Knit and Natter *in Liverpool*

WIN hobbycraft

This issue, our club of the month wins a fabulous goodie bag of knitting products worth £50, courtesy of Hobbycraft. For store locations visit ***www.hobbycraft.co.uk****.*

CLAYTON SQUARE KNITTERS

WE LOVE IT when our knitting groups get involved with local charity knitting ventures. So we were especially pleased to discover one set up to help a cause close to our hearts.

Clayton Square Knitters in Liverpool held their first meeting on 19 November 2011, after being set up by *Simply Knitting* reader Liz Shields in response to the magazine's Refuge campaign.

"When *Simply Knitting* launched their project to make blankets for the charity Refuge, I wondered if we could hold a knitathon in Clayton Square Shopping Centre, where I work as a volunteer Chaplain," Liz explains. "I hoped this would encourage more people to come to the centre on the whole, as well as to support the charity and have a bit of fun along the way!"

Liz approached the centre manager Ian Strettle with her thoughts, and he agreed that she could host a knitathon on the premises in aid of the charity, which supports women and children who are at risk of domestic abuse.

"The knitathon took place on 15 October 2011," Liz says. "A lot of people came, a lot of squares were knitted and lots of nattering was done! At the end of the day someone suggested it would be great if we could meet there on a regular basis. I spoke to Ian again, and once again he said yes, so Clayton Square Knitters was born!"

Clayton Square Knitters now comprises about 20 members, with around 15 turning up to each meeting. Ages span from early 20s to late 80s!

In addition to knitting for Refuge, the club has knitted for children's hospice Zoë's Place, for homeless charities, and for a smattering of other causes, and their efforts often attract attention. "One week some Stormtroopers joined us – they were in the shopping centre doing a charity collection for the MS Society, and we actually taught a few to knit a bit!"

The group create a range of knitted wonders, including

Out & about

Great things to see and do in and around Liverpool.

CULTURE

If you are a fan of Liverpool's most famous band, why not visit The Beatles Story? Find out all about how the Fab Four shot to fame at the award-winning Beatles museum. www.beatlesstory.com

Liverpool Cathedral is the largest in England and well worth a visit.

GREAT DAYS OUT

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool is a wonderfully vibrant city. You can take a ferry across the Mersey, ride on a Beatles tour bus or take a city tour. There are also a huge number of museums, two cathedrals to visit, plus Liverpool and Everton football matches to attend. If you fancy some retail therapy, head over to Albert Dock, Liverpool ONE, or, of course, Clayton Square Shopping Centre! For details visit www.visitliverpool.com.

Liverpool ONE, a one-stop destination for high street and designer shopping.

OUT AND ABOUT PHOTO CREDIT: MARKETING LIVERPOOL

Raising money for Zoë's Place, the local children's hospice

Some stormtroopers decide to join in the knitting fun!

Knitted decorations in the centre for Mother's Day

baby clothes, hats and scarves, blankets and toys.

"Last year we knitted a Nativity scene, which was displayed at the centre," Liz remembers. "We also knitted lots of little Christmas gift bags which I filled with sweets to give to all the staff who work in the shops in the centre.

"One member has recently crocheted some little owls and another has knitted teddies that will be sold at her church to help raise money to send one of the congregation members to Ghana. And for Mother's Day in 2013, we knitted and crocheted bunting and flowers that we used to decorate the area where we meet."

It's no wonder they're such a smiley group! Liz is eager to emphasise that being part of the group is beneficial to the members as well as the causes.

"I think everyone enjoys the company and the opportunity to chat and use their skills to help others," Liz enthuses. "Through the group I get to meet people, be a listening ear (for knitting problems and otherwise!), make things to benefit others, link with local charities and learn about their work, teach young people to knit – and, of course, natter!"

Clayton Square Knitters meet on the third Saturday of every month from 11am-3pm in the Upper Mall, Clayton Square Shopping Centre, Great Charlotte Street, Liverpool L1 1QR. All you have to do to join in is turn up. If you want to contact Liz first, you can call the Chaplaincy office on 0151 709 6908, or you can send them an email instead at csknitters@gmail.com. If your knitting group would like to be featured as our club of the month, write to the usual address on page 30 or email us at simplyknitting@futurenet.com.

PS Subscribe and you could save up to £54 off the cover price, get an extra pattern every month and enjoy our free gifts with every issue! Turn to page 46 for more details.

YOUR CLUBS

- **Stitch 'n' Bitch Liverpool meets every Tuesday 5-7.30pm at The White Room, 349 Smithdown Road, Liverpool L18 9UT. For more details, email touringang@aol.com**
- **Merseyside Knit and Natter meets every Wed, 12.30-2.30pm at Crafty Corner, 61 St Mary's Road, Garston, Liverpool. Email suemitchell05@hotmail.co.uk for more information.**
- **Purlesque Knitting Group meets every Sunday, 2-4pm at Cafe at the Bluecoat Centre, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX. Visit www.purlesque-knit.blogspot.co.uk for details.**

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Get in touch and tell us what you're knitting!