

The convention runs from 4pm on Friday 6th September through to 4pm on Sunday 8th September. Our Annual General Meeting starts at 11am on Saturday 7th September.

The location

The Convention is being held at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN1 8SG. This is part of the same group as The Hayes (where we held Convention last year) so the standard will be similar.

Full directions are available on their website: <https://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh/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)

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

Fully residential – Friday 4pm till Sunday 4pm	£ 325
Day delegate – Saturday only	£ 75
Day delegate – Sunday only	£ 75
Day delegate – Saturday and Sunday	£ 140

Note: All of the venues in this group charge per person, not per room. This means we do not offer a discount for sharing. If you prefer to share, that can be arranged – but the cost remains the same.

Day delegate places are subject to availability. The venue has a maximum capacity and must be able to accommodate them. We will check as soon as you enquire.

High Leigh 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, you may be able to book for a room, dinner on Thursday, plus breakfast and lunch on Friday, at £115 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, accessible on our website on the [Convention 2024](#) page. 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.)

We have to pay for the places we've confirmed whether they are taken or not, so 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 will run a waiting list.) 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 6th September

Start	End	Event
	Ongoing	Registration
5pm	5.30pm	Welcome and introductions
6pm	7pm	Dinner
7.30pm	8.30pm	Keynote: Vikki Haffenden

Saturday 7th September

Start	End	Event
8am	9am	Breakfast
9.30am	10.30am	Keynote: Sue Maton
10.30am	11am	Break
11am	1pm	Annual General Meeting
1pm	2pm	Lunch
2pm	4.30pm	Workshops (including ½ hour break)
4.30pm	6pm	Yarn amnesty open, any fringe events, socialising
6pm	7pm	Dinner
7.30pm	8.30pm	Keynote: Lilly Kate France
8.30pm		Craft and chat in bar and lounges

Sunday 8th September

Start	End	Event
8am	9am	Breakfast
9.30am		Clear rooms and check out
9.30am	10.30am	Show and Tell
10.30am	11am	Break
11am	1pm	Workshops
1pm	2pm	Lunch
2pm	2.30pm	Closing remarks and raffle
2.30pm	4pm	Socialising (refreshments available)
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.

Vikki Haffenden – ‘The Fashionable Craft: A fresh Look at Machine Knitting’

Vikki Haffenden, the author of *Single and Double Bed Machine Knitting; the Designer’s Guide* and *Translating Between Hand and Machine Knitting* will be sharing some of her thoughts about how her books are contributing to the current resurgence of interest in machine knitting. This will include why she decided, and indeed felt qualified, to write about machine knitting and will focus on some of the chapter subjects in more detail. Of course, we shouldn’t look forward without looking back so there will be an informative glance into the rear view mirror at some of the fascinating history of machine knitting, but she will also look at contemporary, technologically advanced knitting machines and how these have enabled knitwear design. Machine knitting has suffered a somewhat poor profile over the last few decades, despite knitting machines being fantastic creative tools so this talk will also investigate some of the differences between hand and machine knitting and explore several misconceptions about machine knitting.

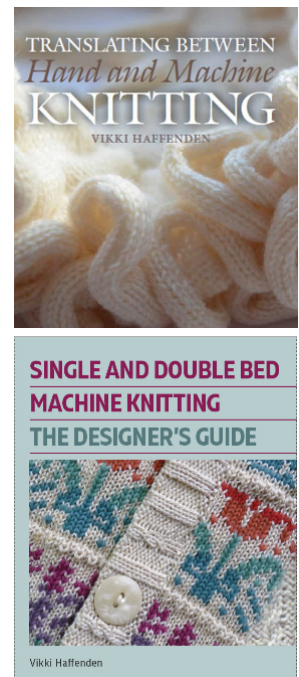


About the speaker

As a life-long hand and machine knitter I have been fortunate to be able to make my living in this quite specialised field. Alongside my creative practice, I developed an enduring interest in teaching and learning, which matured into a career lecturing in textile design and the opportunity to research a doctorate facilitated by industrial, digital knitting systems. Reviewing the dated selection of machine knitting books available to the rather neglected field of domestic machine knitting inspired me to write a series of exciting, contemporary books, which I like to think have contributed to a fresh wave of interest.

