

We're In Stitches



(Highland)

ISSUE 10 August 2011
Newsletter of the Needlework Group of Distance Befriending
Befrienders Highland
19 Church Street, Inverness IV1 1DY

Hello Everyone

Welcome to the 10th Issue of WISH. You will immediately notice we have 'down sized' this issue and the sad reason is our wonderful editor, Katherine, has retired from her post. Katherine has been with us from Issue 1 and was a key person in the development of this group. She did wonderful work behind the scenes in putting together a newsletter that has always been interesting, stimulating and easy to read. We will miss her but do wish her well in all her future ventures.



As *temporary* editor, I want to enlist ALL your help...it is your newsletter and your questions, tips, photos or stitching news are needed. Also if there is someone out there who has stitching knowledge combined with skill to put articles together, please do be in touch.

Well, this edition may be shorter but hope you all find something of interest and have some fun.



(The Deadline for contributions to the next Issue is 8th November 2011.)

Happy stitching!
Yvonne

The Great Get-Together

The 7th July was another landmark day for the WISH group when 7 intrepid group members from all over the Highlands travelled to Inverness to meet at the Befrienders Highland office. And it was a day of nonstop talking and activity!

We started with a simple lunch but that didn't slow down the chat. Some folk had brought their current sewing projects. Joan showed us her fabulous embroidery of 'Footsteps' which is going to be a gift for her daughter. We were wowed by Lil's knitting skills – her knitted Bertie Bassett was a real hit and we all encouraged her to be selling her wares! She also showed us a gorgeous waistcoat she had knitted with wool from the Community Box! Rosie brought an example of the slippers we had pictured in the last WISH – they are so good she should be taking orders too! (Forgive me, I had the camera and messed up by forgetting to take more pictures! Sorry! Next time I will delegate the camera duties elsewhere!)

Our two Spinning Ladies came back again this year but this time instead of a demonstration they got us working! They brought a pile of old knitwear with them – jumpers that had been 'felted' by being machine washed. They also brought bags that they had sewn from such old knitwear and showed us how to make patterns to make our own bags.





Then it was heads down and concentrated efforts as we all chose bits of jumpers and started chopping them up and sewing up seams.

(ok I do see cups of tea on that table – but we needed the fuel for all that activity!)

Maureen and Lil obviously knew what they were doing.



Most of us didn't have enough time to put the final touches on our works of art but we did get some new ideas and tips and we had fun in the process.

The (almost finished!) Works of Art...



Sue managed to complete her bag in the short time we had. Made from an Arran sweater, it looked great and should be really useful too.

Feedback from the Day:

'The ladies making the bags were great – could have done with longer.'

'It was a really good day. I liked see what everyone else is doing craft-wise. I enjoyed meeting everyone.'

'It was nice listening to others and hearing what stitching things they do.'

'I learned how to make a bag and I usually steer clear of sewing completely.'

'The best bit was just being there and meeting and getting to know everyone. The lunch was good too.'

'We needed more time for the workshop, probably about 3 to 4 hours for it.'

'I would like to say that I enjoyed the day very much, it was nice that more people came this time around. I really enjoyed the bag making demonstration, and hope to attend next year.'

And some good ideas ...

In our discussion time the group agreed that they like the newsletter and definitely want it to keep going. (At that time we didn't know we were going to lose our fab editor, Katherine. Anyone who feels they have skills in this area do contact me!)

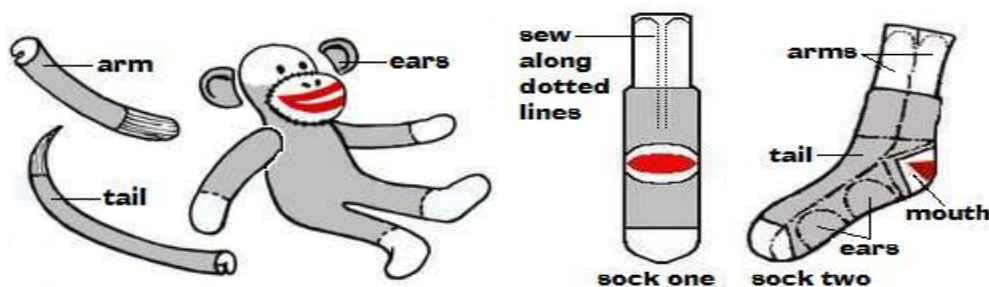
The group also thought more workshops would be a good idea and came up with the inspired suggestion of using the talents within the group. Group members with skills in certain areas could share those in a workshop format. So, for example, a few folk have said they would like tips on crotchet, or rag rugging, embroidery, or what about a blast from the past – macramé for beginners!

Let me know if you think this is a good idea and what workshops you would consider attending.



