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## Cuddles July 2015 Newsletter

Welcome to the summer newsletter of 2015. It's been a busy 6 months for Cuddles and I really can't believe it's a whole year since I took over from Kym!

**Please note that I will be away from 3<sup>rd</sup> August until 19<sup>th</sup> August so no parcels sent towards the end of July, or in August, will be acknowledged until towards the end of August.**

### Funds

The current balance in the bank account with Santander is £2,205.12, as of 13th July 2015. Our outgoings continue to increase so if any members would be willing to fund-raise for us to help cover the cost of sending parcels out to hospitals then I would be very grateful. I would also welcome donations of 2<sup>nd</sup> class letter / large letter stamps to help us acknowledge receipt of our off-line postal members' parcels and to send out newsletters to them.

We continue to raise funds through Easy Fundraising and have raised £60.85 from Jan-Mar 2015. If you have not yet signed up for Easy Fundraising, but do shop for things on the internet, then please sign up and nominate Cuddles as your charity for donations. Using Easy Fundraising costs you absolutely nothing. You just have to log in to the Easy Fundraising site before following the link to your normal shopping sites. The companies then donate money to your chosen charity and the more you spend the more they donate!

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

### Hospitals Supplied:

Since January I have sent parcels to:

Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital, City Hospital Nottingham, Croydon University Hospital, Ealing Hospital, St Helier Hospital, Homerton University Hospital, King's College Hospital, Lincoln County Hospital, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, North Middlesex Hospital, Princess Royal University Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woolwich, New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, St George's Mortuary, St George's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital Gynaecology Ward, St Thomas' Hospital Mortuary, University College Hospital and Scarlett Eve's Fund.

Thank you for the beautiful items that I have been able to send. I'm sure you'll also all join me in thanking Jan Garton for sending out labels and finishing items off, Kim Burt for finishing items off

and taking on the mammoth task of lining angel's pockets and Paula White for turning plain old bearskins into amazingly detailed tiny teds. (See the photo at the top of this newsletter).

### Thank-you letters and emails from parents:

Hi.

I'm writing this email because myself & my fiancée recently lost our baby boy Zealand. We were cared for by Neville Hall Hospital in Abergavenny, South Wales. We were given a memory box & various other items to remember our precious little boy. We noticed the "Cuddles " tag on some of the items. We found the items & memory box a massive comfort for us.



Dear Sir or Madam,

We recently experienced a miscarriage at St. Thomas hospital in London. It was very comforting for us that the baby was dressed in knitwear from Cuddles after she was born.

Thanks and keep up your excellent work.



To each and every member of the team,

I wanted to take this opportunity thank you for your beautiful work. I lost my baby last July at 4 and half months very unexpectedly. I had to go through and deliver my tiny baby and I was absolutely devastated. The hospital gave me a memory box and in it was a beautiful yellow blanket, cardigan, hat and booties and various other things. When I am sometimes sad, or think about what happened, I take out my box and look at everything in it.

It is mothers day today and I am feeling very sad. But at the same time you have given me something very special to remind me of my little baby and for that I am very grateful to all of you.

Many, many thanks.



Hi, my name is Sophie and I am an angel parent. Firstly I would like to thank you and your organisation for my beautiful blanket that I received when my son was born sleeping. Knowing that someone, somewhere, used their own time and effort into making something so personal for a stranger, makes it even more special.

Thank you again.



Hi,

I just wanted to say a big thank you to you all to be honest. Me and my partner have recently just lost our little girl as she was born after only 20wks, as it was an awful time for us both your donation did make difference xxx also we named her angel after we seen the little angel on her gown you made

All our love



Hi,

I have received two of your knitted dresses for my twin daughters that were 19+ gestation from our local hospital when they sadly passed away. Attached to the dresses/cards were some small angel trinkets. Thank you, I think it's brilliant what you are doing and have done and was a great comfort to my partner and me. We have the blankets in the memory box, but due to not having many keepsakes we found the trinkets meant a lot and I hope to have them attached to my bridal flowers next year.

## **Thank-you letters and e-mails from Hospital Staff:**

Thank you for your continued support it is appreciated so much by our families.



Thank you. I can't tell you how amazed people are when they know that we can dress their little baby in such beautiful outfits that have obviously been made with such love. Please pass my sincere thanks to your lovely knitters, if any of them are interested in visiting the Robinson suite it would be my pleasure to show them around. (Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough).



Thank you very much. We so appreciate the clothing items. We care for women in our delivery suite from 13 weeks onwards who have miscarried or are losing their babies. The clothes are so appreciated by so many families. I love to be able to give them a choice then they feel they are doing something themselves.

Please pass on my gratitude to all the busy knitters who make such a difference and put so much care into their work.