Notes

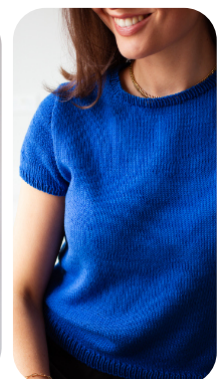
If anyone has copies of either of Vikki’s books, she is happy to sign them for you. She will also have a few copies available.



Lily Kate France – ‘Knitting & STEM & Social Media’

Beyond A-levels, I have no formal qualifications in textiles, and actually studied Astronomy & Planetary Sciences. Everything I have learnt about knitting, garment construction, pattern writing and running a business has been entirely through books, and trial and error. I’m yet to apply my degree to a related job. However, I don’t regret it for a second, as the last 10 years have taught me that the creative and technical parts of the brain are complementary, not contradictory.

A neuropsychologist I am not, so my talk won’t be along those lines, but I’ll discuss the considerable overlap on the science/



creativity Venn diagram and how it impacts my work.

About the speaker

I'm a Lancashire based knitwear designer. Since knitting my first stitches at 8 years old, I've barely put down the needles, and am very grateful to have turned my childhood hobby into a career. At the ripe old age of 26, I've been designing on and off for

around 15 years – first alongside school, then A-levels, then side-by-side with an Astronomy & Planetary Sciences degree with modelling and photography work here and there. I'm a creative jack-of-all-trades who likes to shout from the rooftops about knitting.



Sue Maton – 'Crochet, Craft & Community'

The talk will describe my journey in textiles from my early education in textiles and knitwear design, through my teaching years and the time I spent on sabbatical, and how all of this has impacted on the work I do now.

I'll discuss how, and why, I learnt to crochet and describe how this craft has been fundamental in finding my own creative voice and creating a global network of crafters.

I'll describe how I built my business from a small sole trader doing the occasional local craft fair into an International Limited Company with nearly 2,000 course members from all over the world.

I'll explain why I think crafting, generally, has a role to play in helping people feel and stay connected and I'll talk about how my business is as much about community as it is about learning a craft and making a product.

Using examples of my designs, and course members' work, I'll explain my design process, what inspires and drives me, and how I see my work developing in the future.

About the speaker

Sue trained as a knitwear designer in the mid 1980s and, after graduating, began a twenty-year teaching career in FE and HE, teaching on a broad range of Textiles and Art & Design courses. A two year sabbatical spent at Goldsmiths University and NUA ignited a broader interest in creative practices including writing and installation work.

In 2011, Sue left her formal teaching career to start a business: The Mercerie. Since the pandemic, Sue has built an online platform of crochet courses for a global audience and continues to combine her love of designing, making and teaching.



The Workshops

The workshops are 2 hours long, with a ½ hour break. The break may be at the end of the session.



Hand-knitting



Machine-knitting



Crochet



General interest

Saturday workshops (2pm to 4.30pm)

Casting on – let me count the ways with Rachel Lemon



You don't have to cast on or off in the same manner for every item you knit – how stretchy do you want your rib? Fancy knitting toe-up socks?



We'll look at what factors to think about when selecting a cast on or cast off. There will be a choice of both cast-ons and cast-offs to try for ribs depending how stretchy you want them to be. Casting on in two directions at once is useful for toe-up socks or instead of a provisional cast-on, but if you do want a provisional cast-on we'll look at a crochet cast-on.

Skills required

Suitable for all skill levels (from beginner to expert).

