

Invitation for your group to join:
'The Knit a Natty Key Ring Campaign'
To raise money for
Breakthrough Breast Cancer



A BIT OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hello, my name is Wendy Else from Matlock in Derbyshire.

After being diagnosed and treated for Breast Cancer in 2004, and now with an excellent prognosis (touch wood) I decided to try to give something back and help others in the form of fundraising for research into Cancer. In 2005, family and friends helped me to organise an Autumn Fayre and Coffee morning in our local town of Matlock which raised £1300, and last year, another similar event raised £2150 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Cancer Research U.K.

I have another Coffee Morning & Autumn Fayre planned for this year, however, about 2 weeks ago after being given a large bag of wool, I started thinking what to do that might be a bit different, and I came up with what I hope is a novel and exciting idea, which could involve individuals (those who enjoy knitting anyway) from all over the UK, hence this e-mail to your group. So whilst you 'knit and natter' would you consider helping me to knit 850 key rings (which would be one key ring for every person diagnosed with Breast Cancer in one week in the UK), which I will eventually sell to fund raise.

I hope that I've sown the seeds of interest in this campaign – if you would kindly let the members of your group look at these pages at your next meeting, I would be grateful. You could then all decide whether to take part in the challenge.

THE CONCEPT

The idea is to produce miniature knitted sweaters and handbags similar to the ones shown on these pages. I would provide the basic pattern and the split rings for the items – we ask you to provide the small bits of wool and ribbons etc to knit, sew and decorate the handbag or sweater as you wish and then return them to myself to be fitted with the final key ring ready for selling.



THE KNITTING NITTY GRITTY!

- Any colour or yarn type you like, however, the finished knit should have pink on it in some way (ie. wool, decoration material etc) to link up with the Breast Cancer theme. As you can see I have decorated my sweaters with an embroidered pink ribbon as this is obviously an important symbol to me.
- The sweater with a scarf as this does make a neater finish to the neckline especially when sewing in the split ring.
- Decorated however you like – plain or really go to town, anything goes i.e. sequins, beads, embroidery, fancy ribbons, a small design knitted onto the sweater front etc.etc.

When you've produced the item, I would ask you to send it to me, together with your completed label (given to you by us), what I would then do is package and label it with the name of the knitter and the area they are from, and then give it a unique number (more about that later).

THE SELLING BIT

The plan for this at present would be to offer you, your friends and family, the chance to purchase one or more key rings back from us and of course we will also be selling them at our fundraising events throughout the year. When you place an order to purchase (all details on last page) a random selection would be sent out to your group, thus you would purchase someone else's knit which could come from any Knitting group taking part over the UK, to admire and indeed use! If you would like to buy a key ring we would suggest a donation of £2.50, however, you could send more or less – all monies received will go to the charity - Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

YOUR UNIQUE NUMBER

As to the unique numbers – each key ring sent in will be given a number and entered into our Lucky Draw at our Autumn Fayre later this year. Our lucky winners will win donated knitting wools and related items.



And finally,.....

THE PATTERN – (you could of course substitute your own design but please try to keep to a smallish size. Mine have varied from 2” across the bottom of sweater to 3” across the bottom, depending on the yarn).

SWEATER

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3mm knitting needles and small amounts of Double Knitting wool

Body and sleeves (make two of each)

Begin at lower edge cast on 18 sts for body (14 sts for sleeve)

Work 4 rows in K1,P1 rib.

Now st-st 10 rows for body (8 rows for sleeve)

Shape raglan armholes

Continue in st-st and dec 1 st at each end of next and every following alternate row until 6 sts remain (2 sts remain for sleeve). Cast off.

To make up

Oversew shaped armhole edges of sleeves to armhole edges of body pieces. Oversew row ends of body pieces together, then row ends of sleeves. Turn right side out and decorate as you wish. Now knit the scarf – cast on 4 sts. Garter stitch until work measures approx. 6 ¼ in. Sew the scarf round the neck of the sweater fitting and sewing in the ring as you go. If you wish oversew the cast on edges to close.

HANDBAG – (oblong – small)

Can be knitted or crocheted – oblong size when finished approx. 1 ¾ inch wide and between 1 and 1 ½ inches in height. I knitted, - any stitch, (or double crocheted) 2 pieces the same size, and then another piece to form a kind of gusset around the 2 pieces, decorated the front and then joined together the three pieces with blanket stitch. Some of mine have a bit of stuffing in, and I fitted the ring in as I sewed it up.

HANDBAG – (triangular shape – larger) – very quick to make if you use chunky yarn.

Knitted – any stitch, to measure approx. 2 ½ inches at the bottom and then decreasing as you go up to the handle – you could then cast off and knit another piece to match, or, instead of casting off you could start increasing to end up with a kind of egg timer shape to sew up and fit in the ring as you are stitching it up.

If you feel the rings I send out for the handbags could do with being bigger to match your design, please feel free to substitute your own as you wish. I've sorted through my 'useful' box and used old curtain rings for some of my designs. The key ring itself will be fitted to your item when you send it in – therefore each item will eventually have 2 rings – see pictures.

IN CONCLUSION

If your group is interested could you please let me know by following the steps on Page 5– I'm so excited about this idea and would like to get it off the ground as soon as possible – I realise summer may not be the best time to make this request as many of us find the dark winter months ideal for knitting, however I have made a miniature sweater in just one evening (and I'm not a quick knitter!!!) so if you feel up to the challenge, your participation would be very much appreciated. The key rings shown here are mine and my daughter's handy work.



PAPERWORK!

- If your group is interested in participating, please work through the steps below.

STEP ONE

Initially, to enable us to gauge the response to this fund raising idea would you send me a quick e-mail to let me know.

- a. the number of sweater key rings and handbag key rings your group is willing to knit
- b. the number of key rings you would like to buy
- c. your name, address and group location.

Please send e-mail to v.j.else@btinternet.com

STEP TWO

Once we have your information, we will send your group the key rings and labels to fill in with your details.

STEP THREE

Knit your key rings within your group and enjoy being creative!

STEP FOUR

Return your knitted items to myself along with your group cheque if you also decide to purchase any key rings.

Please make any cheques payable to Mrs. Wendy Else. (If you could combine your orders together at your group it would be helpful thus cutting the cost of postage and packing when we send out your order) and send to Mrs. W.M.Else, The Bailiffs Cottage Farm, Tansley Wood, Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbyshire. DE4 5EX.

STEP FIVE

If you have placed a purchase order, we will send out to you a random selection of Natty Key Rings for you to use and indeed admire the work of other fellow knitters.

STEP SIX

If you are one of our lucky draw winners you will be contacted in November.

STEP SEVEN

When the total of monies raised is finalised we will let you know the grand total of all our combined efforts.

My daughter, Victoria and I are voluntary fund raisers for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Lucy Rogerson from Breakthrough can be contacted by e-mail – lucyr@breakthrough.org.uk or by telephone 020 7025 2431 if you need any details confirming regarding our fund raising campaign.

ALL KEY RINGS MADE AND MONIES RAISED WILL BE
GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

You can of course knit as many as you like!

**Thank you for your time and patience –
hopefully we have persuaded you to take part !!!!**