

NEWSLETTER

March 2023 no. 161



From the Chair

Hi everyone

Over the last couple of years I have come to the conclusion my parents are like the Duracell battery advert with the bunnies playing drums. All the other named batteries peg out as have most of their friends and those two are still going. I wouldn't be at all surprised if they outlive me!

In January my father announced that the shoes he is wearing and has had for 25 years are hurting his toes and could I please take him to Carlisle for some new ones! The answer to that was "no". I did the next best thing and got on t'internet. The first pair came, cheap and nasty, tore whilst trying them on and got sent back. Next was a boat shoe in size 13 - too big and decided he didn't want a boat shoe after all - disposed of those. Found a pair of elasticated trainer/pump things from Pavers with support for arches, they came, they fitted and he liked them. Since then he has been wearing the old shoes that hurt. When asked why his reply came "I want to wear these out before I use the new ones!!".

For Christmas I bought him a jumper from M&S. Sweatshirt material on the outside, fleece lined as he feels the cold. He tried it on and liked it. Went to visit him and he had a long face. When asked what was up he said "they've lost my favourite jumper". "Wear your new one" I replied. He asked to see it and then said "Yes, I like that but don't worry there's plenty of time to wear it". He's only 96!! I wish I had his optimism - my next milestone birthday is just over 3 years away and often wonder if I will make it. 🐱🐱🐱

I'm about to start a new scarf and if anything happens I nominate Rachel to complete it
🐱🐱🐱

Keep those bobbins twiddling - items will be required for Cartmel Show soon.

Donna

National Events

Date	Event & Venue
1 st April	Nottinghamshire Bobbin Lace Society Lace Day Papplewick & Linby Village Hall, Linby Lane, Papplewick NG15 8FB
10.00 - 15.30 7 th May	The Makit LQ&N (Lacemaking, Quilting & Needlecraft) The Bushfield Leisure Centre, Peterborough, PE2 5RQ
5 th - 8 th October	Knitting & Stitching Show Alexandra Palace, London
11 th November	Pudsey Lace & Craft Fair Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Stanningley, Leeds LS28 5TA
16 th - 19 th November	Knitting & Stitching Show HCC, Harrogate
2 nd December	The Makit LQ&N (Lacemaking, Quilting & Needlecraft) Christmas Fair National Conference Centre, Coventry Rd. Solihull B92 0EJ

From the Editor

Dear Lace-making friends,

Well... wasn't **that** a shock - inches thick in snow, just as we'd got used the idea of it being Spring! To be fair though, Morecambe had a mere $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and I have a feeling that, this side of the Pennines at least, we none of us in the NW really suffered. The picture on the front cover? That was taken on the **other** side of the Pennines - South of Huddersfield! The good news is that the pretty kind of "drifts" we like are everywhere: drifts of snowdrops and Puschkinia, swathes of crocuses and daffodils, and now I've spotted clumps of tulips on the roadside! And my best Spring marker - my Forsythia is well and truly covered in flowers.

Of course, it isn't just Spring that brings on an attack of Spring-cleaning. I suddenly had a fit of "sorting out" on 1st January! My Craft/work room had reached such a state of stash-happy drowning, that I couldn't even see the carpet. Cue a "where are the paint brushes and Dulux - I'm sorting, painting and re-shelving my crafts!" By mid-January I had found out that Ikea don't currently stock the corner shelves I needed (made in Russia!); by mid-February I had persuaded my (long-suffering) husband we could make our own! By this week (mid-March), I had proved it, and installed my new shelving! I'm still grinning with the success. I just have to sort all that stash into "keep" or "charity shop"... or "SLL sales".

Happy lace-making until next time, Ali O

Programme 2023

Date	Meeting
18 th March	Bobbin spangling with Marjorie Hanson
15 th April	Make Lace & Sales
22 nd - 23 rd April	Spring Lace Weekend with Frances Bell
20 th May	Make Lace & Sales
17 th June	Make Lace & Sales
15 th July	UFO (Un-Finished Objects) day - bring projects to finish
19 th August	Make Lace & Sales
23 rd - 24 th September	Autumn Lace Weekend with Frances Bell
30 th September	Make Lace & Sales
21 st October	Crochet with Heather Onions
18 th November	am - AGM pm - Christmas Lace with Janice Wilkinson
16 th December	Continue/finish Christmas Lace with Janice

Messages & Notices

From the Committee:

