In 1880, William Wilks noticed a wild poppy with white-edged petals and no central black blotch. Over many years he sowed seeds and selected the offspring for red, pink or white flowers, often with white edges or bases to the petals and a yellow centre and stamens.

Materials: Pair of 3.25mm (no. 10) knitting needles. Red, pink, white, green and yellow double-knitting wool. Safety pin.

Petals (make two)
Cast on 12 stitches, in red, pink or white.
1st row: Sl1, K twice into next st, K to last 3 sts, K twice into next st, K1.
2nd row: Sl1, P twice into next st, P to last 3 sts, P twice into next st, P1.
3rd row: as 1st row.
4th row: Sl1, P to end.
5th row: as 1st row.
6th row: Sl1, P to end.
7th row: as 1st row, 22 sts.
Work 11 rows st st, slipping the first st of every row.
19th row: K2 tog, repeat to end.
Draw wool through remaining 11 st and fasten off.

Centre
Cast on 16 stitches in yellow. Cast off. Coil into a tight spiral and secure with one of the ends.

Leaf
Cast on 3 stitches in green.

1st row: K
2nd and all WS rows: P
3rd row: K twice into first st, K twice into 2nd st, K1
5th row: K
7th row: K twice into first st, K2, K twice into next st, K1
9th row: cast off 2, K to end
10th row: cast off 2, P to end
11th row: K twice into first st, K twice into 2nd st, K1
13th row: K
15th row: K2 tog tbl, K1, K2tog
17th row: K
19th row: K2tog tbl, transfer stitch on RH needle to LH needle and pass 1st st over 2nd st. Pull wool through and fasten off.

Making up: Sew the two petals together, overlapping the bases. Sew the centre to the front and the leaf to the back. Sew the safety pin to the back.

To make an ordinary poppy, work the petals in red and the centre in black.