Thank you so much for the parcel that I received on Friday, all perfect thank you.



Please do forward our thanks to the wonderful women who do all the hard work  
Thank you again



I've found the women who have miscarried really find the charm a comfort whilst going through this sad time.



Thank you for the 3 x tiny teds. They are beautiful. We really appreciate all the hard work and love you put into making them.



The blankets and sleeping bags are such a help, with making the process of presenting babies to their families that little bit less clinical and scary. We offer the blankets to keep. Also, for the staff who prepare the babies, it's much more comforting to be able to present them nicely.



I would like to thank you for the pairs of identical tiny ted's, they are perfect, just what we wanted. I was wondering would it be possible for you to also include a couple of triple identical tiny teds, as we do get a few twin losses, and I think it would be nice for mum to have an identical teddy to each of her babies. Thank you again for the tiny teds, they are beautiful.



We really love all the special clothes your teams especially the small cotton nightdresses for our little babes..

Please pass on our thanks and those of the women we care for in these circumstances. It helps to demonstrate we care and make each babe an individual.

## **Items received in the first six months of 2015:**

In order to streamline the unpacking process here at Cuddles Central and free up more time to sort, decorate and store items I have stopped counting all the different items that are sent in. This means that there is now no need for you to list the number of items in the parcels you send. Instead, I will

concentrate on letting you all know, via our Yahoo group and our newsletters, which items we are most in need of.

I hope you will all agree that it is the wonderful quality of the clothing and blankets we supply that matters most, rather than the exact number that we make.

### Ideas for different stitch patterns on gown skirts, sleep-suits, sleeping bags and blankets:

By adjusting the number of stitches you have it is possible to create some lovely simple textures on the items you knit. It is usually a good idea to knit borders in garter stitch or moss stitch to prevent your knitting from rolling inwards.

With an odd number of stitches:

Row 1: Knit,

Row 2: Purl,

Row 3: Knit,

Row 4: (p1, k1) repeat across the row until the last stitch, p1.

Granite stitch, using an even number of stitches:

Row 1: Knit,

Row 2: (k2tog), repeat all along the row,

Row 3: Inc. in each stitch, by knitting into the front and back of each stitch, all along the row,

Row 4: Purl

With an even number of stitches:

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: Knit

Row 3: (k1, p1) repeat along the row

Row 4: (k1, p1) repeat along the row

With a multiple of 4 stitches:

Row 1: (k2, p2) repeat along the row

Row 2: (k2, p2) repeat along the row

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Knit

With an even number of stitches:

Row 1: (k1, p1) repeat along the row

Row 2: (k1, p1) repeat along the row

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Knit

### Hints and Tips that help at Cuddles Central:

- Please use postal bags or boxes rather than wrapping your precious knitting in brown paper as the brown paper parcels often arrive ripped. Strong carrier bags, turned inside-out, also make good packaging if you cannot find any of the purpose-made postal bags.
- Please don't send things via Parcel Force, or a courier, to the PO Box address as they can't be delivered to a PO Box. If you wish to use Parcel Force, or a different courier, then please contact me at the above address, or by e-mail, to request my home address.
- Enclosing a note in your parcel with your name, postal and e-mail addresses would be enormously helpful and save me lots of time when I'm acknowledging receipt of parcels and sending thank-you notes and e-mails.
- Please only use white, cream or pale, pastel colours of wool. The hospitals do not request bright or darkly coloured clothing or blankets.
- Please consider enclosing a 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp if you would like me to write to confirm the safe arrival of your parcel. I will e-mail acknowledgements to all online members.
- **The items we are most in need of are sleeping bags in white/cream/yellow, sleep-suits, tiny teds (3" tall or smaller), angel's capes, angel's pockets (6-7" measured along one of the straight sides) and white, cream, pale yellow and pale green blankets (18-24" square or bigger).**
- Items we don't really need include cardigans, booties and mittens.

### Some Sad News

I have recently been informed, by one of her relatives, that Gillian Binns, one of our postal members, sadly passed away in June. She loved supporting Cuddles and I have passed on the condolences of our entire group to her family. They very kindly sent us a big parcel of the last items she made and I have thanked them for finding the time to honour Gillian's wishes to support Cuddles.

### A Big Thank-you for all Your Support

Thank-you all so much for your continued support and dedication to Cuddles. Each one of you is doing a wonderful thing by helping bereaved parents to build precious memories of their little baby being cherished and cared for. No matter how little or how large the number of items you send, you are all playing a vital part and showing huge amounts of care for people you'll almost certainly never meet.

It is a great privilege to co-ordinate this wonderfully friendly group and to be able to make sure each hospital is able to receive the items they have requested.

Karen B  
July 2015