Heather, our co-ordinator from Nairn, helped host the Get-together and said it was lovely to meet all the WISH people. She raised some curiosity telling folk about her efforts with socks of all things! She has given us her pattern and says it's simple but very effective! If you make any Sock Monkeys send in the photos – we may have a Sock Monkey family by next issue!

Sock Monkey and Pattern



Materials:

1. One Pair Original Rockford Red Heel socks.
2. Stuffing - use Eco craft or polyester fiberfill (will need approx 6-8 oz)
3. Red knitting yarn (optional)
4. Sewing thread, embroidery thread, 2 buttons (optional)

Sock Monkey Instructions:

Turn both socks inside out.

Body:

Sew a seam on both sides of the center of one sock starting three inches from the white heel, curving across the end of the top.

Cut sock between seams and to within 1 1/2 inches of white heel. This leaves an opening in

the crotch.

Then turn sock so seams are inside and use crotch opening to stuff head, body and legs. Hand stitch to close gap.

Arms:

Cut the upper part of the second sock into 2 pieces. Seam, rounding ends and stuff the arms. Attach to the body by hand.

Mouth:

Cut the heel from the sock, leaving a brown edge around the white. Fasten on lower part of the face by hand-stitching around the bottom; stuff and finish sewing around the top. The mouth can be enhanced by embroidering a running stitch in either black or white across the middle of the lips.

Tail:

Cut a one inch strip on front of sock, tapering to end of toe. Seam, stuff and attach to body by hand.

Ears:

Cut the ears from remaining brown part on the sole of the sock. Attach to head by hand.

Eyes:

Sew on moving eyes, buttons, felt or embroider eyes with black thread. (For very small children embroider eyes).

There are many variations from this basic pattern. Decorations such as pompoms, yarn, bells can be added. Jackets, vests, pants, skirts and shoes are also used for clothing.

And the winner is...

Last issue we had a word search competition to win a Crochet Bag Kit for beginners in crotchet.

Joan in Skye was the first one with the correct answer and the lovely prize is on its' way Over the Sea to Skye. Well done, Joan and hope you enjoy it!



Janet's Gems...

Deadline for articles for WISH fast approaching and so far just ideas floating around in my head, frantic patchwork activity during autumn and winter left behind as garden takes over in the spring and summer. I like to have something 'crafty' to occupy my fingers in the evening watching TV, usually knitting or crochet, this is where WISH magazine is so handy.

I've just finished my first pair of diamond-panel socks (without the lacy cuffs!) Issue 7 December, and intend knitting more from this pattern.



(I think we will all agree these are really fabulous! The colours and pattern look great! Janet you are an expert knitter!)

I crocheted the beaded beanies Issue 6 September for daughters and granddaughters for Christmas and this year is all about mitts in shades to match the beanies. A friend gave me a super pattern for fingerless mitts with lacy edges, I've knitted 3 adult pairs, and am looking at the Mittens in Minutes Issue 6 September for the children.

My granddaughters gave me DK wool last Christmas and recently I found a cardi pattern I like (actually two different patterns which I'm combining! – why make things easy?). The wool is one of these newer yarns with Fair Isle effects, supposed to take the strain out of knitting fancy patterns, and it got me round to thinking about traditional Fair Isle jumpers. I can remember knitting Fair Isle bands on to some of my earlier efforts, oops, sorry ...family jumpers, struggling to control the small balls of different coloured wools and keeping the tension correct. I went on to the internet to discover a website, www.fairisle.org.uk with mouth watering photos and text about 'the real 'Fair Isle' knitwear, and I've now got permission from Dave Wheeler to use these for WISH. We may not all be budding Fair Isle knitters but perhaps the sight of these pictures will inspire some of you to have a go. I'm knitting for Christmas - it isn't that far away!



The real 'Fair Isle' knitwear

The term 'Fair Isle Knitting' is now used worldwide for a type of stranded colour knitting with horizontal bands of geometric patterns. But this unique style developed on Fair Isle long ago, when local knitters discovered that fine yarns stranded into a double layer produce durable, warm, yet lightweight garments.

For hundreds of years demand for hand-knitting kept Fair Isle women busy. Islanders traded with passing ships, bartering their home-made textiles and fresh produce for goods they couldn't make themselves.

Today the only source of the genuine article is still Fair Isle, where a small co-operative - Fair Isle Crafts - produces traditional and contemporary sweaters on hand-frame machines, quality-controlled and labelled with Fair Isle's own trade mark.

The traditional colours of red, blue, brown, yellow and white, combined with the original patterns, were much sought after for their unique value, but in the 1920s Fair Isle sweaters knitted in the natural wool colours of brown, grey, fawn and white became highly fashionable.

(courtesy of Dave Wheeler www.fairisle.org.uk)



Over To You...



A note from Rosie...

Knitted up a simple baby set using double knitting yarn which had a few colours in it blue grey and white. I made the set for a friends' daughter who is having a baby boy so gave me a chance to use up some of my stash of wool.

