



Magnificent response to the Singleton Challenge by Anna McDowell

I was thrilled to received a total of thirty-four lovely Dorset Buttons for this Singleton Challenge. They have also come from three continents each decorated in their own unique way. The youngest participant was a young girl of twelve who lives in Australia. Another participant from Australia sent me a button made from fabric designed by Aboriginal artist Theresa Wallace. From the other side of the world, a buttoner in Canada with a keen interest in rock and gems, incorporated jade and pyrite (fool's gold) into her button design.

Here in the United Kingdom, I received buttons made from Jamieson's 100% pure Shetland wool fabric and

yarn. Three buttons were embellished with insects and many used beads and

history of the button industry in Dorset. I hope some of you will be able to join me.



A small sample of the thirty-four buttons entered into the Singleton Challenge

All the buttons will be mounted and displayed at the Dorset History Centre on the evening of the 18th September. They will be on general display in the foyer from

embroidery. You can view all thirty-four on Henry's Buttons website.

The Dorset History Centre is planning a [fundraising evening on Thursday 18th September 2014](#) dedicated to Dorset Buttons, I have been invited to talk about the

the 19th September for two weeks. Please check with the History Centre for opening times and days.

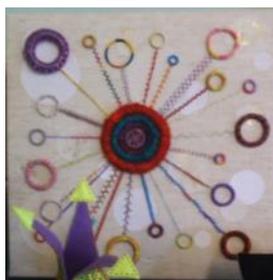
All buttons will be auctioned to raise funds to help with archival material and archival storage equipment.

Thank you so much for participation in this project.

Dorset Art Weeks and Dorset Buttons by Anna McDowell

Dorset Arts Weeks is one of the largest Open Studio Events in the country; it brings artists and visitors together in ways that are often remarkable and profoundly different from entering a public gallery. I always take this opportunity

to view the work of textile artists. When I visited Blackmore Vale Embroiderers' Guild exhibition, I was thrilled to see that one of their members, Michelle Legg, used Dorset Buttons in part of her City and Guilds examinations.



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Dorset Buttoner wins Dorset Cup at the Dorset Arts & Crafts Annual Exhibition

The Dorset Arts and Crafts Association organises an annual exhibition to revive and promote the study of handicrafts and to encourage the education of the residents of the County of Dorset in old and modern arts and crafts and industries for their pleasure and personal development. Every year they organise an annual exhibition that is open to members and associate members alike. One of the categories of this exhibition covers Dorset Crafts and includes Feather stitching and Dorset Buttons. This year I know of several people who entered Dorset

Buttons all competing for certificates within the categories. The awards



Winner of the Dorset Shield. Marion Howitt's three Button Necklaces with Braids.

covered Work of outstanding merit (gold), Work of special merit (silver), Highly commended (blue) and Commended (green).

For the most highly praised work, there is a Dorset Shield for Traditional Dorset Crafts.

This year Marion Howitt won the shield for her three Button Necklaces with Braids. Marion is one of the most skilled buttoners I know and many of you may know her as the author of the very popular booklet, Dorset Button Fact File, covering how to make all the main types of Dorset Buttons from High Tops to the more popular Dorset Cartwheel. Congratulations Marion.

On a personal note, I was thrilled to receive four gold certificates for my four entries.

Winfrith's Crafty Friends by Lynn Pullen



Winfrith Newburgh, a village in South Dorset, between Wareham and Dorchester, has a newly-formed craft group. In June, members spent the session

learning how to make a basic Dorset Button. Jill Withey, one of the group, led the session, she cannot remember where she learned the skill, but attended a one-day course some time in the past. The first stages, as with so many crafts, were fiddly, but once the members got going, they

were quite easy and most people finished at least one. Members got on very well with their buttons, even those who originally thought they wouldn't like doing them went away vowing to do more!

23rd November 2014, pop into our Craft Fair – open 12.00–4.00pm. [Winfrith's Crafty Friends](#)

Dorset Buttons go North of the Boarder

Krissy Wallace sent me this photo of a Dorset Button Brooch she made to compliment her Bannockburn Tartan scarf, (commemorating the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn). The original tartan was designed and woven by her niece

Christine MacLeod, curator of the Weavers Cottage Kilbarchan, near Glasgow. Kilbarchan was once the heart of the thriving Scottish textile industry. After seeing the images on [Tripadvisor](#) this definitely is one of the places I must visit.



Henry's Buttons get a new look website by Anna McDowell

For a number of months I have been racking my brains as to how to promote Dorset Buttons to a wider audience. Luckily, I had an opportunity to not only recruit the help of a young illustrator but, at the same time, support a young relative and her group, Me For Queen, to record an album called Iron Horse. This designer had offered his services as an illustrator to anyone who was prepared to pledge funds.

The name of the designer is OK Dave and his work includes a number of illustrations made for Liberty. Liberty printed them onto fabric as a pattern called Queue for the Zoo. It's Liberty's best-selling

wholesale print and is being used worldwide by companies including House of Fraser, Simon Carter, Globe Trotter and J.Crew.

