

Course Programme No. 1

Dorset Buttons for beginners

Dorset Cartwheel and Blandford Crosswheel buttons

Tutor - Anna McDowell

During the day participants will learn how to make two different Dorset 'Thread' Buttons using thread and hollow brass rings. If time allows, this will be followed by a choice of either working a button on fine .08 wire rings, similar in size to the original rings or experimenting with how different threads can be used to great effect, bringing these lovely buttons into contemporary use.

Morning

Session 1 – will start with a very short introduction to the history of Dorset Buttons cottage industry, the four ranges of Dorset Buttons, and outline the five stages to making a Dorset thread button using a metal ring.

The group will then work a Dorset Cartwheel Button.

Afternoon

Session 2 – using the techniques gained from the morning's session participants will work a further Crosswheel button using the Daisy pattern.

Session 3 – If time allows - participants will be able to either:

- a) use different threads to see the effects using a hollow brass ring and how to join threads or
- b) work a Dorset Singleton Button or
- c) work a 10mm button on a 0.8mm wire using fine 50# or higher thread.

Workshop requirements

Basic materials provided at no charge. Basic material include hollow brass rings, size 22 tapestry needles, basic threads and instruction sheet.

Participants need to provide their own scissors and I suggest their own sewing kits and threads to experiment with.

There is a small charge for 'special' threads from my collection and handmade rings are £1.00 each.