

# Advice: Handicrafts Section, Summer 2026

Your entries don't need to be perfect. Don't be afraid, just 'have a go'!  
The more entries the better the show.

- Check that your entries comply with all the requirements mentioned in the schedule.
- Please don't hesitate to ask the Show Secretary if there is anything that you don't understand.  
[breamgardeningociety@gmail.com](mailto:breamgardeningociety@gmail.com)
- Key features and techniques in your exhibit may be highlighted on your exhibitor card.
- **Space allowed: 50cm x 50cm, height unrestricted.**  
Exhibits may be folded or stacked to fit within the space allowed but will be unfolded for judging.
- Signed work is permitted but you may be asked to cover your signature.
- Identifying features (e.g. your initials) should not be incorporated into your design.
- Handicraft items **must not** have been **exhibited at any previous BGS Show**.

## Design

- All items should be safe and fit for purpose.
- **Toys and clothing for babies and children** must meet specific **safety requirements**. *'On with the Show: An NFWI Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Show Committees'* provides some great advice. Alternatively, contact the Show Secretary for further information.
- All items should be pleasing to look at. Consideration will be made of shape, scale, proportion, balance, colour and texture.
- Practical items should be pleasing to handle and use.
- Originality will be rewarded.

## Materials

- All materials should be appropriate for the design and intended purpose.
- Items of hard craft should be properly conditioned.

## Techniques

- The quality of the workmanship is the most important judging criteria.
- Where the reverse side of a piece is visible, the **neatness and quality of workmanship on the back will also be examined**. (For example, the reverse side of an unframed cross-stitch piece.)
- Difficult techniques will garner additional credit.
- Items incorporating a variety of techniques may also receive additional credit.

## Finish and presentation

- All items should be clean and neatly presented.

- Many **soft crafts** should be finished by **dampening, blocking and pressing** etc. However, they should not be over-handled and their **original texture should be maintained**. For more information on the finishing of specific soft crafts, contact the Show Secretary or consult the handbook referenced above.
- There should be no adhesive visible on the top surface of any crafted item.
- In general, **mounts and frames** may be used, but these should be **modest** and not dominate your work. Please contact the Show Secretary if you wish to check the suitability of your frame.
- Items, such as bags, may be **lightly stuffed** to emphasise their shape.
- **Small props** may be used but these shouldn't overwhelm or distract from your crafted item. If in any doubt about the suitability of your props, please contact the Show Secretary.

## Craft-specific advice

- *'On with the Show: An NFWI Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Show Committees'* provides some great advice for exhibiting many different crafts. However, there may be some slight differences from the class instructions provided in our Show Schedule - the **BGS Show Schedule**, and the advice notes below, **should always take precedence**.
- For further advice on the judging criteria for specific crafts, please contact the Show Secretary.

## Wet Felting

- Made using any wet-felting technique. For example, traditional wet felting, nuno felting, cobweb felting or resist felting.
- You may combine different felting techniques within a single piece but the bulk of the piece should be made using a wet felting technique(s).
- Additional embellishments may be worked into the piece.
- Your piece of felt may be 'standalone' or incorporated within another item of soft or hard craft.
- Alternatively, your entry may be mounted and/ or framed.

## Knitting: Twiddlemitt

- A hand-knitted tube with items attached that provide sensory stimulation to patients with dementia.
- Your mitt must be knitted to the specification below.
- Yarn and tension should generate a fabric suitable for the intended use. Tension should be consistent and create the desired texture.
- Pay particular attention to any edges and seams. Check that all loose ends are neatly darned in.
- Other techniques, such as crochet edgings or surface embroidery, may be incorporated into your design but the main body and lining of your mitt must be hand-knitted.
- Fastenings and embellishments should be very firmly attached.
- If you wish, we will donate your mitt to Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust. Please place any donated mitts into the box provided on the bench at the end of the Show.

## SPECIFICATION & INSTRUCTIONS: Class 66 – Twiddlemitt

Adapted from the 'Gloucestershire Hospitals Voluntary Services'

It is essential that you follow the materials guidance and directions below.

### Materials guidance

**Wool:** This mitt pattern is perfect for using up leftover and odd balls of wool. Try to use different colours and textures of wool.

