

SHIPDHAM KNITTERS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL April 2026

Shipdham Knitters is a self-funding not-for-profit group holding two meetings a month. We currently have 27 fully active members attending either or both meetings. We are aware that there are people unable to come to the meetings for whatever reason so from time to time there are knitters who knit at home and pass to us garments for sale or squares to be made into blankets.

Through the year we participated in many village events. Last May we had our stall at the Drynkings and despite the bitterly cold very strong wind we managed to sell a few items to the dog walkers who ventured out that afternoon

In September we had a stall at the craft fair in the church. Also Kathy Newton and I spent an evening at Meeting Point in Dereham for one of their craft evenings where we donated yarn and helped some of their members begin to knit scarves and squares.

October's AGM saw the start of our 15th year, suitably celebrated with cakes and laughter.

November was Remembrance in the church and we donated knitted poppies to Raffles Boutique in Swaffham for their display of a dress made of poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion. We also held a very successful coffee morning with craft stalls, a cake stall and a well-supported large raffle.

In December at the Christmas Tree Festival weekend our tree displayed knitted decorations and we sold knitwear on our stall in aid of the church funds. At Christmas we put together a hamper to give to NARS (Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service)

In January a lorry went out from Dereham deep into Ukraine carrying much needed supplies and warm clothing so we emptied our stock of knitted garments to help those so desperately in need; some items also went to a women's refuge here in Norfolk.

During the year we are pleased to have been able to donate money to four charities

Recently we received a very generous anonymous donation of £100 to buy yarn for which we are truly grateful.

We are currently knitting for the hospital making baby blankets, twiddle muffs and lap blankets for dementia patients, and adult hats for chemotherapy patients as well as replenishing our stock of items to sell at forthcoming village events.

In March Kathy Newton stepped down as our long-serving chairman. We presented her with a gift and flowers and celebrated her valuable time in charge with tea and cakes as she passed the baton to me to continue our philosophy of friendship, fun and caring about one another whilst supporting charities, village events and the NHS.

Audrey Bloomsbury.
Chairman, Shipdham Knitters