Items to bring

- Two smooth DK yarns in contrasting plain colours
- DPNs suitable for the yarn, plus a size bigger and smaller
- 2 circulars (preferably same mm but not essential; shorter length if possible but not essential)
- Crochet hook
- Darning needle
- Pair of scissors
- Optional – labels or stapler for attaching labels to samples

Before the workshop...

If you want to practise different rib cast-offs, cast on 20st and do single rib for at least an inch and leave on a holder. Do 2-3 samples. If you don't want to practise rib cast off, nothing required.

About the workshop leader

I learnt to knit in primary school and have never stopped. I love colourwork, especially small gauge patterns from Estonia and Latvia, and am just as happy knitting plain things while sitting on trains staring out the window. I have a maximum 10 projects on the needles at any one time, the oldest of which is just celebrating its fourth birthday.

Let's learn intarsia together with Steve Foreman



Say Gyles Brandreth or Michael Fish and most people 'of a certain age' will think of jumpers featuring simple or intricate colour pictures. At the time, these were probably the best known hand knits in the UK, and were made using intarsia. Two of our patrons, Kaffe Fassett and Sasha Kagan, are well known for their use of colour and many of their designs are also based on intarsia. This workshop aims to build your knitting skills to let you tackle an intarsia project with confidence.



After a brief discussion of the different methods for knitting in colour, we will go on to look at

different styles of chart that are often used in patterns for colour work. This will provide the background you will need to plan a colourwork project. We then move on to a detailed exploration of how to work intarsia, concentrating on intarsia worked flat. We will knit a swatch with a simple design that aims to give you solutions to the most common challenges that people have with working intarsia.

After we have covered the main points and are practising what we have learned, participants who are already experienced in knitting intarsia will be invited to split into a separate group to work intarsia in the round. This group will work on a swatch that is knit in the round and that focuses on the issues associated with intarsia in the round.

Both groups will rejoin for a brief discussion of finishing techniques for intarsia.

Skills required

You need to be able to cast on, cast off, knit and purl.

If you hope to extend to knitting intarsia in the round (if we have time), you will also need to be able to join in the round and avoid ladders when knitting in the round; our sampler will be small so if you use a circular needle you should also be able to use magic loop or other method for working a small diameter project.

Items to bring

- Double knitting yarn in two contrasting colours – about 10g of each.
- If you want to learn 'Intarsia in the round', bring two additional contrasting colours of yarn (four colours in total)
- 4mm needles. If you hope to knit in the round bring DPNs (4) or a circular needle(s) (80cm).
- Scissors or snips for cutting yarn.
- Sewing needle for weaving in ends.
- Pencil or pen and paper for taking notes (and marking the chart).

Before the workshop...

- Divide one colour of yarn (background) into two roughly equal lengths.



About the workshop leader

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. In the past, Steve has 'investigated' stranded knitting, lace knitting and steeks, and has created workshops for them, two of which have been given at previous Conventions. After having completed several projects that used intarsia, and prompted by questions from a Guild Branch, Steve decided that the time had come to do a 'deep dive' into how the technique works. This workshop is the result.

Making and using T-shirt yarn with Clare Griffel



More than 235 million items of clothing go into landfill every year. But that doesn't have to happen – we can recycle old T-shirts into yarn for knitting, crochet, macrame ... – and it's fun!



In this session we will learn the most efficient method for making the yarn, and discuss the type of item which can be knitted or crocheted using this yarn. We will then work on producing a small bag or a table-mat. The technique can also be used on plastic carrier bags.



Skills required

Basic knitting or crochet skills are required. This yarn is not suitable for complex patterns.

Items to bring

- A sharp pair of scissors.
- A pair of large knitting needles or crochet hook, size 6 mm or larger.
- Several T-shirts or carrier bags – T-shirts must have a substantial cotton content and be jersey fabric, not woven. As a rough guide, a smallish bag will require 3–4 T-shirts.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

I have been knitting since the age of 7 – a very long time! I particularly enjoy interesting methods of construction, innovative textures and reversible fabrics. I've given workshops for a number of WI groups, and at previous Conventions. While I love a nice hand-dyed wool as much as anyone, I will knit with anything that can be turned into yarn. I am also very interested in sustainability, so the idea of making useful things out of old T-shirts is very appealing.