1. There are a couple of spaces on the Spring Lace Course (22nd - 23rd April), with Francis Bell. The cost is £60 for the the two days, payable in full to Janice W, which includes a bobbin commemorating the weekend. If you are interested, contact our secretary, Heather, who will pass your details to Janice. Payment will be needed, by the end of the April meeting, to confirm your place.
2. We are proposing a charity recipe book, for sale at our meetings, at demonstration venues, and at the various country fairs and shows. All profits will go to our annual charity of choice. We are asking our SLL members to provide us with their favourite recipes, plus photos of the finished dish or item if at all possible - though it **MUST** be your own photo, NOT from a cookbook, for copyright reasons. If everyone sends us at least one recipe, we'll have a lovely set of recipes to publish.

Ed. I've set out some ideas for possible sections to choose from: Snacks, Light meals & Soups, Main meals, Deserts, Breads, Bakes & Biscuits, Preserves.

We will also need ideas for the recipe book title: snappy, alliterative, punning, or simply funny - over to you!

3. We need members to give us ideas and preferences for the 2024 programme - not just suggestions for outside speakers and ideas for mini-workshops, but whether new members (and not-so-new members) would welcome short morning discussion groups on basic lace-making techniques and skills, following on from the spangling mini-workshop, this month.
4. Lace Group Project: The group project is for anyone wishing to make a bookmark - any type of lace and any colour. They are to be ready for the August meeting where we will have some sort of vote taking place. The most popular ones can then be presented to "special guests" at Westmorland Show in September should we be asked to donate anything.
5. Newsletter items - every newsletter gets harder and harder to fill. It is only 12 pages, but without contributions from members, it will eventually shrink to just a programme and notices! An article for inclusion need not be "literature", just a note about somewhere special you've been (plus a photo if you have one), something you've made that you're especially proud of (doesn't have to be lace - all crafts are interesting), or simply a poem, saying or short story that inspired you (though I'll need the name of the original author or where/when it appeared). It would be so sad to lose this little quarterly - please help!

Local yarncraft groups (let me know of any you'd like adding for future newsletters)

Name	Contact/website	Type of group
Eden Valley Guild of W,S & D*	www.edenvalleyguild.co.uk secretary@edenvalleyguild.co.uk	Yarncrafts: weavers, spinners & dyers
Lancs & Lakes Guild of W,S & D Yealand, Carnforth	www.lancsandlakesguild.co.uk lancsandlakeswsd@gmail.com	Yarncrafts: weavers, spinners & dyers
Kendal Knit, Natter, Stitch and Chatter	Facebook group	General yarncrafts mutual-support group
Knitting & Crochet Guild, Cheshire branch, Frodsham	Judy Jones judy.alan@btinternet.com	Hand knitting, crochet
Coronation Clickers Knit & Natter, Radcliffe, Manchester	Dina Newton-Edwards dfne@peterjh.wanadoo.co.uk	Hand knitting, crochet
FECK (Friday Evening City Knitters, Market St, Manchester	Melanie melaniesharples@peacemail.com	Hand knitting, crochet
Knits at Fitz - "Mr Fitzpatrick's bar", Rawtenstall	Janet O'Driscoll Facebook group	Hand knitting, crochet
Twisted Stitchers, Blackburn and Clitheroe	Stephanie Nightingale twistedstitchersblackburn@gmail.com twistedstitchersgisburn@gmail.com	Hand knitting, crochet, and other stitching crafts
West Lancashire Lacemakers, Crosby, Merseyside	www.westlancashirelacemakers.org.uk/home	Bobbin lace
Blackpool Ring of Lacemakers		
North Cheshire Lacemakers Group, Helsby, Cheshire	www.nc-lacemakers.co.uk	All laces
Leyland Lacemakers	Facebook group	Bobbin Lace
Preston Lacemakers	prestonlacemakers@yahoo.com	All laces
Fylde Heddles & Treadles Guild of W,S & D - Wheeton Village Hall, Fylde	heddlesandtreadles@gmail.com	Yarncrafts: weavers, spinners & dyers
Bowland Guild of W,S & D, Gisburn, Lancs.	bowlandwsd@yahoo.com	Yarncrafts: weavers, spinners & dyers

* - Weavers, spinners & dyers

From Kay Pritchard:

I have recently started going to a weekly meeting of these lace-makers who have made me very welcome, in spite of the fact that they chat away in Doric most of the time and use flat pillows and continental bobbins. Sheila Joss, who wrote the (following) article, leads the group.

