



When does a crafter become a textile artist? by Anna McDowell

Over the last four months I have taken part in four Art Trails. The comments I have received from artists I respect has been very encouraging and I feel I can now regard myself as a textile artist as well as a crafter.

But when do you move from being a maker to an artist? I get caught up in discussions on whether I practice a craft or am indeed a textile artist. Art galleries are split in their definition of what is called art and what is termed as a craft, especially when working in textiles. I have always felt that the dividing line is not so much to do with the medium you work in but how you explore the possibilities of your chosen medium. I would be interested

in hearing from you with your thoughts on this subject.



Two of my 60cm Dorset Buttons in the [Purbeck New Wave Gallery](#), Swanage.

studio window. The ever-changing colour has been a delight together with the patterns formed within the landscape. In addition to my interpretation of landscapes, I have started to explore ways to use my work to interpret the relationship between ourselves and our environment and animals.

The relationship we have with colours is complex as this is something which

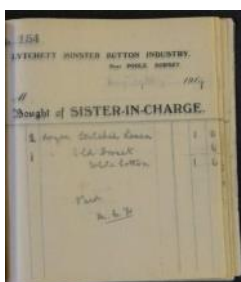
so what am I doing now? During the last few months, I have found myself exploring colour and texture taken from the landscape seen from my

everyone will have their own opinion on. But for me colour is important. So, my next project is to explore the effect of colour on a grey pallet!

Dorset Buttons on Social Media by Anna McDowell

Instagram: [dorsetbuttons2022](#)

Florence, or Lady Lees as we should probably call her, saved the art of Dorset Button making and attempted a revival of the Dorset Button Industry in the early 1900's. She visited farms and cottages across Dorset to find out how the



buttons were made and set up a workshop at Lytchett Minster. They started by specialized in making Parliamentary buttons for Dorset MPs in their respective constituency colours. This continued until the outbreak of the First World War.

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August's Update - by Anna McDowell

www.dorsetbuttons2022.co.uk

Dorset Buttons 2022

Time certainly flies when you're busy. Only three months until we start celebrating this anniversary of the Dorset Button industry. Behind the scenes events are

being organised, projects finalised, and dates confirmed. Six events have made it to our online [Calendar](#) and I'm still working on a couple that I hope will prove popular. This celebration year will start with

a Dorset Button Mass Button-a-Long organised by Jen Best of Beaker Buttons. The Sedro-Woolley Quilters, Washington, USA, are organising two events

one in January and another in July.

The exhibition for Dorset Button inspired work in the gallery at Shaftesbury Arts Centre is now confirmed and has the lovely title "High Tops, Knobs, Birdseyes and Mites celebrating 400 years of Dorset Buttony". This exhibition is open to everyone. If you are interested in exhibiting your work, you will find the "call for artists" application and the terms and conditions for exhibiting on the [Exhibition](#) page of our website.

As mentioned, there are several projects that we hope to organise. These include a drop-in workshop to make Dorset Button Bunting with rings made from willow; working with the Dorset History

Centre creating a resource to collect peoples' family memories of making Dorset Buttons; online workshops using Zoom and finally I'm hoping to open my studio again next year for Dorset Button themed workshops.

A few of the ideas for projects are listed on our website [Project Ideas](#) page. We have included a publication on smocking and I hope some of you take up the challenge to show off your Dorset Buttons on a traditional English smock. The Antique Pattern Library kindly gave us permission to list this publication.

I'm certain that many of you are also working on organising events and I look forward to hearing about your projects so we can list them in our diary.

My Dorset Button Projects by Diana Moss



I have been receiving a copy of your Dorset button newsletter for some while. I have been meaning to send you a few photos of my work but I'm afraid I have only just got around to it! I have been making Dorset buttons for some time now, encouraged by Jen Best. I like to be a bit inventive and see just what else the buttons can be used for. To make necklaces, I created

six different patterned buttons on large fine rings and attached them to silver chains to wear them as pendant necklaces.

Tree buttons also interested me, and I created quite a few tree brooches. I have since enlarged these to make small, framed pictures.