HP is SO saucy with Vikki Haffenden



The title might be misleading – so be assured that this workshop is not about condiments. Instead, we will be exploring some of the fascinating possibilities of holding position (HP) to knit short rows on a single bed knitting machine.



Short rows have so many potential applications for garments and other items you might want to knit, and the joy is that this technique is do-able on nearly all machines that have holding position, including plastic-bed models such as the Silver Reed KLI50 and Brother KX390/395. Although the underlying technique does not require automatic patterning, when this is available it can be added to the mix with inspiring results, as you will see.

Short rows can create 2D surface pattern and 3D texture alone or in various combinations. They are also really useful for integral and edge shaping, giving neater edges, improving fit and making the dreaded sewing-up easier. Vikki will demonstrate some of the techniques, but the really exciting bit will be when you sit at the machine to create your own samples using this fabulous technique. To get the most from this workshop try to bring your own machine knitting tools and most importantly, the claw weights as this technique needs loads!

Please note that this workshop is not directly applicable to Passap/Pfaff, Singer/Superba type double bed machines as they do not use the same method to work short rows.

Skills required

This workshop is not for beginners. Attendees should be comfortable casting on single bed and understand the basics of machine knitting on single bed; tension, yarn control, etc. It is not necessary to be able to use a punchcard.

Items to bring

Machines, and some yarn and punchcards will be provided.



If possible please bring the following items:

- Scissors
- Two small cones (or centre pull balls) of 3-4ply machine knit yarn in two different colours. These can be any fibre, synthetic, natural or mixes, as long as the yarn is of suitable weight for standard gauge knitting, smooth and not hairy or fancily textured.
- Your own machine knitting tools, especially claw weights.
- Useful but not vital: two punchcards from the standard set, both small repeating patterns, not single motif.
- Notebook and pen/pencil.

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. Long hair should be tied back.

If you prefer to bring your own machine, please get in touch to find out if this is possible.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

As a life-long hand and machine knitter, I have been fortunate to be able to make my living in this quite specialised field. Alongside my creative practice, I developed an enduring interest in teaching and learning, which matured into a career lecturing in textile design and the opportunity to research a doctorate facilitated by industrial, digital knitting systems. Reviewing the dated selection of machine knitting books available to the rather neglected field of domestic machine knitting inspired me to write a series of exciting, contemporary books, which I like to think have contributed to a fresh wave of interest.

Mastering Texture and Dimension in Crochet: A Hands-on Demonstration of Back/Front Post Techniques, Cables, Ribs, and Edgings with Amanda Hutcherson



Attendees will learn the secrets behind creating robust cables that mimic those found in knitted fabrics, adding sophistication to any project. The workshop will also cover the versatility of crochet ribs, offering a stretch and design aesthetic essential for countless projects from hats to cardigans.



Skills required

Suitable for intermediate crocheters looking to delve deeper into the art of crochet, this hands-on session will provide all the tools, tips, and tricks needed to master these advanced techniques.

Items to bring

Amanda will bring hooks and yarn.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

As an expert and passionate knitting and crochet teacher, I'm looking forward to working with you as you develop your crochet skills. I have advanced skills and qualifications in teaching adults and teens, having worked as a university and college lecturer for 15 years, teaching in health and social care and midwifery: my other great passion.



All of these aspects together with the fact that I have been knitting since the age of 4 and crocheting since a young teen, enable me to understand your learning needs and to plan structured and exciting crochet progress for you.

Tunisian crochet – it's in the (little) bag with Pam Mitchell



The bag I have designed is in Tunisian Simple Stitch (Tss), Tunisian Purl Stitch (Tps) Tunisian Knit Stitch (Tks) and a 2 colour Tss). The handle is chain and double crochet.



