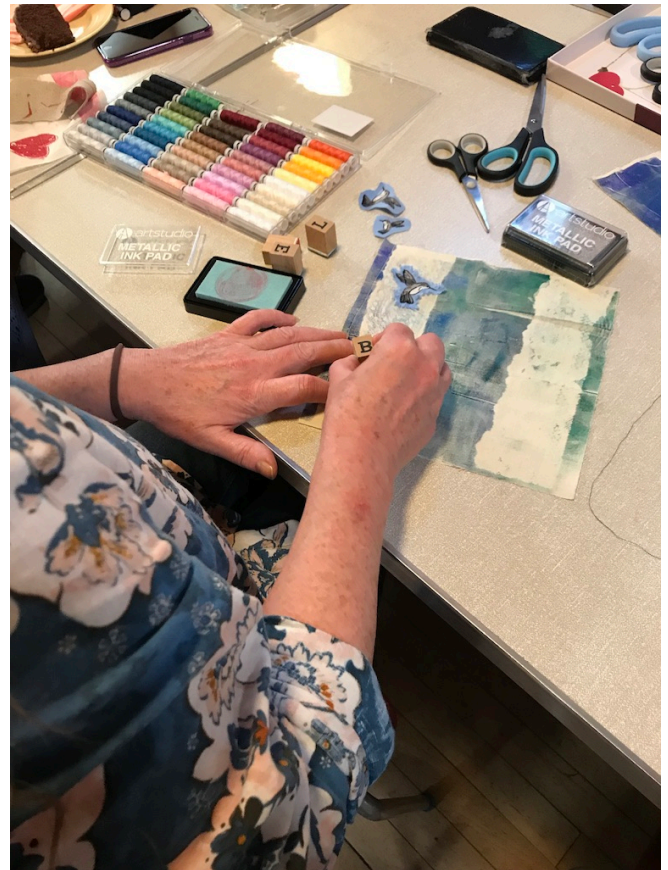




Newsletter – Autumn 2024

In our first 6 months we have:

- Held 35 creative workshops and drop-ins in Norfolk and made things with over 300 people
- Set up regular drop-in sessions in North Walsham and established an on-line stitching group
- Gathered together over 100 memorial squares for our Remembering Together quilts
- Connected with 187 people via our Facebook group
- Set up our website complete with a 'shop' selling craft kits and hand-made goods to raise funds
- Developed partnerships with other community groups
- Secured funding from Norwich Consolidated Charities, National Lottery Awards for All, North Walsham Community Shop, and Norwich Freeman's Charity, which means we can plan ahead
- Recruited the most fabulous and compassionate team of volunteers
- Supported and encouraged people who are bereaved
- Enabled children and their families to have fun through our crafting sessions
- Exceeded our expectations!



Evaluations of our pilot have helped us to decide our next steps – In the next 12 months we want to consolidate and focus our activities in and around North Walsham. We will continue to go further afield by invitation.

Coming up (see flyers):

- Our 'Rainbows of Hope' project will be rolling out in our local libraries and at our drop-ins
- A 'Stitch and Ditch the Stigma' project supporting people's mental health starts in November
- Regular children and family 'Buckets of Joy' crafting sessions
- We are preparing to exhibit the memorial quilts and other art-work.
- We are planning our 2025 'Quilts of Comfort' and 'how to' projects
- Our 'Tree of Love', full of memorial hearts, for grief awareness week

Thank you to our team of volunteers (Janet, Diane, Laura, Andy, Emma, Heather, Rachel, Frances) for their kindness and hard work.

Our 'rainbows of hope' sessions will also be available at: 185 Drayton Road, Norwich 10.30-12.30 on Saturday 12th October

Buckets of Joy

Our workshops and drop-ins:

All our sessions are currently fully-funded and all materials are provided. They are gentle, friendly, and open to everyone. We do not intrude but we are willing to listen and assist people in accessing any support they need. Please see our flyers or www.rememberingtogethercic.com for details

Our activities

Rainbows of Hope



Our FREE rainbow-themed drop-in craft sessions are in local libraries (suitable for all ages):

- **North Walsham (Thursdays 1-3)** – October 10th, November 28th, December 19th
- **Aylsham (Thursdays 1-3)** – October 24th, December 12th
- **Stalham (Tuesdays 3.30.5.30)** – October 8th, November 19th, December 17th
- **Cromer and Sheringham** libraries in the New Year on Tuesday afternoons



Join us for FREE children's craft drop-ins at the Phoenix Community Café in North Walsham (children must be accompanied by an adult):

Wednesday 30th 10.30-2.30 – Halloween bags of joy (dressing up optional).

