



In praise of the humble Singleton:

a Dorset Button challenge and fundraising event for 2014

A Dorset Button challenge is to bring the humble Singleton into the 21st Century and a fundraising event at the Dorset History Centre, Dorchester



Sample of buttons from the Macclesfield Button project 2014

July 2014 - Please send your button addressed For the Attention of Anna McDowell to the address shown on the right to arrive by Friday 25th July 2014.

September 2014 - Your buttons will be mounted and displayed at a fundraising event on Thursday 18th September at the Dorset History Centre, Dorchester.

Undercliffe Cottage
Donhead St Mary
Shaftesbury
Dorset
SP7 9DG





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The Challenge:

This Dorset Button challenge is to bring the humble Singleton into the 21st Century.

The Dorset Singleton button was made using a ring covered in fabric stuffed with sheep's wool and secured with tiny stitches on the inside of the ring. Using thread, each button was then individually decorated.

Using a 25mm ring and the traditional method to make these buttons, buttoners are free to put their own individual decoration into the centre of these buttons.

Requirements

- Each buttoner may submit one button for the display
- The basic button must follow the original method of making a Singleton button but please go to town on your design on the top of the button
- The button should be 25 mm wide and not more than 30mm high
- The button must have a loop on the back to enable me to fix it to a backing cloth
- Please only send your button if you are prepared to donate it.

Please send your button addressed For the Attention of Anna McDowell to the address shown on the right to arrive by Friday 25th July 2014.

A Fundraising Event:

Your buttons will be mounted and displayed at a fundraising event at the Dorset History Centre, Dorchester, on Thursday 18th September. Your mounted contributions will be 'auctioned off' to help raise funds for this worthwhile project. Information about this event will be emailed to you near the date.

The Dorset History Centre is keen to host this event as it will create awareness about the Dorset Button Industry and offer the opportunity to display documents in their collection about the button industry. It will also use the evening as an opportunity to solicit further deposits of archival material relating to button making. In some cases the knowledge has been passed down orally and some traditions are in danger of being lost. This is an area that I'm very keen to promote as the more I discover about the history of the Dorset Button Industry, the more I can see how thin the information is and how some misconceptions may have arisen.

This is a fun challenge and anyone can take part. However, so I can judge the size of the panel required to mount your buttons I would be grateful if you could please registered your interest by sending an email to Singleton Button Challenge.

Thank you in anticipation of your contributions and support and I look forward to receiving your button.

Best wishes

Anna McDowell

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