Skills required

This will be suitable for crocheters who want to learn Tunisian Crochet and also improvers. A knowledge of chain, slip stitch and double crochet would be helpful.

Items to bring

- A 4mm Tunisian crochet hook
- Two colours of DK cotton. Ricorumi cotton is ideal. I will have a small selection with me.
- A tapestry needle, scissors, a notebook and pen.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

My name is Pam Mitchell and I have been crocheting for as long as I can remember. I have been a member of the KCG for several years, as well as the WI and the Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. In the late 1990s, I undertook Pauline Turner's Diploma in Crochet achieving credit for Part I. I did nearly all of Part II but we moved house during that time and I'm afraid I never completed it but I still acquired a lot of knowledge from what I did. I have given Crochet Workshops and Taster Days for Somerset WIs, both county workshops and at individual institutes. I have attended several Conventions as a participant and look forward very much to holding a workshop for other members.



Begin to spin using a drop spindle with Lynda Fiendly



In this workshop, I will introduce the top whorl drop spindle, and show how you can start spinning easily.

In the time available, the aim will be to learn how to:

- Spin a 'single' yarn.
- Wind the spun single into a centre pull ball using a nostepinne.
- Ply the single yarn into a balanced plied yarn.



Items to bring

You will need a drop spindle. If you do not have one, I recommend these suppliers, who are also good sources of fibre. The spindles are all in the region of £10. If there is a choice, I recommend a weight between 30 and 60g.

- <https://www.winghamwoolwork.co.uk/wingham-drop-spindle.html> They have small or large spindles, either will do.

- https://www.worldofwool.co.uk/collections/spinning-drop-spindles?_pos=1&_psq=drop&ss=e&_v=1.0 They have 3 sizes, 30g would be best, 60g would do.
- <https://www.fibrehut.co.uk/collections/drop-spindles> Their own brand is fine.
- https://www.heidifeathers.com/ourshop/prod_2663382-Drop-Spinndles-Choose-the-Quantity.html

[Note: if you already have a different type of spindle, I can accommodate that – you don't need to buy another.]

I will supply fibre for spinning, but, if you wish to bring your own, feel free. I hope to show a small range of available fibre.

About the workshop leader

I am a retired teacher, with a lifelong passion for fibre crafts, including spinning, weaving, crochet and hand and machine knitting. I have been spinning for over 10 years, having learned on a wheel, but later transferring my skills to the drop spindle [oddly the reverse of most people's experience]. I use a spindle to spin yarn for knitting and weaving and love its simplicity.



Sunday workshops (11am to 1pm)

Knitting to amuse others with Judy Jones



Finger Knitting can be taught to any person from 5 to 95 years, some children find it very addictive. A short piece of knitted tube will be made and ideas given for its end use.



Arm knitting can be taught to older children and adults. A piece of loose knitting will be made which could be fashioned into a neck cowl.

Sociable Knitting and Crochet is a way of knitting in a group of 4 and will achieve a square throw. Suitable to introduce complete non-knitters to the craft while engaging with the group.

Usually causes some intrigue to visitors. Participants will have a chance to knit and/or crochet.

Instructions and hints will be given as to how to prepare for all the above and to run your own demonstration. Handout notes will be available.

Skills required

No previous knowledge is required, but the ability to basic knit or crochet is helpful.

Items to bring

1 ball of very thick yarn any type or colour. All other materials and equipment will be provided.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

I have been a member of the Guild for over 30 years and running the Cheshire Branch for nearly as long. Before retirement, I taught Craft and Textile courses mainly Machine Knitting, Crochet and Weaving. I have always got some knitting and crochet on the go and enjoy learning new techniques.

Knitweave with Lynda Fiendly



Using knit-weave you can quite easily:

- Introduce colour and texture
- Include artistic effects into plain knitting
- Use up small amounts of yarn, even scraps

I will introduce the basic technique and suggest different ways of using it to embellish and create knitwear. In the time available, it should be possible to knit a sample of a variety of techniques.