I am still working on the tablecloth that I started in Cumbria a long time ago!

If you search on Google for New Pitsligo Lace you could find more history.



New Pitsligo Lace

Bobbin, bone or pillow lace (bone because fish bones were used before pins became plentiful) developed apart from the more intricate and difficult needle-point lace. It is generally thought in the village that the daughter of the landlord, Lady Harriet Forbes, sent one of the local women to Devon to learn the craft or had a lacemaker brought up from her Devonshire estate to teach the village ladies. There is a similarity between the two laces, although New Pitsligo lace is a torchon, used mainly for edgings and insertions like Midland lace which is also worked on a pillow. Another theory of the origin of New Pitsligo lace was reported by an 87 year old lacemaker. Asked where the lady came from who first taught the women lacemaking replied "She masna a leddy, jist a puir workin' woman like mesel', and she cam' frae Auld Aiberdeen. She hid been a leddy's maid in France, learned tae dae French lace and she taught them hoo tae dae floorin' and seedin'."

The pillow, a round cushion stuffed with straw or hay and covered in light print material, is the basis for lacemaking. Nowadays it is worked on a flat cushion with a wheel insertion.

The pattern pricked out on skin or vellum is fastened securely round the pillow, pins are stuck into holes of the design and the bobbins are laid on either side in pairs. The thread, mostly linen, can be as fine as 120, 160 or 200 and is twisted expertly round the pins thus forming the design. The finest lace is exquisite and very elaborate.

New Pitsligo patterns are traditional and are named, some rather unusual. Lady's Fan, Lady's Companion, Spider and Fan, Ox-eye, Madagascar, Rose or Pineapple.

The lace is worked with the edge of the lace on the left which is the Continental method, showing the French touch.

There are only two stitches namely knit (cloth stitch) and half stitch. By combining these stitches you can make all sorts of designs like roses, triangles, diamonds, honeycombs, hearts zig-zags and fans.

Rev. W. Webster, later Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney, was ordained in 1834 and came to St John the Evangelist Church in New Pitsligo in 1841. He and his wife took a great interest in the lace work and felt that more skill was required as well as the need for better materials. This started off with skilled tuition and fine threads. However, more work and of better quality meant that an outlet was required for the end product. In the course of time as many as 160 women were employed.

Sir John and Lady Harriet Forbes helped the sale of lace by introducing it to their family both here and in England. The fame of New Pitsligo lace spread to all ends of the Earth and orders were received from South Africa, Australia, America and India.

Around the year 1849 Mr Webster went to Balmoral and submitted specimens of lace to the Queen. One of the ladies at Court especially interested herself in the matter, and a large order resulted, chiefly for pieces of a beautiful pattern which came to be known as the "Queen's Insertion." The lace was made into cuffs, collars, baby caps etc. An insertion was ordered to a given sum of money and this piece was used on a dress for the Princess Royal made especially for the Great Exhibition in 1851.

Dean Webster's successor was the Rev. E.J. Petrie and his wife also took a great interest in New Pitsligo Lace getting orders and supplying the goods. Unfortunately the advent of machine made lace soon put the hand made lace into decline as it was much cheaper to produce.

Sheila Joss



From Ann Smalley:

Torchon Fan and corner

Looking for a new project I decided on a handkerchief for our new granddaughter on her wedding day - before you ask, when she marries our grandson at the end of April.

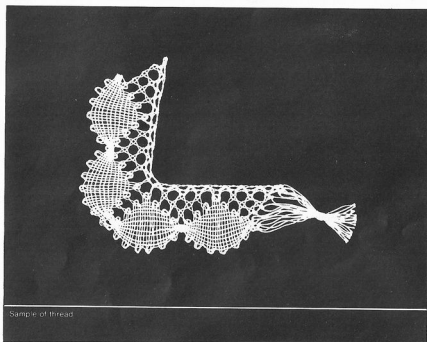
Ali kindly passed on some dryad patterns which I initially found difficult to follow, but with Marjorie's help I have learnt the process of a footside edging which has led me to understanding the pattern better and now achieved two corners, so confident that the next lesson from Marjorie is how to attach the edging to the handkerchief.

Before I started I checked the size of the original pattern and enlarged it to hopefully fit one of the hankies carefully stashed at the bottom of the closet, also made it easier to see the pinholes. Using the twisted thread has worked but gives a very open weave, shows every mistake and makes tensioning the work more difficult. Now that the whole of one side is complete it is also slightly small, so the handkerchief will need a bit of adjustment.

