“Rushmoor Christmas Angels” January 2023 Newsletter.

Hello everyone,

Happy New year!. First of all a massive thank you to ALL of you for your hard work in making Rushmoor Christmas Angels 2022 an absolute success. Secondly a huge welcome to those of you for whom this will be your first “Rushmoor Christmas Angels” Newsletter. Welcome to the team, it is great to have you on board. If you haven’t done so already do consider joining the “RCA knitters” Facebook group. This is a closed group for all those who are part of the “Rushmoor Christmas Angels Team” and a great place to pick up tips and share ideas.

My angels bring peace and joy

Long-time Prima reader Ivy West, 89, from Farnborough, Hampshire, has a very special knitting project at this time of year

As a child, I remember sitting in an air-raid shelter and picking up my knitting needles. Looping the long wade through the soft wool kept me distracted from the wailing sirens and turmoil above ground. I grew up in the wartime era, and knitting was a skill that most young girls knew, taught by our mothers.

Since childhood, I'd always been creative. During the 'Flower Power' era of the 1960s, I made clothes adorned with florals and in bright colours. When I was raising my own two children, I'd bake cakes and knit jumpers, while my husband, Ken, watched on admiringly.

Decades later, in 2017, a friend told me about ladies who were collecting knitted Christmas angels for the local church in Aldershot. Using a pattern provided by the church, I quickly got the hang of it and began knitting hundreds of angels. Like all those years ago during the war, my mind soon switched off while I was knitting. I loved how relaxed it made me feel. Sometimes, I could get so carried away knitting that my hands would begin to ache.

It wasn't until the following year, when I attended a church meeting with bags upon bags of angels in tow, that I discovered what the tiny angels were for. The initiative was called Rushmoor Christmas Angels and every December, they'd be blessed in a church service, then tagged with notes and distributed around the local area. From frosty lawns to school gates and park benches, they'd wait to be found.

Ivy finds peace and relaxation in her knitting

PRIMA.CO.UK | Christmas & New Y

It was great to see the “Rushmoor Christmas Angels” feature in the Christmas edition of “Prima” magazine. Well done Ivy.

Over the past few years Facebook has changed somewhat and, for whatever reason it is not always easy for people to post pictures of the angels they have found direct to the FB page. So far as I can see our FB page settings are all correct. Some people therefore have sent photos by direct message which sadly FB doesn’t allow me to then share to the page. Be assured given homes over Christmas again did not appear on the page……and there are still a few angels still hopefully these will put in an few weeks.

lots of angels have been this year even if pictures as per usual I am guessing waiting to be “found” and appearance over the next

Just as in previous years our angels found their way to many interesting places. Quite a few angels ventured a long way from Rushmoor. One angel travelled to the Warwickshire town of Shipston on Stour, another angel was a bit more “classy” and went to Stratford upon Avon where its “finder” wrote this - “*I was reduced to tears this morning in Waitrose carpark. I’ve been having a miserable few months, I came out of Waitrose and something caught my eye on top of a Christmas tree. I looked, read the label and thought that this angel was there waiting for me. Thank you so much whoever put it there…..I really needed that”*.

I could share many other stories like this one where the angels YOU have all created have changed someone’s life this Christmas time. One angel however decided not to travel a great distance and only ventured as far as the “Golden Lion pub” in Aldershot. Even so I am sure she still had an impact on someone’s Christmas ☺

Knitting for 2023 has already begun. We will continue to meet each month for a “Knitting Party”. For those of you who are new to the team these monthly meetings are usually on a Saturday morning and great times to meet up with each other. There are plenty of people who would be delighted to give you a helping hand if you are new to knitting angels. Our first meeting of 2023 will be on Saturday 21st January at North Camp Methodist Church GU14 6EG from 10am-12noon.

If you know of anyone who you think would like to knit with us do feel free to pass on our details

David Betts,7 Redvers Buller Road, Aldershot, GU11 2LT. dabetts4x4@btinternet.com 01252 328959 or 07941 997841