#### YES PLEASE

- ☒ Smooth wool
- ☒ Plain wool
- ☒ Double knitting wool
- ☒ Chunky wool
- ☒ Ribbon wool

#### NO THANKS

- ☒ Rough wool
- ☒ Wool with fibers that can be pulled loose
- ☒ Wool with loose strands
- ☒ Fluffy wool
- ☒ Mohair

**Twiddles:** The basic mitt is embellished with 'twiddles' which are sewn both inside and out.

#### YES PLEASE

- ☒ Unbreakable beads - colourful and/or chunky
- ☒ Non-sharp bells
- ☒ Large bright buttons
- ☒ Toggles
- ☒ Bows
- ☒ Ribbons
- ☒ Crochet/knitted flowers etc.
- ☒ Pockets - for a favourite photo or hanky
- ☒ Textured fabric patches - fur, suede, velvet

#### NO THANKS

- ☒ Glass beads
- ☒ Tinsel
- ☒ Zips
- ☒ Metal chains
- ☒ Loops or rings
- ☒ Pom-poms
- ☒ Sharp objects
- ☒ Objects resembling sweets

### Directions

**Needles:** For the pattern below, 8mm circular or 6.5mm straight needles are recommended.

**Mitt lining:** Cast on 45 stitches using 2 strands of double knitting wool or 1 strand of chunky wool. Work in stocking stitch (knit a row, purl a row) for approx. 28cm.

**Mitt outer body:** Continue with stocking stitch but use up oddments of various colours and textures of wool. (Two strands of double knit for two rows each gives a lovely assortment of colours and textures.) You may use other knitting stitch types (such as moss or cable stitch etc.) to create more interesting textures. When the whole mitt (including lining) measures 58.5cm, cast off.

**Twiddles:** Securely sew twiddles onto the knit side of both the lining and the outer body of the mitt. Try to include 10 twiddles on the outer body of your mitt and 4-6 on the lining. **Test that your twiddles can't be pulled off!**

**Finishing:** If working with straight needles, with the knit sides together, neatly join the long edges together using edge to edge stitch. Turn the lining side of the mitt out over the body (so the purl sides are together) and neatly sew the cast on and cast off edges together. Finally turn your mitt right side out. **Check that all ends are securely woven in.**





<https://www.alzheimers-brace.org/product/twiddlemuff/>

### **Crochet: Beach Bag or Shopping Bag**

- Hand-crocheted beach or shopping bag.
- Other techniques, such as surface embroidery, may be incorporated but the bulk of the design must be crocheted.
- Tension should be correct, matching hook size to yarn. Yarn and tension should generate a fabric suitable for the intended use. Tension should be consistent and create the desired texture.
- Pay particular attention to any edges and seams. Check that all loose ends are neatly darned in.
- Fastenings and embellishments should be very firmly attached.

### **Fabric craft: Bucket Hat**

- Hand or machine-stitched bucket hat.
- A simple undecorated hat, made to suit an adult or a child.
- .A soft, round hat with a modest brim that slopes downwards. Single sided or reversible.
- The fabric weight and pattern should be compatible with the design style.
- Grain, nap and one-way patterns should be considered when cutting and stitching.
- Neatly stitched seams.
- No tacking threads remaining.
- Functional accessories are allowed but must be securely attached. For example, eyelets, sweatband, sunglasses loops, and/ or chin strap.
- May be lightly stuffed with tissue or presented on a stand.

### Soft craft:

- An item made using one or more soft craft techniques.
- **Needlecrafts:** bead embroidery, blackwork, canvaswork, counted thread work, crewel work, cross-stitch, goldwork, hand- & machine-embroidery, ribbon embroidery, smocking, stumpwork, whitework etc.
- **Fabric crafts:** appliqué, block printing on fabric, cushion making, doll & toymaking, dressmaking, patchwork, quilting, screen printing on fabric, silk painting, tailoring etc.
- **Yarn crafts:** crochet, felting, knitting, lacemaking, macramé, needle felting, pom-poms, rug making, spinning, tatting, weaving, wet felting etc.
- Other techniques and materials may be incorporated but the basis of your design should be a soft craft.
- For advice on the judging criteria for specific soft crafts, please see the notes above, consult *'On with the Show: An NFWI Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Show Committees'* or contact the Show Secretary.