Wednesday 11th December 10.30-2.30 – Christmas card, gift and decorating session for adults (toddlers welcome).

These sessions are a great opportunity for parents and children to make things together.

We are seeking funding to enable us to put on 'Buckets of Joy' sessions each school holiday.

Tree of Love

Following on from our intergenerational session at Aylsham Library in August, we will be offering opportunities to make memorial hearts during grief awareness week in December. All materials will be provided. People can leave their hearts on one of the trees or take them home. These are drop-in events and a good opportunity to meet the Remembering Together team.

Look out for us Birchwood Medical Practice (2nd December time tbc), North Walsham Community Centre (5th December 2-4), Aylsham library (12th December 1-3).



Our regular sessions

Our **stitched stories online group** meets via zoom every month. This enables people to join us from home. Currently the group have been piloting reminiscence slow-stitching and a collaborative Rainbow of Hope. Please email Caroline for details RememberingTogetherGroup@gmail.com

Create and Chat

We can be found on the third Monday every month at the Black Swan Community pub in North Walsham (7-9 pm) for our 'Create and Chat' drop-in sessions.



This is a friendly and informal group and each month we try a different craft. Coming up:

21st October - Dream catchers
18th November – lights of hope
16th December - Angels and Stars

Men's Shed



We work in collaboration with North Walsham Men's Shed and can regularly be found there. They have just moved premises so we are waiting on dates.

Upcoming Projects

Stitch and Ditch the Stigma

An important part of our work is supporting people's mental health. This project is aimed at supporting people to express their experiences of bereavement and mental health via art. The first of these sessions is Saturday 30th November at 185 Drayton Road, Norwich. We welcome invitations from groups to run a fully-funded Stitch and Ditch session.

'Quilts of Comfort'

We are planning to make some small quilts to gift to people attending Coroner's Court. Please contact Caroline if you are interested in either making quilts or attending quilting bee workshops.

'How to' Workshops

We have been asked to run workshops teaching people sewing skills. If there is enough demand we will run mini-courses in small, supportive groups.

Remembering Together Memorial Quilts

Watch this space for details of our finished quilts and where they will be on display.

Get involved

We are a grass roots organisation and rely on the goodwill and involvement of others. If you would like to volunteer, or join our steering group, we would love to hear from you. We are about to set up a FREE membership scheme so we can keep in touch with people easily.



Please join our **Remembering Together Facebook group**. It is a gentle, kind and creative space where we share details of all our activities and projects.

Fundraising

We are grateful to Norwich Consolidated Charities who funded our Pilot project. Without them we would not have got off the ground.

We were fortunate to receive a National Lottery Awards for All grant which will cover about a third of our core costs over the next two years.

We have just been awarded a grant from Norwich Freeman's Charity which will help us deliver workshops over the next year.

We also received a grant from North Walsham Community Shop for display equipment and a gazebo. The gazebo means we can go out and about. Some of you may have seen us at a Forgotten Fabrics.

Fundraising takes a lot of time and effort and it has been a steep learning curve!



We appreciate all these grants but we need more if we are going to deliver all our exciting plans. We want as much of our activity fully funded so it is accessible. However, we welcome donations! **There is a 'donate' button on our website.**

We are grateful to all the individuals and organisations that have donated us fabric, craft items and equipment. This helps us stretch our funds further. It also often inspires projects as we explore how we could use things!

We want to become self-sustainable. We have created a 'shop' on our website with hand-made goods and craft kits for sale. We will also take our wonderful products to public events. Our kits are designed to support people with their wellbeing and make a perfect gift. Please do look at our shop and consider doing some Christmas shopping with us.



Please take a look at our website

www.rememberingtogethercic.com

Email Caroline at

RememberingTogetherGroup@gmail.com

Remembering Together is a non-profit organisation (registration 15427993) that supports bereaved people through creative arts projects.