Still knitting slippers. the grey set turned out larger than the blue because it is flecked with black and a bit bulkier. These will be for birthday/christmas presents. The only thing I do not like doing as usual is sewing up.



Let's hold on to a bit of that summer magic with some FLOWERS AND STRAWBERRIES FOR A LOVELY SUMMER PROJECT



Yarn: Rowan Handknit Cotton DK, (A) shade 215 Rosso, (B) shade 344 Pesto, (C) shade 263 Bleached, two 50g balls of each, (D) Rowan Cotton Glace, shade 833 ochre, one 50g ball

Needles: 4mm straight and 4mm double-pointed

Abbreviations: **p** = purl; **k** = knit; **st st** = stocking stitch; **RS** = right side; **WS** = wrong side; **kfb** = knit one front and back;

tbl = through back of the loop; **dpn** = double pointed needle

MEASUREMENTS AND SIZES **Strawberries:** 7cm wide x 9cm deep; **Flowers:** 7cm diameter exc. Leaves **Bunting:** 170cm

STRAWBERRY FRONT AND BACK (ALIKE)

Using yarn A cast on four sts

- Row 1: p Cont in st st, working shapings as follows:
- Row 2 (RS): kfb, k1, kfb, k1. Six sts
- Row 6: kfb, k3, kfb, k1. Eight sts
- Row 10: kfb, k5, kfb, k1. Ten sts
- Row 12: kfb, k7, kfb, k1. 12 sts
- Row 14: kfb, k9, kfb, k1. 14 sts
- Row 20: k1, k2tog tbl, k8, k2tog, k1. 12 Sts
- Row 21: p1, p2tog tbl, p6, p2tog, p1. Ten sts
- Row 22: k1, k2tog tbl, k4, k2tog, k1. Eight sts.
- Cast off

STRAWBERRY TOPS (MAKE TWO)

- Using yarn B cast on two sts
- Row 1: kfb, kfb. Four sts
- Work 15 rows in st st
- Next row: k2tog tbl, k2tog
- Cast off

To make up Using yarn D, make 12 French knots on each strawberry for seeds. Place strawberry pieces with WS together, slip stitch around edges to join. Fold Strawberry tops in half and attach with one half showing on each side of berry as shown

FLOWERS: PETALS (MAKE FIVE)

- Using yarn C, cast on four sts
- Row 1: kfb, k1, kfb, k1. Six sts
- Row 2: p
- Row 3: kfb, k3, kfb, k1. Eight sts
- Row 4: p
- Row 5: k2tog tbl, k4, k2tog. Six sts
- Row 6: p2tog, p2, p2tog. Four sts
- Row 7: k2tog tbl, k2tog. Two sts
- Row 8: p2tog, turn. One st
- Next row: cast on three sts. Four sts
- Rep Rows 1-7
- Next row: pass first st over second st to cast off. Fold work in half with WS together, slip stitch around edge to join petals. Arrange five petals so they meet in the centre and slip stitch together



CENTRE

- Using 4mm dpns and yarn D cast on four sts
- Work eight rows in i-cord
- Cast off
- Fold in half, slip stitch one end to the other and sew into centre of flower

SMALL LEAF (MAKE TWO)

- Using yarn B, cast on four sts
- Work as for Petal
- Cast off

LARGE LEAF

- Using yarn B, cast on four sts
- Rows 1-4: work as for Petal
- Row 5: kfb, k5, kfb, k1. Ten sts
- Row 6: p
- Row 7: k2tog tbl, k6, k2tog. Eight sts
- Row 8: p
- Complete as for Petal
- Cast off
- Sew small and large leaves together at centre with larger leaf in middle. Sew leaves to back of flower on LH side as shown

i-cord explained

To create the stems and bunting cord, you need to work in i-cord. Cast the appropriate number of stitches onto one dpn. Using a second dpn, knit the first row, then instead of turning the work, slide the stitches to the opposite end of the dpn. Pull the working yarn tightly across the back of the work and start knitting the next row. Continue in this way, sliding the stitches along the needle after each row until the tube measures the correct length. You might find it easier to make a note of the number of rows worked to ensure each stem is the same length.

(supplied by Sally – who says this is a lovely bit of fun!)

Spotlight on ...Sue

What sort of crafts do you enjoy?

I love dress making. I got started when I was about sixteen and left school and worked as a machinist and that got me interested in making clothes. I have been doing it on and off for years now.

What sort of things do you make?

When my daughter was a toddler I used to make her dresses. Then last year I made a bridesmaid's dress for my daughter and remembered just how much I enjoyed making things. Now she has me making the skirts for four bridesmaids dresses for her own wedding next year.

What is your favourite thing that you have made?

