

OUR NEEDLES AND PINS GROUP LEND A HAND AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas Shoeboxes

Early in December our Needles and Pins Group waved off eighty gaily wrapped shoeboxes, filled with toys, sweets , stationery and toiletries and bags of hand knitted blankets too. These will be opened by underprivileged children in Eastern European, who receive very little else at Christmas. Mustard Seed Relief Missions organise an annual appeal and with a team of willing helpers, from Chineham and the Basingstoke area, Sue and John, spent much of the year collecting and sorting, knitting and crocheting to help support it.

Helping Charities during the Rest of the Year

The 40+ group members knit and crochet items for local charities, throughout the year. Currently, they are supporting:

- Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, providing blankets and twiddle muffs to the Dementia Ward and small teddies, hats and mittens to the Neo-natal unit
- The Safe Basingstoke charity, providing crocheted hats, etc. for babies and toddlers
- orphanages in Eastern Europe, providing hats, scarves, mittens, toys and blankets.

Joining the Group

If you'd like to lend a hand, why not join this very friendly and sharing u3a group. Members bring along their own work, any form of knitting, crochet, tapestry, cross stitch, bead work etc. They exchange advice, patterns and ideas, often a supply of donated wool too. For those who can't afford the wool, Sue keeps a supply in her garage. There's usually a workshop or demonstration each month, so lots to do and their work carries on through lockdown on Zoom too.

All our U3a activities can be found at <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/> if you're looking for something to cheer you up throughout the winter. There's even a holiday in Croatia planned for 2021

<https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/excursion-and-holiday-details>. The website now includes an email address for any enquiries: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

Membership will be £15 for January to August 2021, with unlimited access to all the groups, so do give us a try. Joining instructions for new members' applications can be found on our Home Page.

We're looking forward to meeting you.