I will provide a worksheet and a basic pattern, but I would encourage participants to experiment with their own ideas.

Skills required

Suitable for beginners (able to knit and purl).

Items to bring

- A basic yarn in 4ply or DK weight
- Some small quantities of weaving yarn, which could be thicker/textured/coloured etc. I will provide some too.
- A pair of knitting needles of suitable gauge to knit your basic yarn at a loose tension e.g 4mm for 4 ply, 5mm for DK (guide only)
- Scissors (useful)
- Crochet hook (useful)

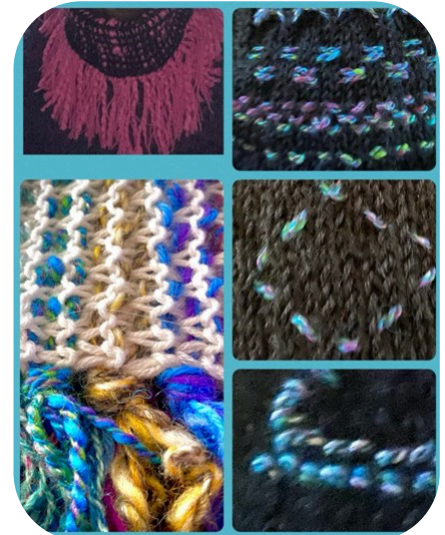
Before the workshop...

No preparation is required

About the workshop leader

I am a retired teacher, with a lifelong passion for fibre crafts, including spinning, weaving, crochet and hand and machine knitting. Hand knitting is my primary interest, and I have been practising it for over sixty years.

I weave using a loom [mostly Saori style], as well as using machine knit-weave, but recently realised that it could be done by hand too, and with some effects unique to hand knitting. After a little research, I found that although it is rarely used, it can be very effective.



Craft and Chat with Marjorie Needham



Marjorie is leading Craft and Chat for anyone wanting a relaxed session with their WIPs or an opportunity to learn how to knit a mitred square her way, together with a few hints and tips for all knitters and crocheters. A lovely way to spend your Sunday morning.



Skills required

Nothing specific. Marjorie is available to share her hints and tips with you, whether you are a knitter or you crochet.



Items to bring

If you want to learn how to do the mitred squares (knitted), bring 4mm needles and a small ball of DK yarn.

If you want to try out the other hints and tips, bring either 4mm needles or a 4mm crochet hook

(or both!) and some DK yarn. Marjorie has a wealth of knowledge and is happy to share her tips.

Before the workshop

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

I am Marjorie. I am 90 years old and I was taught to knit when I was 5. In my teens, I learned crochet by myself. Since then, I have been teaching others, informally and in schools. Currently, I run my own group, "Knit with Marjorie", in Bromley, and I am a longstanding member of East London Crochet Group. I have been a member of the Guild since 1984. Interesting fact about me: in 1986, there was a competition to design and knit a creative toy. My toy won and was auctioned for £700 for the Save the Children fund. I have a photograph of Princess Anne presenting me with the award.

Knitweave with Heather Hofmeyr and Pat Banyard-Smith



In this workshop you will have a chance to view the various base and weaving yarns available.

You will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of this technique and will see, by means of garments, swatches, etc., what the possibilities are.

You will then knit a cowl or small bag trying out various yarns and patterns. And have fun!

The Clutch Bag: The aim is to knit a rectangle approximately 40cm by 30cm, with a straight edge on one side and some shaping on the other by means of increasing and decreasing. You will do bands of weaving using using a number of different yarns and stitch patterns. These bands will be of different widths and separated by rows of stocking stitch. The weaving will use hand selection of needles, punchcards and hand manipulation of yarn to form different patterns. Some bands will have long floats on the surface, and knitters will be able to employ different methods to deal with them like latching up, bundling together or cutting floats. We will demonstrate an edging for the bag.

The Cowl: This is knitted sideways with fine yarn and a fringe.