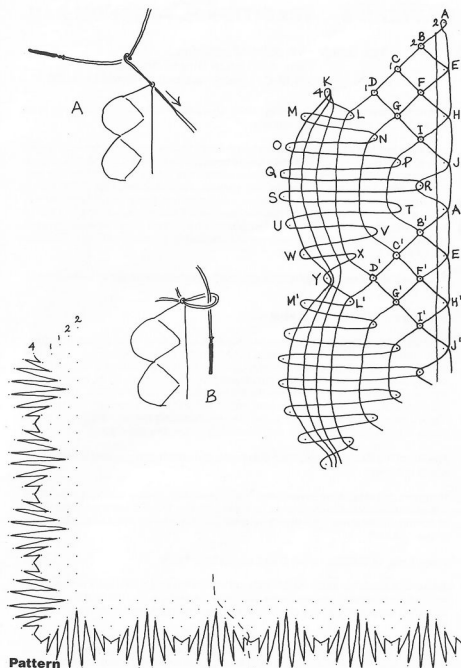
Ann



Continue to make sewings with each pair of threads into the starting hole of that equivalent pair of threads until all 10 pairs are sewn in, followed by the knots or the darning in.



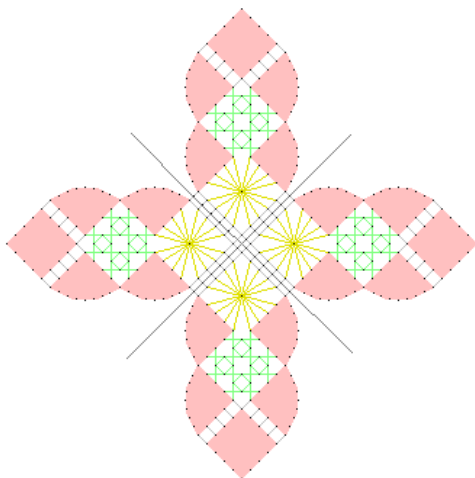
*Raie Clare Dryad Leicester



Rainy Day Lace idea

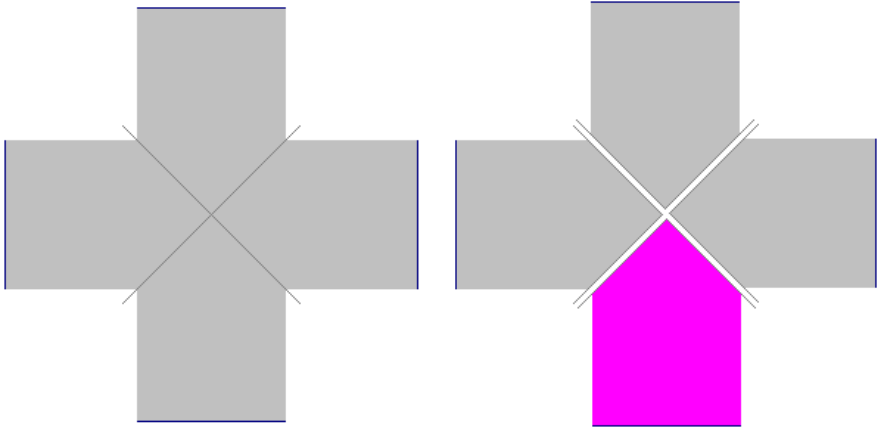
With Easter looming, perhaps a simple Torchon cross is something to fit into these less-than-inspiring rainy days. This is from the Jo Edkins website, and is called Cross with Spiders. She suggests that - rather than an "ends" start, some may prefer a "middle of the pattern start". See over...

(12 pairs of bobbins required for each arm)



Quoted from Jo Edkins website: www.theedkins.co.uk/jo/lace

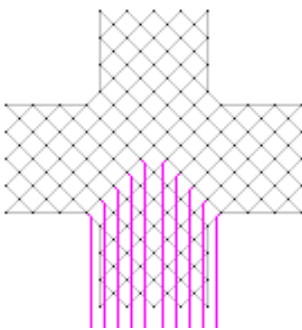
A bobbin lace cross is an attractive shape, which is surprisingly easy to work, especially if you start from the middle.