I researched his work and immediately saw that this was exactly what I was looking for. I am now in the process of rebranding Henry's Buttons with a more contemporary look and hope this will attract new interest. I have incorporated two of Dave's designs into my



Above: OK Dave's design for Liberty's



Left and above: Designer, OK Dave, gives Dorset Buttons a refreshing new look.

A Dorset Buttoner confined to one room!



Earlier this year buttoner, Barbara Schey, broke her ankle. Because her house is multi-levelled, she was stuck in her bedroom for seven weeks. Her husband, Peter, did his best to look after her but the biggest problem

was no internet! Barbara lives in a suburban area of Sydney which does not have very good wireless connection. A friend plugged a cord into her modem and ran it up two sets of stairs but it was desperately slow – who would have thought a few years back that

the biggest problem for a "senior" lady was no internet connection.

Anyhow, Barbara did manage to make this necklace and finally got to practice the difficult shirtwaist buttons which she found quite a challenge.

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dorset Buttons have, at last, made their way into the virtual encyclopaedia, Wikipedia.

After a general introduction, they highlight three types of Dorset Buttons (Wheels, High Tops and Singletons). The 'Wheels' being the most characteristic form of Dorset button known, which I heartily

agree. The history of the industry gives a good general introduction.

What I find most interesting is the number of online references listed.

Overall, a good introduction to anyone who wants to know about the Dorset Button Industry.



Events - for 2014

Thursday 18th September 2014 "Dorset Buttons: The rise and fall of a local craft" Talk by Anna McDowell

Venue: Dorset History Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester Dorset DT1 1RP

Time: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Entry: £10.00 to include canapés and a first glass of wine

Details: Email [Dorset Button Fundraising Event and Talk](mailto:info@dorsetbutton.co.uk)

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September 2014 Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival

Anna McDowell has joined with fashion designer Vivienne Dines to offer a selection of women's clothing and accessories some tops featuring Dorset Buttons.

Venue: Sturminster Newton, Dorset

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Entry: £5.00 per adult Under 15's free Includes programme & parking

Contact: Details from enquiries@cheesefestival.co.uk

Tuesday 23rd September 2014 Dorset Button Workshop with Anna McDowell

Learn how to make a Dorset Button known as a Cartwheel. If time allows look at other designs of Dorset thread buttons. Ideal for beginners and those who want to refresh their skill

Venue: Balsam Centre, Balsam Park, Wincanton, BA9 9HB

Time: 6.30 – 8.30pm

Price: £15.00 and includes materials and refreshments.

To book and further details: Tel: 01963 31842 or email the Balsam Centre at info@balsamcentre.org.uk

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September 2014

Holnest Country Fayre

Family event with farm tours, displays of farm machinery, classic cars, local crafts and craft demonstrations, including Dorset Buttons and lots more.

Venue: Rylands Farm in the village of Holnest, 4 miles south of Sherborne.

Time: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Entry: Details from Future Roots

Saturday 18th and Sunday October 19th 2014

Stourhead Arts and Crafts including Dorset Buttons

Set in a courtyard location near the entrance to the beautiful gardens of the National Trust property, Stourhead.

Venue: Stourton Memorial Hall, Warminster, BA12 6QE

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Entry: Free

Details: Use the car park for Stourhead

Tuesday 28th October 2014 Dorset Button Workshop with Anna McDowell

Learn how to make a Dorset Button known as a Cartwheel. If time allows look at other designs of Dorset thread buttons. Ideal for beginners and

those who want to refresh their skill

Venue: Balsam Centre, Balsam Park, Wincanton, BA9 9HB

Time: 2.00 – 4.30pm

Price: £15.00 and includes materials and refreshments.

To book and further details: Tel: 01963 31842 or email the Balsam Centre at info@balsamcentre.org.uk

Sunday 2nd November 2014 Totally Craft and Make it Market

Local British handmade arts, crafts including Dorset Buttons, direct from skilled artisans, craftsmen, designers and makers along with craft supplies, haberdashery, recycled and vintage items.

Venue: Frome Cheese & Grain, Market Yard, Justice Lane, Frome, Somerset BA11 1B

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Entry: Free

Sunday 30th November 2014 Clayesmore School Christmas Market

The perfect place to visit for fabulous and unusual gifts and treats including Dorset Buttons.

Venue: Clayesmore School, Iwerne Minster, Blandford, Dorset DT11 8LL

Full details: Tel: 01747 811707

Sunday 7th December 2014 Totally Craft and Make it Market

Venue: Frome Cheese & Grain, Market Yard, Justice Lane, Frome, Somerset BA11 1BE

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Entry: Free

News, views and projects

I'm always interested to hear your news, views and projects with Dorset Buttons and from the emails I have received I know that some of you are involved in exciting projects, If you would be willing to share your Dorset Button news with other like-minded people, I would welcome contributions to this eNewsletter. Please email your information preferable with an image to Anna McDowell at henrysbuttons@aol.com.