
Sewing 2026

January 2026:

January started with a great turnout - 17 of us, including 3 new members. We almost ran out of tables to use! Sandra (Groups Coordinator) and Cheryl (Membership Secretary) also came along to see what we are up to.

A few of us used some of our fabric scraps (all sewers have a stash taking up space in our cupboards at home) to make some cable tidies and bag tags. Simple ideas to make something useful with a bit of fabric we couldn't bear to throw away.

Next month we'll be making reusable cleansing pads. Again, we'll be able to use more scraps for the fronts and soft fleece for the backs. Making these saves having to keep buying pads as ours are washable.

A number of our group bring their own projects to work on. We have quite an eclectic mix between us.

I've been updating the Sewing Group webpage. There are around 30 patterns with instructions for anyone to try, along with Hints & Tips and Ideas. Have a browse and see if anything appeals to you. I love sharing ideas with likeminded people.

Susan

February 2026

We received a thank you note from Maggie's Centre for the post-surgery drain bags we made and donated. They were delighted to receive them and we will make some more over the coming months. Thanks go to Gayle for delivering them for us.

This month saw some of us making reusable cleansing pads using fleece and towelling. They make nice gifts for loved ones (or indeed yourself) by putting 8 pads into a small fabric basket with a piece of ribbon tied in a bow around the pads. I certainly did a roaring trade at the golf club when I was fundraising for the Captain's Charity.





I used the fabric bins I made recently to transport the fleece and towelling pieces to the meeting. I used appliqué to add the bunny and the cat to the fronts. Rather than using some decorative hand-sewn stitches, I used the zigzag on my sewing machine instead. If you fancy having a go at some appliqué, get in touch with Jacqueline Taylor, who is Convenor for the Creative Appliqué group. She has lots of ideas and patterns plus lots of experience in all things related to this craft.



Others continued with their own projects and it was a hive of activities. It's always great to see what others are doing and it can also be inspiring. Some of us have projects that we started years ago and suddenly decide it's time to bring them out and get them finished.



May 2026: ACROSS THE ROAD

We had a slight hiccup this month. On arrival at the fire station, we discovered the rooms were booked out for interviewing and we weren't notified. Fortunately, a quick call to the Pentecostal Church meant they were able to accommodate us with only 10 minutes notice – thank you so much for that.

We did the British thing of 'keep calm and carry on' and made the best of it. It's probably a good thing there were only 12 of us.



Everyone had brought something to do and, even though the project to make sunglasses cases and phone covers didn't happen, we will give it a go at the next meeting.

June 2026: FABRIC BINS

Back to the fire station in June and only had one room so, again, made the most of it without using our machines.



The fabric bin shows what you can do with some colourful scraps of fabric and buttons.



July 2026: Community Quilt

A few of us stitched panels that will be included in a Community Quilt for *Framework*.

They are celebrating '25 years of our incredible community supporters who have helped change 250,000 lives'.

All sorts of groups are making panels to go into the quilt – they need 250 in total.

The finished quilt will be unveiled at Southwell Minster during Framework's Annual Carol Service on 4th December.



After the launch, it will tour locations across the East Midlands. It was something very different from other charity things we've done. Which reminds me, I need to make more drain dollies for Nottingham City Hospital.

September 2026: Making Earbud Pouches

September saw us back at the fire station and making some earbud pouches. These pouches are useful for keeping all sorts of things in: hearing aid batteries; jewellery when you go away on holiday and need to store earrings or other items; small quantities of pills; a little change.

Having a pouch means no scrabbling through your handbag to find what you are looking for. There can be secure in a zipped pocket inside your bag, but there's probably other stuff in there too! It's another great way to use up scraps of fabric.



Also, another one of our members Davina, made this lovely bag. It has lots of pockets which come in handy for keeping sewing items – scissors, thread, that sort of thing.

