

Sewing skills for life workshops at The Drop in Sewing Centre

Your tutor: Toni Haynes (BA Hons, CTFE, PGCE) Bespoke Tailor. I am a highly accomplished tailor based in Gillingham; much of my work is in specialist ladies tailoring, bridal wear, men's wear and a wide range of accessories and other products. If you can imagine it, I can make it.

This course runs over two 6 hour workshops that are broken down in to;

Workshop 1 – Construction methods;

- Basic fabric know how
- Grainlines & seam allowances
- Seams
- Gathers and pleats
- Sleeves & zips

Workshop 2 – Finishing techniques;

- Facings
- Hems
- Bias binding
- Piping
- Buttons & Buttonholes
- Trims

During these workshops you will create a library of samples you can refer to for the rest of your sewing days that demonstrate a range of techniques that you can use in your own projects; these will be based on industrial practice to give your sewing a polished finish. This is an intensive course that will equip you for dressmaking, accessories or soft furnishings projects and will give you all the basic skills you need as the stepping stone to more challenging techniques such as patchwork and quilting.

What you will need

- Packed lunch
- 1 200m reel of white/cream thread (if you need it you can buy this when you arrive)
- Your sewing machine if you wish to use your own (5 are available to use at the centre)

Costs – the two workshops cost £60 each.

Timings

- 9.45am arrive ready for a prompt 10am start
- 10am coffee/tea & biscuits served during the introduction and getting to know your machines
- 10.30am – 1pm – practical skills demos & tasks
- 1-1.30pm – Lunch
- 1.30-4pm – practical demos & tasks
- 4-4.30pm – tea/coffee & biscuits over Q&A, discussion session (this is your opportunity to discuss ideas, projects and problem solving on your own projects)