About 10 years ago I made some traditional teddy bears – the ones that have jointed limbs and sawdust stuffing, like a Stieff bear. I put a lot of love and care into one of those and it really is my favourite make.

I also made a large pig doorstop a few years ago. It had an apron with a pocket with 6 little piglets...very cute and won a prize in the local show!

Have you ever 'given up' on a stitching project?

No, I am the sort of person that has to finish everything I start!

What benefits do you get from your stitching activities?

I find sewing very relaxing and its lovely having something at the end of the work. I won a beginners crotchet book in a WISH competition and I have followed a lovely pattern from it to make my own facecloths out of cotton thread.

What would your advice be for anyone who doesn't feel too confident about their stitching?

I think it's best to start with small projects. Something like stitching or cross-stitching a bookmark or purse. Small projects aren't daunting but they still are an achievement.

Thank you, Sue!

The WISH Community Box contains lots of pooled free goodies...you can help yourself! It's first come, first served...please don't hesitate to contact Yvonne if any of the items below take your fancy or you want to find out more.

LIST OF GOODIES IN THE COMMUNITY BOX!

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QUANTITY/TO FIT SIZE</u>
<u>CROSS STITCH</u>	
'The Sloe Fairy'	1
'The Canterbury Bell Ferry'	1
'Kitty Witch – Tiny Treasured Diamond'	1
'Bentley Bear'	1
'Somebunny to Love'	1
'Flower Bear & friends'	1
'Be Lucky'	1
'Beside the Sea'	1
'Oriental Elegance'	1
'All Our Yesterdays – At the Door'	1
'All Our Yesterdays – A Windy Day'	1
HeatnBond – Quilters Edge - 6mm x18m	1
Patchwork with Busyfingers 1!/4 in	1
<u>KNITTING WOOL</u>	
Milan Stylecraft –rich red	7 x50 gram balls
<u>KNITTING PATTERNS</u>	
'Essential Winter Set – Hat & Showl'	1
1682 – 'Sirdar – Tiny Tots – birth to 6 years'	1
PRN D2343 – Patons – Aran – 32-46 ins	1
4992 – 'Stylecraft – Milan' (Sweater & Cardigan)	1 x (81-107cm/32-42 in)
8096 – 'Stylecraft – Ragtime' (Sweater)	1 x (81-107cm/32-42 in)
8126 – 'Stylecraft – Carousel & Klass' (Cardigan)	1 x (81-107cm/32-42 in)
8131 – 'Stylecraft – Carousel & Klass' (Sweater)	1 x (81-107cm/32-42 in)
<u>MAGAZINES & BOOKS</u>	
'Quick-Method – Quilts with Style'	1
'Fabric Trends for Quilters' – Spring 2010	1
'Magic Patch – April 2010'	1
'Patchwork – January 2010'	1
'Complete Guide to Needlework'	1
'The Complete Book of Needlecrafts'	1
<u>VARIOUS PATTERNS</u>	
'5512 – SIMPLICITY'	1
'WAG AROUND BEARS'	1

	1
'LIQUORICE ALLSORTS – CHUFFIN PATTERNS'	1
'FLORAL WREATH DESIGN'	1
'THIMBLEBERRIES QUILT PATCHWORK'	1
'2179 - VOGUE LANTERN PATTERN'	1
'2056 – VOGUE LANTERN PATTERN'	1
'STARGAZZY QUILTS'	1
'8766 – SIMPLICITY – DOLLS DRESSES'	1
'7189 – VOGUE ACCESSORIES'	1
'3216 – BUTTERICK – COUNTRY LIVING'	1
'2659 - McCALLS HOME DEC IN A SEC'	1
'9159 – McCALLS HOME DEC IN A SEC'	1
'THE KEEPSAKE PILLOW'	1
'STARGAZEY QUILTS – SEALED WITH LOVE & KISSES	1
'GOLLIES GALORE'	1
'BLOCK POUCH AND ROTARY CUTTER POUCH	1
'RAGGEDY HEARTS AMD STARS	1
'STARGAZEY QUILTS – STARGAZEY HEARTZ	1
DOWNLOADED PATTERNS OF TOYS	
PEACHES BALLERINA ANGEL	1
HOW TO MAKE BEAR HUGS	1
FLOYD THE FUNKY TOY	1
MOMMY MAKE ME DOLL	1
SUFFOLK WYVERN	1
PENGUIN DOLLS	1
STUFFED PUMPKINS	1
BLUME	1
BLOSSOM THE BEAR	1
SKIP THE RABBIT	1
GIGGLEBUGS	1
HELLO DUCKY	1
CARNABY CAT	1
CHRISTMAS STOCKING	1
MY CATS: CAROLINE & CHARLEY	1
MY SANTA CLAUS DOLL/MY ANGEL DOLL	1



(Don't forget...the Deadline for contributions to the next Issue is 8th November 2011.)