



FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

As autumn descends and the nights draw in, knitting and crochet are the perfect pastimes to while away the long dark evenings ahead. Dig out those odd balls of yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks buried in the back of cupboards or stashed in bags under the bed (no judgement here you are among like minded friends!) in readiness for two new patterns coming to greendogdolls.com this autumn.

Available now on the greendogdolls.com website is the free knitting pattern for

these [Funky Pumpkins](#). They are really quick and easy to make and a great stash busting project for using up leftover oddments of yarn.

Autumn has always been one of my favourite times of the year when long summer days give way to crisp morning walks, cosy nights in front of the fire and the countryside ablaze with colour as the trees prepare to shed their leaves for winter. Having recently returned from Spain where the intense heat of the summer lingers long into November I have rediscovered my childhood fondness for autumn and am reminded of what it was like growing up in the British countryside at this time of year.

Growing up in an Oxfordshire village meant narrow lanes lined with blackberry bushes and crabapple trees, muddy farmers fields with windmills, scarecrows and flocks of birds following the tractors as they plough their straight furrows, bell-ringing in the local church on Sundays followed by an enormous roast dinner and an afternoon nap in front of the telly. I appreciate this probably all sounds quintessentially British, reminiscent of an Agatha Christie novel but with a few less dead bodies, but this is what country life in the UK really was like, well for me anyway.

Village life in autumn meant the [Harvest Festival](#), significant among Christian and farming communities like ours, when thanks would be given for the summer's harvest, a bounty of food that would get us through the long, cold winter months. My childhood memories of October are imprinted with images of the church adorned with magnificent displays of fruit and vegetables, donated by the community, as the village prepared for the Harvest Festival. The centrepiece of the harvest table was always a harvest loaf that had been made especially for the occasion but for me the stars of the show were the brightly coloured pumpkins. The produce collected would later be boxed up and delivered to the elderly or needy residents of the village.



Not into knitting or short on time? Sometimes I have these Funky Pumpkins available to buy in my Etsy shop. You can check what pieces are currently available [HERE](#)



N IS FOR...NOVEMBER

but also Neville the Octopus, a free crochet pattern due to be released November 2024. Neville the Octopus is cute and cuddly, easily customisable to suit your own tastes as well as being a quick and fun-to-make project. If you are fairly new to crochet? No problem, because the whole design is made using just the double crochet stitch (UK terms) with some simple increasing and decreasing. Like the Funky Pumpkins, Neville can be made using oddments of double knitting yarn leftover from other projects. I designed him back in early 2018 but he has never been available as a pattern until now.



Neville recently underwent a redesign, originally he didn't have googly eyes, just small black ones and mostly he would be made in pretty variegated yarns. As part of the redesign I wanted to give him a retro-vibe so I made him in mid-century modern coloured stripes but I think he would look just as marvellous in bright pink, sparkly yarn if that is your thing! You might think Neville looks a little sad with his new eyes but don't be fooled he just wants you to give him lots of cuddles. With lots of cuddles, his frown will soon turn upside down, after all he does have 8 arms and arms are made for cuddling.

[Neville the Octopus](#) free crochet pattern is available on [greendogdolls.com](#) and [ravelry.com](#) from November 2024.

