

Thimble societies and clubs from around the world

The information is as current as possible in 2017 but please check with each organisation

I have often been asked about which group of collectors to join. This is a listing and a small history with links and contacts for you to follow up.

To me it is the single most important part of my thimble collecting life to belong to as many groups as is practicable. I know there are many collectors who like to collect in private, or who would rather spend the membership fees on buying another special treasure. At grass roots, find a local group where you meet on a regular basis: for the fellowship and sharing of new finds and information. If there is a national group in your country, support it by becoming a member. Often there is a newsletter to keep you in contact, if you cannot attend in person and many of the organisations hold monthly, annual or biennial meetings or conferences and conventions. The friendships made over the years form the backbone of my thimble collecting. Join a group near you today or write away to join a group in another country.

Most of the long-established groups started with thimbles as the main focus of the members. Over the years this base has widened. Thimbles are only one type of sewing or needlework tool, so if you are a pincushion, scissors or a general sewing tools collector, you will still find heaps of information and other like-minded collectors amongst many of the clubs listed below. All membership fees can be found by contacting the relevant group.

Dorset Thimble Society

www.dorset-thimble-society.org.uk

This society was founded by Elaine Gausson in 1985

The "thimble" forms part of the name, the focus of meetings and the newsletter encompasses all sewing tools

This group has meetings three times a year, in Bournemouth

At Your Fingertips is published three times a year and received as part of the annual membership fee

There are both British and international members

There is a biennial weekend conference, held in the uneven years, usually in May-June

The Society has a comprehensive library for use of members

Address Membership Secretary

Mrs Betty Mileham

74 Thornbury Road

Bournemouth BH6 4HT

Tel: 01202 417488 (UK)

Tel: +44 1202 417488 (International)

Email: jakemile@ntlworld.com

I was a member from 1994-2009

Freunde des Fingerhut E.V.

edith.jungbludt@t-online.de

This German thimble society is co-ordinated by Judith and Paul Jungbludt at Creglingen, Germany

Creglingen is the home of the well-known Thimble Museum

This group has meetings twice a year

Address

Kohlesmuehle 6

Creglingen

97993

Germany

Israeli Thimble Collectors

zkcarmel@zahav.net.il

This thimble society was founded by Ailsa Factor in 1997 and is currently headed by Carmela Zak
This group has meetings three a year

Address

Hashera 24
Moshav Zofit
Israel
44925
Israel

De Nederlandse Vingerhoedclub

Netherlands Thimble Club

gfkamp@gmail.com

This Dutch society is run by Friedy Kamp, in Deventer, Holland and is commercial
Members receive a magazine *Vingerhoednieuws* four times a year and it is translated into English

This society has thimbles for sale via their magazine
as well thru The Thimbleshop
which is open to the public in Hanzetown Deventer Holland
Contact the club for the hours of opening

Shop address

Klein Overstraat 37
Deventer
The Netherlands

There is an annual spring [March] meeting of members

Mailing address

Gildenburg 106
7423 ZC Deventer
The Netherlands
phone + 31 (0) 570 642003

Needlework Tool Collectors Society of Australia

www.needleworktoolcollectors.org

This national group of collectors was started by Jenny and Katrina Cowen in September 1987
The based in Melbourne, the Society is for all collectors, including those who collect thimbles
throughout Australia and beyond

For an annual membership fee includes the newsletter *Snippets*

which is published ten times a year for members

Monthly meetings are held in Melbourne

Contact the Society for details of gatherings in Sydney and Adelaide

A biennial conference has been held every even year since 1990, in Melbourne. In 2018, the
conference will be hosted by the Sydney Group

The Society has a large library of books, periodicals and articles for use by members

Address

4 Heysen Grove

East Doncaster

3109

Australia

I have been a member since 1988

Thimble Collectors Club of South Africa

jenny.bockel@gmail.com

Jenny Scharff Bockel runs this group, which she founded nearly thirty years ago

Meetings are held four times a year - usually in Gauteng province

Address

Box 74439

Turffontein

2140

South Africa

I was an early member from 1986-1988

Thimble Collectors International

www.thimblecollectors.com

This international society began in 1978, with the greater proportion of members residing in the USA
There are many **US state groups** that meet 1-3 times a year. Contact the society for details of
these state groups

Members receive a quarterly *TCI Bulletin* for an annual membership fee – now available
electronically

There are well-researched articles on a wide variety of thimbles and sewing tools
Tho the Society name indicates that thimbles are the prime focus, sewing tools are an integral part
of the Bulletin and subjects at the biennial conventions

Until 2002 a booklet on a specific topic was made available annually to members. Back issues are
now eagerly sought after

TCI holds a three-day conference every second year, in the even years, usually in August, in a
different state of the USA

TCI has a library of thimble related articles for members

Address

1039 Hill Road #121
Pickerington
Ohio 43147
USA

I was a member from 1986-2019

Sue was honoured with TCI's **Myrtle Lundquist Academic Award** for 2012 at their biennial
convention, held in San Francisco

Thimble Friends / Vingerhoed Museum

This group is run by Bertus van Dikkenberg in Veenendaal, The Netherlands

Address

Vingerhoed Museum
Julianstraat 28
Veenendaal 3905EM
The Netherlands
phone +31 (0)318 55 550 38

Thimble Guild

thimble_guild@geusnet.com

Thimble Guild was the first thimble group to be established - in 1970. Evelyn Eubanks started the
group and was one of the founder members of Thimble Collectors International (TCI). When Evelyn
died in 1988, Wynne Mullins took over the group and the newsletter. She has continued with the
group and publishing the newsletter since 1988

The newsletter is published 4 times a year, March, June, September and December. The newsletter
consists of articles, stories and information about thimbles, thimble collecting and some sewing
tools. As the name indicates, thimbles are the main focus of the group

THIMBLE GUILD is a group and not to be confused with the Scottish thimble catalogue The Thimble
Guild

The Thimble Society

www.thimblesociety.com

info@thimblesociety.com

This is a commercial venture and was started in 1981 by Betty Huntley-Wright and Bridget McConnell
Known then as The Thimble Society of London; the name changed during 1999

The Society began at The Bees, a thimble shop in Chelsea in 1981. Within months they moved their
thimble business to Grays Antique Market off Oxford Street in central London, where they remained
until the move to Portobello Road in 1999

From the Winter 2009 edition the Society offered no more subscriptions and no more paper
copies of the catalogue. From then items are only available for sale via their website

Tho the Society name indicates that thimbles are the prime focus, sewing tools are offered regularly
for sale

Current shop address

72 The Admiral Vernon Arcade
141-147 Portobello Road
London W11 2DY
hours Saturdays ONLY 7.00-15.00

Mailing address

1 Cathcart Street
London NW5 3BL
England
phone +44 (0)207 419 9562

I was a member 1985-2009

Contributors

Kit Froebel | Friedy Kamp | Lee Meads | Wynneth Mullins | Pamela Owen | Carmela Zak

This listing of Thimble societies and clubs from around the world does not purport to be complete or accurate in all
aspects.

Rather it invites comment and contribution to add to our knowledge. My thanks to the contributors.

EMAIL thimbleselect@bigpond.com TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

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