Liverpool. She is also the Merseyside branch coordinator, which she started in 2017.

She has been teaching crochet in the northwest for 7 years.



## Mosaic crochet with Helen Jordan

This is an interesting colour work technique; the photo shows my first attempts at the process, so you can see that it's not difficult to learn.

There are two ways of working Mosaic Crochet and you will get a handout to remind you how to work each of them.

### Skills required

This workshop is suitable for anyone who is confident in working the basic crochet stitches: chain, double-crochet and trebles.



## Preparation

Please bring:

- Two contrasting colours of the same weight of yarn
- Crochet hooks suitable for the yarn weight

For example, double-knitting yarn and 4.5mm or 5.0mm crochet hook.

## About the speaker

Helen has been a Guild member for over 30 years. She runs the Thread of Life crochet supplies business and has brought her goods for sale to many Knitting & Crochet Guild Conventions.

An experienced teacher of all things crochet, Helen is an Associate Assessor for Parts I and II of the three-part International Diploma in Crochet devised and overseen by KCG founder member and life member, Pauline Turner, who has also been inducted into the CGOA Hall of Fame.

Using her mischievous sense of humour, Helen eases any concerns that may be felt by the people she teaches.

Website: [www.threadoflife.co.uk](http://www.threadoflife.co.uk)

