



BRAID LACE MAKING WITH BOBBINS

WITH EUROPA CHANG DAWSON

26 APRIL 2021 – 10AM – 4PM



What will you learn?

Braid Lace is originally one of the 'peasant' laces of northern Italy and the skill eventually spread across central Europe.

This workshop will introduce the two basic stitches used in all forms of bobbin lace, some of the techniques in general use for bobbin- lacemakers as well as several particular to braid lace and how to read a chart when one is given with the design.

You will create a small piece measuring 3cm x 3cm and the finished piece may be mounted to use as a card or framed as a picture.

Who is your tutor?

Europa grew up tying knots with her grandfather, and he made sure she knew the symbolism of the knots so as to make sure she remembered her Chinese background.

She left China as a refugee, and while going round the world with her parents, Europa learned a lot of crafts because she believes using hands is one way of communicating when you can't speak the language!

She would have liked to have studied textiles, but in those days, it wasn't a degree subject, and her father said firmly that the tradition of the house was an academic degree - so she took Maths(!) and earned her living as a maths teacher. When funds allowed Europa did City & Guilds creative studies courses in Embroidery & Lacemaking, parts 1 & 2 in each discipline (now equivalent to a diploma in each subject) over 8 years - and loved every minute of that.

Europa demonstrates with the West Country Knotters and when the teams are asked to perform, WCK are at the Bristol Harbour Festival, the Underfall Yard Open Days & the Newport Mediaeval Ship Museum Open Days.

Are there any additional costs?

Please bring with you - £15 cash for materials payable to the tutor on the day.

What will I need?

Please bring:

- 2 cover cloths ('fat quarters' or tea towels will be OK)
- a box of dressmaking pins
- 12-20 glass-headed pins
- scissors for cutting thread.
- scissors for cutting paper/thin card.
- pen/pencil
- 2 colours with fine tips (for adding your own notes to the working notes that will be handed out).

Tea and coffee will be provided throughout the day, however, please bring a packed lunch with you.

Windows in all rooms will be opened to improve circulation so you may want to bring an extra layer of clothing such as a light jumper or cardigan.

How do I find Kingshill House?

Kingshill House can be found in Kingshill Lane in Dursley, on the road down to the new hospital. The entrance is opposite the Fire Station. The address is: Kingshill House, Kingshill Lane, Dursley, Gloucestershire, GL11 4BZ.

Is there parking?

Kingshill House has a large free car park on site. (Not always guaranteed at busy times)

What about refreshments?

We will provide morning and afternoon tea & coffee.

Answers to your Coronavirus questions?

Is Kingshill House open?

The House closed in March 2020 in accordance with Government guidelines and the majority of the team were furloughed. The team are now back to work and from the beginning of June 2020 there would normally be a member of our office team on site, during normal office hours. However, on occasion, team members will continue to work from home and the building still remains closed to the general public.

From 4th July 2020, we re-opened our doors, on selected dates, for small, creative workshops.

Only students who have booked spaces, in advance, will be permitted to enter the building when workshops are on.

In line with Government guidance, we will only be running workshops where we are able to maintain social distancing, so all planned workshops will proceed with a reduced number of students; this is to ensure the safety of all (students, tutors and staff.)

Kingshill Arts Centre is not open for any other social activities at this current time. If you need to speak to a member of the team, please call 01453 549133 or email to admin@kingshillhouse.org.uk

I am attending a workshop, what preparations have you made ahead of my visit?

We have spent the last few months of closure, giving the interior of the building a complete redecoration. Every room in the public area of the house has been given a fresh coat of paint.

We have implemented enhanced cleaning regimes in line with Government guidance beginning with a 'deep clean' of the building in readiness for students coming in again on 4th July. Following every workshop, each room and its contents will be thoroughly cleaned to a high standard.

We have reduced the numbers of students per workshop, to between 6 & 8 students, plus the tutor. Our building is spacious, and we have identified our four extra-large training spaces for workshops to take place in.

Each space has been set up to accommodate individual workstations at two metres apart plus a 'demo' station for the tutor.

All workshops in our new programme, have been carefully chosen for their content and ease of demonstration; they are subjects that can be mastered, with minimal equipment requirements and whilst remaining at a single workstation - thereby avoiding the need to move around the room and reducing cross contamination.

During workshops, how will you support social distancing?

We have set up our four extra-large training spaces with individual workstations, one for each individual student and at a distance of two metres apart plus a 'demo' station for the tutor.

All training rooms have large, fully operational windows and a main entrance door. These will be opened during the duration of workshops to ensure each room has adequate ventilation.

Where there is a need to use equipment belonging to tutors in a workshop, each student will have their own set of (pre sterilised) tools to use for the duration of the workshop. Tutors will bring an increased quantity of 'loan' tools and materials for each workshop; this will negate the need to share and ensure that over handling of items is not an issue. (Some workshops require students to bring their own supplies; information about can be found at the top of this page).

Wherever possible, workshop tutors will make use of alternative methods to assist with demonstration techniques for example, close-up live projections.

Where there is more than one workshop running in one day, we will stagger their start, finish, and break times, to minimise the number of people using the same communal areas at once.

Do I need to wear a mask whilst attending workshops?

Students are encouraged to bring and wear their own masks (In public spaces)

Will there be hand sanitiser available?

Generally, each room will have facilities so you can wash your hands regularly (or your room will be in close proximity to the restrooms), but if you want to use hand sanitiser, you are advised to bring your own.

During your visit to us?

You may be asked to follow arrows, follow a one-way system, or wait until facilities like the WC is clear before you use it. It is vital that you follow these instructions – they are for everyone’s safety.

To avoid overcrowding in passageways and entrances, we will stagger the break times for all workshops running in one day.

Will lunch still be provided and what food/drink can I expect?

We are currently not offering lunch with our workshops but tea and coffee will be served to you at allocated break times and will be served to you by a designated server.

Please bring your own packed lunch with you.

How is my safety and that of the staff being managed at break/lunchtime?

The safety of our students and staff is our priority. To ensure that social distance is maintained we will be implementing the following:

- Designated server for drinks.
- Drink orders will be taken from you during class and bought to you once prepared.
- Hand sanitiser will be available, and students will be encouraged to use it.

If I feel unwell ahead of a workshop, should I attend?

You should not attend. If you are able, you should contact us to let us know that you are unwell as soon as possible. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer refunds for cancellations, but we will consider issuing you a credit note equivalent to 50% of the workshop fee that you can offset against a future workshop. You can contact a member of the office team on 01453 549133 if you wish to discuss it further.

I used to come to Crafty Thursday Club, are you planning on adding these to your programme of events?

Unfortunately, we do not have plans to run any drop-in sessions at the moment. We will let you know as soon as we start offering this type of session again, in the meantime, if you need a crafty fix, then you can book onto a workshop in advance via our website: www.kingshillhouse.org.uk/workshops.

Will you be increasing your range of workshops in the future?

We have plans to provide more ‘safe’ spaces here at Kingshill Arts Centre in the future by installing two additional outdoor teaching spaces, in our large, peaceful garden.

Lastly...

When you attend a workshop with us, our aim is for you to enjoy your time here, to relax and to totally absorb yourself in a new, chosen creative skill. Hopefully, the measures we have taken to ensure your safety, will remove any worries or concerns you may have had about being in a workshop environment again.

Please understand that we are working to new procedures and we might not get it right straight away. As always, we are open to suggestions and constructive feedback, so if you do attend a workshop and something is not quite right, then do tell us and we will do our best to put it right.