

The Golden Anniversary Cape is being made!

How is the Cape progressing?

Our Volunteer, Helen, has very kindly taken on the project. She is a reenactor and an experienced costumier, volunteering at Harvington Hall, a moated medieval and Elizabethan manor house in Worcestershire.

Where did the idea come from?

The idea was born at a meeting of our Golden Anniversary working group, designed by Andrea Gaskell and inspired by the Red Dress: a cloak/cape to have pieces of lace, made by members of the Lace Guild, added to the cape, creating a legacy piece to celebrate the Lace Guilds Golden Anniversary year.

What is the aim of this project?

Our aim is to promote our wonderful craft of Lace making whether it is bobbin, needle, fine knitted or crochet. We would like it to live on and show off the many types of lace made around the world, even an offer of lace pieces from a group of lace makers in New Zealand!

Do I have to be a Lace Guild Member to take part?

No, as long as you are a lacemaker, we welcome you and your lace to the project.

Is there a theme?

Yes, the theme is "nature": plants, flowers and animals.

What thread do I use?

Each piece should to be made with a gold thread, not necessarily metallic, as we know that this can be a difficult thread to work with and we would like everyone to take part. It could be made with a yellow/orangey gold with a metallic thread running through it.

What type of lace should it be?

It can be made of any handmade lace that you choose. Whichever lace you choose, please ensure that all ends are sewn in on finishing. It is not as difficult to do as you may think, but it can make all the difference to the first impression of a piece.

What size should it be?

No bigger than a UK postcard (5 x 7 inches) – this is a rough guide, not a precise measurement.

Can it be longer and narrower, like a bookmark size?

Yes.

Can we do a piece as a group?

Yes, most definitely.

Is there an opportunity to discuss ideas and catch up on the progress of the Cape?

Yes, come to our next Coffee & Chat – look out for the date on the website.

Where can I find inspiration?

We believe you may find the following books useful:

Barbara Underwood – Traditional Bedfordshire Lace – pp78 Leaf Medallions; pp 92 Flower Medallions.

Margaret Turner – Bedfordshire Lace Patterns – pp 5, 8 and 18.

Christine Springett – Lace for Special Occasions – pp 44 Shoe decoration – could be done as a flower with small gold beads added to the centre.

Gillian Dye – Introducing Bone Lace – pp 39 Fir Tree edging, in short lengths.

Lace Guild Publication – Weddings – pp 30 Buttonhole

We have also provided a few patterns, from the older YLM issues, which you can use for ideas and outlines for needle lace. Enjoy having a play with them and see what you can do.

How can I find one of these books:

As a Lace Guild member, you have access to our Library and only have to pay for the return postage.

Is there a deadline?

Yes, we need as many as possible of your lace pieces to arrive at The Hollies by June 2025, but there is a little flexibility of a week or so.

Where do I send it to?

The Lace Guild
The Hollies
53 Audnam
Stourbridge
United Kingdom
DY8 4AE

What should the parcel contain?

A carefully packaged lace item with a completed Legacy form, from the website.

When is the expected completion date?

We would like to launch it at our 2026 AGM, with help from our new Web Team.

What is the plan in the future?

We would like The Cape to be displayed at each of the large suppliers' fairs, such as Havant and Birmingham, and then in 2027 it can be loaned out to groups for their lace events.

Your dedication to this project will shine through as it tours the UK. The Golden Cape will not only be a stunning work of art, but also a testament to the collective spirit and talent within The Lace Guild and around the world.