



Help us to create a swarm of bees for Rochdale!

We would like your help to create a swarm of 500 knitted bees to be displayed in the galleries of Touchstones Rochdale in 2020.

Dippy, the famous Diplodocus from the Natural History Museum, will be visiting Rochdale from February to June 2020. He will be on display at Number One Riverside with an accompanying exhibition at Touchstones Rochdale in Rochdale town centre. We'd like to create an installation of knitted bees to highlight the importance of bees and why we need to look after our world. Can you help us by knitting us a bee? Below are patterns for two different size bees.

At the end of the exhibition, we will raise money for a biodiversity project in Rochdale by selling the bees by suggested donation.

Bigger Bee (approximately 8cm long)

Body

With yellow wool

CO 5 stitches

R1: increase to 10 stitches by kfb of each stitch

R2: p

R3: increase to 20 stitches by kfb of each stitch

R4: p

R5: k

R6: p

Don't break yellow, but join in black and continue in stocking stitch, begin 2 row stripes

R7: k in black

R8: p in black

R9: k in yellow

R10: p in yellow

Repeat last four rows till you have 3 black stripes, ending with a yellow stripe. Break yellow leaving a long end for sewing up.

Next Row: k black

Final row: p2tog in black to the end, break off black, leaving enough yarn to draw through stitches and fasten off.

Sew seam, stuffing as you go.

Embroider the eyes and smile.

Wings (make 2 in white)

CO 20 stitches

R1: k

R2: k2tog to end, cut yarn, leaving a long end. Draw through stitches tightly. This will give you a 'pacman' shape. Take a couple of stitches through cast-on ends to form a circular wing. Stitch in place on middle of the bee's back.

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- Materials and equipment needed:**
- ◇ Double knitting wool in black, yellow and white
 - ◇ Knitting needles (DPN or standard) - size 4 (or the size appropriate for your wool)
 - ◇ Small bit of stuffing
 - ◇ Darning needle for finishing
- Abbreviations:**
- ◇ CO = cast on
 - ◇ DPN = Double pointed needle
 - ◇ kfb = knit into the front and back of the stitch
 - ◇ k = knit
 - ◇ p = purl
 - ◇ p2tog = purl two stitches together as one
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Small Bee (approximately 4cm long)

You can use DPNs to avoid breaking the yarn at the end of the stripe. If you prefer to use normal needles, just alternate knit/purl and yellow/black, breaking and fastening as you go.

Body

With yellow wool:

CO 5 stitches

R1: increase to 10 stitches by kfb of each stitch

R2: p

R3: k

R4: p

If you are using DPNs, this is where they become useful. If you are not using DPNs, ignore the next bit and just alternate black and yellow stripes, one row each. Finish with black at R11 below.

R5: k in black (do not cut yellow if using DPN)

R6: slide stitches to the other end of DPN, k in yellow

R7: Turn (so both yarns are at the same end), p in black

R8: slide stitches again, p in yellow

R9: k black

R10: slide stitches again, k yellow

R11: p2tog in black, cut both yarns, draw through black and fasten. Use yellow to sew seam, stuffing as you go. Embroider eyes and smile.

Wings (make 2 in white)

CO 10 stitches

Cut yarn, leaving a long end and pull through to form a circular wing (you may need to sew an additional stitch or two to form the circle). Stitch in place.



Thank you to the following organisations for supporting this project:



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Thank you for making us a bee! It will be displayed in the gallery at Touchstones Rochdale from 10 February to 28 June 2020 as part of the 'Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure' exhibition. We will be displaying so many bees that you might not be able to see yours but please be assured it will be displayed. Please note that we cannot return any bees. Please send the form below and your bee to:

Liz McNabb
Touchstones Rochdale
The Esplanade
Rochdale
OL16 1AQ

[t]: 01706 641085

[e]: liz.mcnabb@link4life.org

[w]: www.link4life.org/touchstones

Bees for Rochdale! Please let us have some details so we can thank you for your help.

Name

Email address

Address

.....Postcode

How did you hear about the bees for Rochdale project?.....

Please tick this box if you would like to be kept up to date (by email) about plans for Dippy's visit to Rochdale.