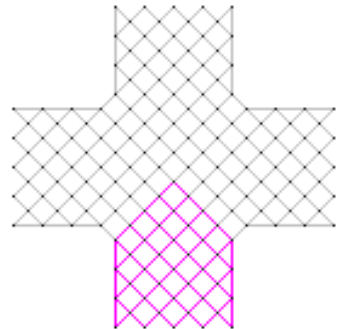
When working out how to work a cross from the middle, you must imagine dividing it into four, as above. This makes four distinct parts of the cross, with each arm being a simple strip of lace. One of these is coloured pink above, so you can see its shape. The strip must begin with a pointed start. It can end in a horizontal line, as above, or in a more complicated way, as in the photo. But the start must be pointed.

Making such a strip of lace is easy. You can make a cross by making four of these, and sewing them together (using needle and thread) to produce a perfectly acceptable result.

However, a lacemaker would probably prefer to make the whole cross at one time, with the complete pattern pinned on the pillow. There are still different stages, of course.



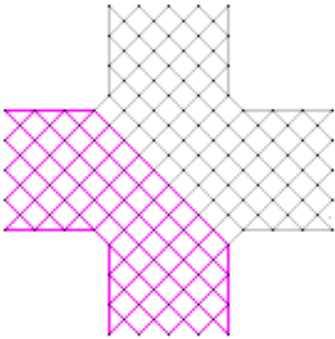
Starting from the centre, which is the top of the first arm, hang the bobbins (you can use some of the holes in the rest of the pattern as false starting pins). Work the first arm, according to the pattern. Leave the pins at the start, at least two rows. Tie off and cut off the threads to finish this arm.



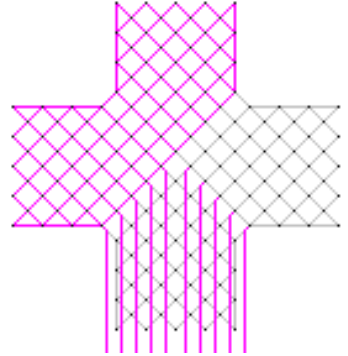
Turn the pillow. It is advisable to use a "cookie pillow" for this technique.

Hang the bobbins for the next arm. Half need to be joined to the previous arm. Identify which pinhole in the previous arm needs to be joined. Remove this pin. (The lace should be held in place by the second row of pins). Use a needle to thread through this pinhole, before winding onto a pair of bobbins. Replace the pin. This is **not** a false starting pin, as it

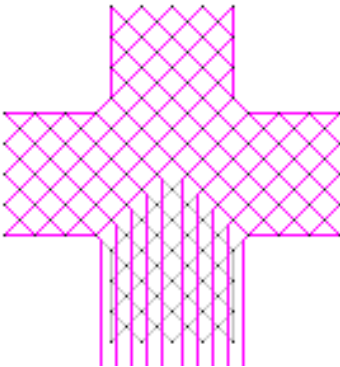
attaches the two bits of lace. The other half of the bobbins are just hung from pins, as that bit of lace has not been worked yet. These **are** false starting pins.



Work the second arm.
Tie off and cut the
threads to finish off



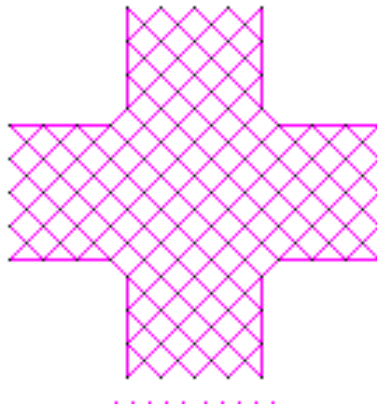
Turn the pillow again, and hang the bobbins, again half from existing pinholes, to attach this arm to the previous, and half from just pins.



Having worked the third arm, and tied off the threads, turn the pillow for the last time. Now all the bobbins must have their threads attached to previous arms by being threaded through existing pinholes. Half are attached to the last arm (the third), and half through the first arm.

All done!"

This set of instructions should tempt you to her website - she has a myriad of beautifully clear diagrams, patterns, hints and tips



The last day for items for the 'June 2023' Newsletter is:
(Saturday) 3rd June 2023
Please email to Ali Ongley at:
aongley@yahoo.co.uk



"Bobbin Lace Makers" - unknown artist

Committee Members 2022

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Donna Earl Chairman
Jayne Lindley Hon. Treasurer
Ali Ongley Newsletter/Membership secretary
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