Skills required

Basic to intermediate skills are required. You must be able to cast on, and should be aware of how the punchcards enable patterning.

Items to bring

Knitting machines (Brother and at least one Knitmaster) will be provided. If you want to bring your own machine, please let us know when you book.

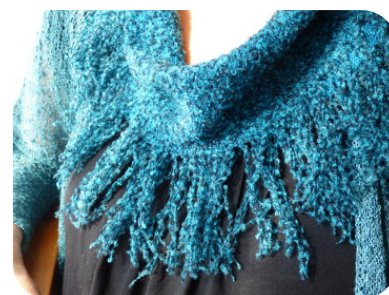
Details of yarn requirements from your stash – if any – will be sent when booking is confirmed.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leaders

Heather Hofmeyr: I grew up in South Africa and have always been a hand knitter and crocheter and then discovered machine knitting and have never looked back.



At the start of my knitting journey, back in the 1980s, I was lucky enough to attend a workshop run by Audrey Palmer who was a leader in the technique of knitweave at the time. It was a revelation and although I do use other patterns and stitches on the machine, knitweave has remained my favourite.

When we relocated to the UK, I was able to attend a City and Guilds course run by Sybil Kenton which was another eye-opener and expanded my horizons. Textured light-weight knitwear is a passion for me and I would love to share it.

Pat Banyard-Smith: I bought my first knitting machine when I was expecting our son, who will be 50 later this year! Later, I had a knitwear business for 12 years before returning to being a primary school teacher. I am a founder member and Chairman of Long Buckby Machine Knitters and enjoy trying out new techniques for our meetings, especially knitweave, plating and felting. I was actively involved in the Guild of Machine Knitters, organising and attending various shows. I also enjoy crochet, dressmaking and hand-knitting. I run the Northamptonshire branch of KCG in my local village.

Broomstick crochet with Lindy Zubairy



Broomstick Crochet is a fun way to extend your crochet range while creating a beautiful, lacy effect that may be incorporated in multiple projects and designs. It's a bit of a maverick stitch that requires an extra bit of kit - a length of rod about the girth of a broomstick handle, hence the name. (We tend to use 20 or 35 mm knitting needles these days, however, so don't go sawing up your broom!)

In this workshop, you'll learn how to create the beautiful peacock eyes that characterise this openwork crochet technique and explore its surprising range of design possibilities.

Skills required

You do need to already know how to work a double crochet stitch (US single crochet) so this workshop is not really for complete beginners.

Items to bring

Bring along a traditional hook and at least a couple of 50 g balls of yarn appropriate to it. That is, if you are using 4 ply, you'll need a 3 mm hook; for DK, you'll need a 4 mm hook; for aran or worsted weight yarn, a 5 mm; and for chunky, a 6 mm (possibly don't go any bigger than that for now). If you're not sure, choose aran with a 5 mm. Your yarn can be in any (or every) colour. 'Broomsticks' will be provided, but do bring your own 20 mm knitting needle if you like.

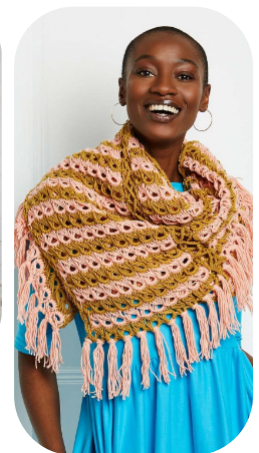
Bring along a notebook, too, but there will be a recap handout of what is covered in the workshop for you to take away.

Before the workshop...

No preparation is required.

About the workshop leader

Lindy has had a number of broomstick crochet designs published in the crochet press over the years and taught day courses at Denman – the college of the WI. She qualified as a design and technology teacher in 2006 and has been teaching both traditional and tunisian crochet in various formats and locations for 15 years.



Learn lacy crochet with Helen Jordan



Lacy crochet is a stitch design that creates a beautiful open fabric. It is worked over two rows and includes clusters and double trebles. Straight and stepped edges can easily be created.



