

# SOUTHBURY MAKERS SPOTLIGHT



## Trish Docherty, Lulu's Baskets & More

By Kelly Keenan, SEDC Arts & Culture Subcommittee  
Photos courtesy Trish Docherty

In this edition of the Makers Spotlight, we spoke with longtime Southbury resident Trish Docherty of Lulu's Baskets & More to learn about her unique handcrafted products.

**Q: Can you tell us about your journey into the world of basket making and how long you've been pursuing this craft?**

**A:** I have been a sewer since I was seven years old. Two years ago, I was looking for something new to try and saw a photo of a rope coiled basket. I did a little research and then it was off to the races as they say!

**Q: What draws you to the art of basket making, and what do you find most fulfilling about the process?**

**A:** My favorite part is trying new and different techniques, different types of rope, and finishing off the basket. The creative aspect can be a challenge but also lots of fun, like what can a certain style be used for. I make large baskets for people who knit or crochet. The basket has a grommet up near the top to feed yarn through! Will the basket be an oval which is perfect to keep by the front door for keys, checkbook, wallet etc? Maybe an oval made with holiday print fabric for Christmas/Holiday cards! Sometimes I will make a basket using more masculine colors for a man's bedside table or kitchen counter, for all those things in their pockets. There is no limit to what you can do with rope.

**Q: How do you go about choosing your materials, colors, patterns?**

**A:** I use various types of rope but I find that clothesline works best. It gives a nice stiff basket! I try to work for upcoming seasons/holidays. I enjoy dying rope, wrapping with fabric etc. I don't really have anything in mind when I sit to sew - it's whatever speaks to me or what I'm feeling at the time.

Continues on following page...

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## Trish Docherty, Lulu's Baskets & More - continued...

**Q: Are there any unique challenges in working with textiles?**

**A:** Waiting for a nice warm dry day to dye rope! Also, making sure my machine is in top working order.

**Q: Do you have any advice for people just getting started making and selling their work?**

**A:** My only advice is do what you love. Don't go into it thinking you're going to get rich, then it just becomes another job and you lose the creativity. I have always loved sewing and creating at an early age. For me it is calming and relaxing. There is no right way or wrong way, just enjoy the journey, and if you make a little money to support your craft then that's a bonus!

**Q: Where can we find your work?**

**A:** I sell my work at Craft Fair and Festivals, including a booth at the CT Arts & Eats festival (Saturday, August 26th at Southbury Town Hall). I sell at various church bazaars and do custom orders. I also post pictures on my Facebook page and people contact me! I will be starting an Instagram page soon, and am looking into selling in a couple of Gift Shops in town.

For more information about this month's maker, or if you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue of the Southbury Makers Spotlight, contact us at [edcsouthburymakers@gmail.com](mailto:edcsouthburymakers@gmail.com) or visit [www.southbury-ct.org/arts](http://www.southbury-ct.org/arts).

### WHERE TO FIND THEM



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CT Arts & Eats  
Southbury Town Hall  
Saturday, August 26, 2023  
10am - 4pm