### Papercraft

- An item made using one or more papercraft techniques.
- Papercraft techniques include book folding, decoupage, origami, paper engineering, parchment craft, quilling, etc.
- Other techniques and materials may be incorporated but the basis of your design should be crafted from paper.
- Papier-mâché should generally be entered as 'papercraft' unless it is combined with other 'hard craft' techniques.
- For advice on the judging criteria for specific papercrafts, please consult *'On with the Show: An NFWI Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Show Committees'* or contact the Show Secretary.

### Papercraft, Quilling

- A decorative design crafted from strips of paper that have been rolled, shaped and glued together.
- Coils should be made out of paper measuring 2 - 10mm wide.
- Your design may be a standalone picture or used to decorate another object, such as a greetings card or box.
- The size, shape and colour variations of the paper coils should be appropriate for the intended use of the object.
- Correct coil tension and clean work are both paramount.
- Clever manipulation of mosaic and filigree shapes to create the design will be rewarded.
- Coils may be embellished with paint, glitter, beads, and sequins etc.

### Woodcraft or Hard craft

- Made using one or more woodcraft or hard craft techniques.
- Hard craft techniques include basketry, beadwork, candle-making, ceramics, cold porcelain, enamelling, glasswork, lego, metalwork, modelling clay, painting on china/glass, papier-mâché, pottery, resin crafts, salt dough, sugarcraft, stonecraft etc.
- Sugarcraft items such as flower sprays, structures or models may be entered as 'hard craft' but they should not take the form of a decorated cake.
- Woodcraft techniques include cabinet making, marquetry, pyrography, stick making, turning, whittling, woodcarving, etc.

- Other techniques and materials may be incorporated but the basis of your design should be crafted from wood or another hard material other than paper.
- For advice on the judging criteria for specific crafts, please consult '*On with the Show: An NFWI Handbook for Exhibitors, Judges and Show Committees*' or contact the Show Secretary.

### One and two piece walking sticks

- One piece and two piece sticks will be considered as two separate craft techniques.
- A **one piece walking stick** should be made from a single piece of wood.
- A **two piece walking stick** should be made from a separate wooden stick shaft and a handle joined together. The handle should be made from wood or other natural material.
- Both shaft and handle should be made entirely by the entrant.
- Spacers are allowed.
- End caps are allowed on thumb sticks.
- Sticks may be entered with or without any type of ferrule.
- The maker's name, or other identifying feature, should not be visible on any part of the stick.
- The choice of wood, and other natural materials, should influence the design. Naturally occurring colours, grain, faults and knots could all become features of the design.
- Care should be taken when finishing the piece to enhance the grain or show the design to best advantage.
- For further advice or inspiration, [The British Stickmakers Guild](#) has an extensive literature list and photo gallery.

### ➤ Drawing and/ or painting

- A class that **specifically examines drawing and/ or painting skills** - other artwork should be entered in the Artwork class below.
- Art created in a medium such as pencil, charcoal, ink, pencil crayon, pastel, oil paint, gouache, acrylic paint or watercolour paint.
- The judge will consider factors such as focal point, balance and composition, perspective, colour and tonal range, and use of materials.
- Modest mount and/or frame allowed.

### Artwork

- A class that examines **artwork which doesn't qualify for the Drawing and Painting class**.
- Created using techniques other than traditional drawing and/ or painting skills. For example, print, collage, mixed-media, cyanotype, encaustic work, or printed digital art.
- **Fabric painting** may be entered into this class if it is presented in a mount and/ or frame; otherwise, please enter it as a soft craft.
- You may list the main techniques used on your exhibitor card.
- Where appropriate, the judge may consider factors such as focal point, balance and composition, perspective, colour and tonal range, and creative use of materials.
- Modest mount and/or frame allowed.

### Waste not want not: Mosaic

- A design made up from the arrangement of small tesserae.
- The tesserae must be made from repurposed/recycled materials, such as a broken tea service, broken tiles, old buttons, plastic bottle tops, or even magazine pages.
- Your design may form a purely decorative picture, a functional plaque such as a house sign, or be used to decorate another object such as a small tabletop, box or vase.
- Functional items must be fit for purpose.
- The small tesserae which make up your design should be carefully arranged with narrow gaps between each piece.
- Collages and montages do not qualify for this class.