Helen was complimented on her lacy crochet shawl at the 2023 Convention Show and Tell session and it was agreed that this technique could be featured as one of this year's workshops.

You will receive a pattern in written and chart form at the session.

Skills required

Intermediate or confident beginner – must know how to work basic stitches and double trebles, and have an idea of how to follow patterns.

Items to bring

- Smooth yarn (could be fine, or up to DK weight – thicker yarns would be OK, but perhaps could be a little more fiddly to learn with).
- Suitable hook for the yarn.

Consider bringing yarn (which could be textured, but slubbed yarn is probably best avoided) to start on a scarf or shawl, along with matching hook.

About the workshop leader

Helen has been a Guild member since 1988 and has led a number of workshops at Conventions over the years and has also helped to 'man' the stand at the Harrogate Knitting and Stitching show. She runs Thread of Life, her crochet supplies business, that is a popular visitor to Convention.

Have a go at being a designer with Angharad Thomas



This workshop will be a fun, hands on introduction to designing your own textiles – these might be garments, blankets, or any knitted or crocheted item. You will use the time to think about what you want to make, how you would make it, colours, who it for ... and so on.



Don't be alarmed by the idea of using coloured pencils or pictures and a sketch pad! Think of it as grown up Blue Peter! Bring as much or as little as you want in the line of materials – I will bring some basics too.

Skills required

No special skills are required. This workshop is suitable for everyone.

Items to bring

- A4 paper, plain white.
- Post cards and or pictures from magazines, or printouts from phone pictures.
- Coloured pencils (if you have them – borrow from children/grandchildren).
- Scraps of yarns, especially from stash or yarns you may want to use.
- Sellotape or glue stick might be useful, also scissors.
- Most of all, collect yarns that you might want to use as they will guide what you think up. Perhaps a bit of stash busting at the same time?
- If you have any sketch books or scrap books with ideas, feel free to bring them (if you want).



About the workshop leader

Designer, maker and researcher, Angharad also volunteers in the KCG Collection.

A Knitter's Guide to Gloves published 2023 by Crowood Press.

Instagram: @angharadt

Ravelry: <https://www.ravelry.com/people/angharadt>

Website: <https://knittinggloves.wordpress.com/>



Wear your Dorset button inspired brooch – or hang your hanging – with pride with Janet Collins



According to Jen Best of Beaker Buttons, Dorset Buttons were made by hand in Dorset from the early 1600s to 1851. They were shipped all over the world and even worn by royalty. This cottage industry employed over 4000 people at its height, making over 100 different

button types. According to Jen Best, the popularity of Dorset Buttons to fasten clothes ended suddenly after the Great Exhibition of 1851, when a new button machine was showcased. Many families were left destitute and emigrated to escape starvation, and the skills were more or less lost. Now people like Jan Best are keeping the craft alive as they encourage people to make Dorset Style Buttons and to use them as brooches, earrings and decorations.



In this workshop you will have the opportunity to make a Dorset Style Button to use as a brooch, decorative hanging or just for fun. Janet will provide appropriate rings of different sizes, beads and yarn as well as a wide variety of samples to inspire creativity.

Skills required

Complete beginners welcome.

Items to bring

For each Dorset inspired brooch you will need:

- a metal ring about 25mm in diameter
- a 20mm brooch back
- fine yarn or embroidery threads

These can all be provided by me as a kit for £1 each at the workshop.

If you have embroidery threads or fine yarns (4 ply or finer might be best) you would like to use please bring them along. Please also bring a blunt ended needle you might use for sewing up your knitting or crochet if you have one and a pair of scissors if possible.



Before the workshop...

No preparation required.

About the workshop leader

I have been crafting since I was taught to knit by my mother. Knitting now competes with crochet, weaving and sewing for my precious time. I have been making Dorset Button inspired items for years and enjoy small quickly completed items I can wear.

I look forward to sharing what I have learned with you.