

**Sally Pointer** is an historian and re-enactment specialist selling handmade buttons amongst other items. You may recall her article on the history of alum in *YarnMaker* October 2010!

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## SAVING THE DORSET BUTTON HERITAGE

Keeping the Dorset button-making skills alive is the interest of Anna McDowell of Shaftesbury. Through her business, Henry's Buttons, Anna runs workshops, sells instruction booklets, kits and brass rings, and meets the public at local events.

On her website at [www.henrysbuttons.co.uk](http://www.henrysbuttons.co.uk) you can find details of a campaign to "Bring the Dorset Button making industry back to Shaftesbury". Aims are also to create understanding of the industry, develop a social enterprise based on local heritage, and create an opportunity for people to collectively provide goods and services.

Anna can also be contacted at Undercliffe Cottage, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9DG, tel: 01747 829010 and email [henrysbuttons@aol.com](mailto:henrysbuttons@aol.com)

For further research...

A collection of Dorset Buttons is held at Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XA. Tel: 01305 262735

See page 30 for the review of a book with instructions for making Dorset Crosswheel Buttons among many others.



**Toft Alpaca** specialise in local handmade wooden buttons and toggles. As well as normal sizes they offer extra large buttons which can be used as special features on bags and garments.

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### The Button Lady

Pauline Walker started her business because she had taken up handspinning and could not find the right buttons to suit her handspun garments. Now she sells a huge range of buttons by mail order and at shows around the country. She offers a matching service - send Pauline a knitted swatch with a button hole and she will find buttons of the right size and weight to work with your fabric.

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