

Dear All,

I apologise for my erratic schedule for newsletters. I am very conscious that you are all keen to know how Cuddles is doing and to know how much the items you make are appreciated by the hospitals. I have added all the lovely comments the midwives and maternity staff have made about the clothes and items they have received from Cuddles which are very heart warming and so nice to know how much comfort they give to the parents as well as help to the staff.

Thank you all for the parcels you send me; always a delight on Monday morning to call in at the sorting office, wondering how many parcels there will be, and the look of relief from the postal staff that they can get them out their way! You have all been very helpful including your details in the parcels, and don't think I have had any un-identified ones recently. Consequently we have good stocks of our range of items. I know many of you ask what is need, I can only say to knit and crochet whatever you enjoy the most and the love and care you put into each items shows through. My only comment would be to remember Cuddles speciality which is supplying clothing for the tiniest lost babies to give them dignity and comfort to the family. These are not baby clothes but clothes for a special little person and they need to be small, simple and delicate in plain or neutral colours.

Thanks to my patient, long suffering husband and his design skills the new website is now up and running. This is the link to it – <http://www.cuddlesuk.co.uk> – have a look and I hope you all approve. I don't fully understand this bit but, my husband tells me that the more 'hits' (people looking at the site) we get the higher Cuddles site will appear on Google, so please spread the word to keep us on top.

I am still in the process of changing the bank account. It has proved to be a little more complicated than I anticipated but think we are getting there. My main reason for wanting to change is that Santander charge £7.50 per month bank charges. This is a big chunk of our resorces and the bank account is steadily dwindling. The current balance is £1818.90 and I am very grateful to you who use the Easy Fundraising site which raised £60.02 and to Mr & Mrs Heaney who donated £100. Their daughter lost twin boys and the hospital supplied them with tiny cribs made by Cuddles members; their kind comments are on the last page. I appreciate that you all pay for the yarn and materials, postage and packaging that you need and I certainly don't want to ask members for a donation but, If anyone has any ideas for fundraising I would be pleased to hear them.

We have many new members joining through Facebook. I try to send you a 'Welcome' message but if I have overlooked you- forgive me. There is an amazing amount of help, support and advice found here for anyone that is unsure about a pattern or materials to use or just wants a chat about something.

Cuddles has supplied over 20 different hospitals with items over the last six months and one funeral director based in Belfast. He requested anything we could spare and having sent him four boxes of items he then sent them out to the local hospitals and that in turn resulted in two requests from other Irish hospitals. I will send an email to our hospital list with details of the new website - lest they should forget what Cuddles can offer.

Well, think I have said enough. As always I am so grateful for your continued support for me as co-ordinator of Cuddles, but what you do is the important part. I cannot tell you how amazingly beautiful and exquisite are the items you make and send. The comments below will show you how much the hospital staff, parents and families of these little lost ones appreciated too.

With love

Ann