Lastly, I decided to incorporate Dorset buttons with felting, embroidery with a few

beads. Left is my pictures of poppies and daisies in a meadow.



From left to right, top row are - Wisteria, Mimosa, Cherry blossom and a tree in autumn. From left to right bottom row - Lilac, Laburnam, Cherry blossom and a tree in autumn.

Original Dorset Buttons by Anna McDowell



If you are looking for somewhere to visit and view original Dorset



Buttons, I must point you in the direction

of Thelma Jones of the [Old Button Shop](#) in Lytchett Minster, near Poole.

Established for over forty years, this family-run business specialises in antiques and collectables. Thelma also has a collection of original Dorset Buttons and enjoys

sharing her extensive knowledge of the Dorset Button industry.

The Old Button Shop was home to the Lytchett Minster Mission which tried to reintroduce the Dorset Button in the early 1900s. Please note, check that she will be open before planning your visit.

Creating a Necklace by Barbara Schey

I needed to make a necklace for an exhibition and decided I would have a change from my usual colours schemes which are normally turquoise and purple or red and black. Used up a lot of odd rings, the large rectangles are about 6cm long. I got very bored with working in black and white and made the mistake of using a very fine white crochet cotton which took a lot of work. Added to that, the exhibition has been postponed 4 times due to Covid 19 and as there was no urgency to finish the piece, I became very bored with it. We are once again in 3 week total lock down in Sydney, unable to leave home except for actual

necessities, construction closed down, office workers to work from home, compulsory mask wearing and not able to visit family or friends. We are lucky Woolworths and chemist will deliver goods to our home. The strange thing is I find as there is no real pressure to rush anything, I am not getting much work done. My fellow craftsmen feel the same. I tried to make myself put on jewellery and makeup each day but husband doesn't notice so hardly seems worthwhile. So hard for all the young people.



The Big Art Project by Krissy Wallace



Krissy messaged me about this project she worked on during the lockdown.

“The “Covid Quilt” finally in its place at Dean Clough Gallery, Halifax. It has been an amazing project to have been part of with local artist Jan Ansell.”

The aim of this big art project is to make a “Covid Quilt” as a

memorial to the pandemic; how it has affected our lives and wellbeing. By encouraging people to take time and make a square that is personal to them and their experiences. For information about

the quilt check out “The big art project” on Facebook.



Hope
Krissy Wallace Wakefield
Crochet with Dorset buttons

Rainbow- for the NHS
Apache tears Mosaic- for the
tears shed

Hope- for and End
Button flowers- for summers last
Blue heart- for the NHS staff that
have put everything into caring

Lace Pattern Similar to Birdseyes by Anna McDowell



When I saw this on Instagram, I thought I would share it with you. If you look carefully the

lace features a design very similar to our lovely Birdseye buttons. I'm sure the lace

makers amongst you will be able to tell me what this design is called.

A beautiful Edwardian schiffli lace bodice some fraying to the silk around the collar with stunning lace throughout. Heirloomsandcostumes

advertised this for sale on Instagram in June. They specialise in antique haberdashery, 18th/19th Century lace, costume and accessories and have a weekly Instagram Sale, every Tuesday 6.30pm UK time. They also offer Worldwide shipping. etsy.me/2YnXpqw

Workshops and Events 2021

Unfortunately, I've had to put my events and workshops on hold for a few months but hope to be back in 'full swing' in November. In June, I had a cataract operation on my left eye and experienced a few problems during the healing process. My eye has healed nicely. My right eye is scheduled for Monday 20th September so should be back to normal by the end of October. Please keep an eye (pardon the pun) on my website for any updates and I will contact all of you who have asked for details of my workshops as soon as I have fixed dates.



For full details of all events please visit the Events Page on my website

[Henry's Buttons](https://henrysbuttons.co.uk)
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Share your news, views and projects

I'm always interested to hear your news, views and especially any projects you may be involved in featuring Dorset Buttons. From the emails I have received in the past, I know there are many talented buttoners amongst you. 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 preferably with an image to Anna McDowell at dorsetbuttons@henrysbuttons.co.uk