



## Birmingham Area Knitting & Crochet etc.

\* December 2008 \* Happy Christmas! \*

Information for members and friends of the Knitting & Crochet Guild in the Birmingham area. We mostly meet in the back corner of the tea rooms of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (disabled access via Gas Street entrance), and look forward to seeing you.

### Birmingham Knitting & Crochet Group Meetings

We have only one meeting arranged at the moment, as I missed the one at the end of November, and so didn't get to arrange any more.

Saturday 25 January at the Edwardian Tea Rooms of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, from 11.00 onwards. A "knit and natter" over coffee/lunch, with no particular theme - bring current project(s)/problems, or anything you've done recently you're particularly proud of. Maybe think about new projects for the New Year?

### News

**NEC show:** Why don't more people realise that the new Knitting & Stitching show is so much more than the suppliers' fair that the September exhibition used to be? The exhibition area, with degree shows and international artists groups is more than worth the £12 admission price - and you get a range of suppliers, and craft groups showing what they can do and how you can join in. The knitting in the displays was really interesting - and I enjoyed the embroidery as well. Attendance was disappointing for suppliers again this year (at least two pulled out before the Sunday), but our stand went pretty well, even though it was small. Once again we had a good variety of items on display, though a bit biased towards my contributions as that was what I had when putting things up. The needles and second-hand patterns raised over £100, so adding the money from the Bring and Share I sent a cheque for £121 to the National K&C Guild. We keep handing out membership forms and details of local groups - if we get a 5% response to these it's worth doing! There was lots of interest in crochet - we could do with leaflets on Tunisian and Broomstick crochet, and some crochet patterns - we always get enquiries for them, and by Sunday we thought they were almost all gone (though when I went through tidying up the remaining patterns, there were still a few left). Clare's "baby surprise jacket" and my embroidered picture also attracted attention.

Apart from that... It seems a long time since the last newsletter - but I'm not sure what knitting I've done - still slogging on with the cardigan for my twinset, but have had to put it on one side for a couple of weeks while I make Christmas presents. I've had a bit more of a go at my website, and added pictures of my jumpers over the last 20-30 years (!) - particularly things I've designed myself.

### Contact: Sarah Cage, K&CG Regional Coordinator

5 Beaks Hill Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B38 8BJ

Phone: 0121 433 3486 (after 6 pm or any time on Tuesdays); 0121 507 5628 (9.30-3.30, not Tuesday) or 07840745988 (mobile - not always on)

Email: ps-cage@digital-explosion.co.uk website: www/sarahcage.co.uk

## **Stitch & Creative Crafts Show, 12-14 February Cheltenham**

Clare Elliott has managed to organise at least 3 people each day for this show - so we don't NEED any more volunteers - however, they are usually happy for us to have up to 6 volunteers per day, so contact me if you want to go and I will see what we can do. I expect to go on the Thursday first thing to set up, and on the Saturday to pack up, but may not go for the whole day as it clashes with a dyeing demonstration at the Birmingham Weavers Spinners & Dyers.

### **Other local textile craft groups**

I don't check any of these details, just pass on what people give me, so it is safer to ring to confirm before turning up. If you know of any other groups who would like their details included, please let me know so I can add them to the next issue - and if you find I've got something wrong, or the group no longer exists (or no longer does textiles), please tell me, as otherwise it will be wrong in the next issue too!!

### **Knitting and crochet groups in Birmingham and surrounds**

A small group meets on the second and last Tuesday of the month, 6pm in the Shakespeare on Lower Temple Street - Ruth of <http://rookknitting.blogspot.com/>.

### **"Stitches and hos"**

A new "pub" group, run by Sara Fowles, which also meets on the last Tuesday of every month, 7.30-10.30pm in the back bar at Hare and Hounds, York Rd, Kings Heath, Birmingham. For more information, blog address <http://stitchesandhos.blogspot.com/>, facebook group page <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=10353788981>

### **Birmingham "Stitch'n'Bitch" group**

Meet most Saturdays in the Museum and Art Gallery Edwardian tea rooms (about 11.00-1.00) to knit and chat.

