

Fundraising Update

Around 12 months ago we received an email from Bev Gray our newest Trustee asking for anyone to help knit tube warmers.



Apparently a patient had knitted one and it snow balled from there and they were being sold across both wards in Gloucestershire Royal and Cheltenham General. They are sold for £5 each and are selling like "hot cakes"

Well I can knit so I took up the challenge but it was slow going as I am not the fastest knitter. I was quite chuffed when I finished my 5th tube and mentioned this to a fellow trustee Michelle. Well the smile fell from my face when she said she had handed over 30 of these tubes.... how had she done it? I could not understand how Michelle a very busy publican and self confessed slow knitter could have achieved this mammoth amount!

I was of course not happy as I had to up my game - she was not going to beat me. I would *knit until my fingers bled* but I would get 30 of these tubes knitted. Now I hear you wonder how hard can it be? So here is the recipe for these darn tube warmers!

Cast on 20 stiches on size 5 or 6 needles. Then knit till you get to 6 foot in length, then cast off. After that, it is just a case of stitching them up to form a tube "*Simples*"! So I decided I needed help. These tube warmers would not knit themselves although I did try to find Harry Potter in the phone book in the hope he could help by casting a spell and indeed get the tubes to knit themselves..... but it turns out he is X-directory!

So I asked my mum and some friends. We soon had 18 and I felt happy that I was catching Michelle up. I then posted on my Facebook page and a few more knitters came forward....soon I would overtake Michelle.!



I contacted Bev and to my horror she told me to slow down as these tube warmers did not sell so well in the hot weather...I was not going to beat Michelle even with me cheating and calling in help.... I am storing them to hand over in the Autumn and carrying on knitting in the hope I can catch or better still over take Michelle's total.

So how did Michelle knit so many I hear you ask? Simple - she cheated too and asked her Mum's bingo group to knit some. Well we are both chuffed at our attempts to knit tube warmers, but even more grateful to all the wonderful secret knitters who knitted so many for us.

A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL. AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PATIENT WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Karen Prior. July 2017