

A couple of times a month the Small Room at Burnham library transforms into something really special. Walk past the “books for sale” shelf and you will find a room filled with all kinds of wool, fabric and needles accompanied by friendly voices and happy chit-chat.

“Sew, Knit and Natter” encompasses as wide a range of creative tasks as you could ever hope to see. Bags have been made from shower curtains, shop-bought jumpers transformed into unique cardigans and furry throws turned into onesies. There is no set programme so what you do each time depends entirely on you. Maybe you are half way through a pattern and need a little help. Maybe you have an idea for a new project but don’t know where to start. Maybe you are just fine with your current piece but appreciate the company of like-minded people while you complete it.

We’ve knitted squares for charity blankets and crocheted poppies for Remembrance. I’ve seen complete newcomers leave with a finished piece of crochet. I love to knit but the sight of the sewing machines stirred up some long forgotten memories. I hadn’t used one since my school days but with some guidance from Pat I was well away.

I would say that the only limit is your imagination but that’s not true. If you find your ideas have run dry all you need to do is look around. Every person who attends brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with them and every one of them is willing to share their skills and inspiration.

Not every project has to be a masterpiece. Sometimes it’s nice to bring along a piece of mindless mending to work on while you have a good chat. The nattering itself can be the most important part. We learn a lot from each other and have a laugh along the way. The group has taught me a lot about the library and the local community. I’ve taken part in events and met people I wouldn’t have before and now feel a part of local life, all while being creative. Sometimes all it takes is a few tools, good company and the opportunity you’ve been waiting for so why not come along? Cast on, thread a needle or simply say hello. Who knows where it might lead?

*Katie Ayers*