### **Moseley "Knit and Natter" group**

Meets Thursdays 2-4 in the Community Rooms behind Moseley post office. From 28 August until January 2009 they will meet at Dowell's Close Community Room, Alcester Road, Moseley. Contact: Brenda Stafford, 0121 449 8767

### **Coventry Knit-Wits**

Meets every Wed evening 7-9pm in Liquid, City Arcade. Contact: Kellie James on 024 76278927 or [kellie.james@ntlworld.com](mailto:kellie.james@ntlworld.com)

### **Halesowen - Nici at Withit Witch**

A new knitting club meets on Mondays from 10.30am to 1-2.30pm, and again on Fridays from 1pm. No charge, but contributions towards tea, coffee, squash and occasionally biscuits. All ages and experiences and sometimes others who can't make the club come in to knit. Withit Witch, The Halesowen Knitting Centre, 3 Halesowen Road, Halesowen B62 9AA, 0121 602 2247, <http://www.withitwitch.co.uk>

## **Kidderminster "knit and natter" groups**

See : <http://www.woolwise.co.uk> At Woolwise, 10 Lower Mill Street, Kidderminster, DY11 6UU. Monday afternoons 2-5pm - drop in session for help and advice; 1st Monday and 3rd Wednesday evening every month - evening sessions 6-9.30pm Refreshments available. (Car parks are free after 6.30pm) Contact Tina 01562 820279 or Amanda 01562 60121; or [nigel\\_davenport86@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigel_davenport86@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Worcestershire K&C Guild**

Meets on the second Saturday in the month, 2.30-4.30, in the Malvern Library cafe. Contact: Clare Elliott, 07790 230331; [hawthorne.uk@gmail.com](mailto:hawthorne.uk@gmail.com).

### **Cheltenham and Gloucester Knitters and Crocheters**

Meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month 2-4 pm in the teaching room at Dundry Nurseries, Bamfurlong Lane, Cheltenham. They ask for a donation of 50p per person. Contact: Clare Elliott on 07790 230331 or at [hawthorne.uk@gmail.com](mailto:hawthorne.uk@gmail.com).

### **Midlands Textile Forum**

Membership of the forum is open to anybody living in the Midlands region with a professional or personal interest in textiles. Members get a quarterly newsletter, opportunities to exhibit, meetings, exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations, peer group critiques and portfolio appraisals, networking and new contacts. Contact: MTF 41 Franklin Rd, Bournville, B30 2HJ. Email: [midtextfor@aol.com](mailto:midtextfor@aol.com); 0121 458 6943

### **Birmingham Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers**

We usually meet on the second Saturday in the month (except July and August) at the Friends Meeting House in Cotteridge, south Birmingham, 1.30-4, or 10-4 for workshops. The next few meetings and demonstrations:

10 January - 10-1: members' demonstrations; 1.30 AGM

14 February - 1.30-4: Colours from nature - Linda Rudkin

14 March - 10-4: Decorative knitting workshop - Sarah Hazell

4 April - 10-4: Textured techniques for tapestry weaving - Maralyn Hepworth

Visitors are welcome - charge £3 for half day meetings, workshop charges vary.

We also have "Magpies" - a small group of Guild members who meet in each others' homes on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month, to work on our own projects for the day.

Contact: me or Rae Lemon (Secretary): [raelemon@btopenworld.com](mailto:raelemon@btopenworld.com); 0121 558 2660

### **Tatting**

Several of our members are also members of the Ring of Tatters. There is a local group (West Midlands Tatters) who meet three times a year at Amblecote, Stourbridge.

Next year - workshops to be arranged:

21 February - supplies by Mainly Lace

20 June - supplies by Churchmeadow Crafts

19 September - supplies by Mary Helen

Contact: Chris Woolley: [EBOBANDCHRIS@aol.com](mailto:EBOBANDCHRIS@aol.com); 01384 374812