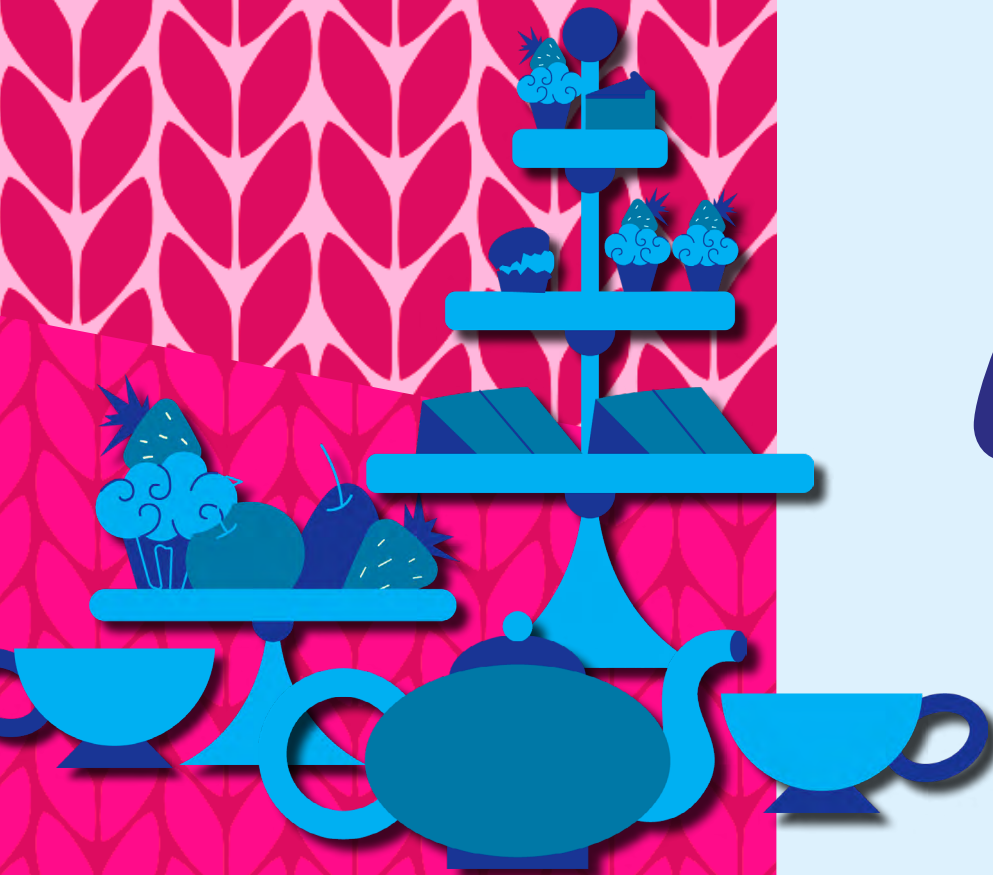


LET'S GET KNITTING:

A GUIDE TO HOSTING YOUR OWN

Big Knit Little Tea Party





WELCOME

Thank you for being a part of the Big Knit

By hosting a Big Knit Little Tea Party, you are bringing people together while supporting older people across Surrey.

Whether you are a knitting or crochet group, care home, community cafe or simply a group of friends, your gathering can make a real difference.

Put the kettle on, gather your wool (new or well-loved), and let's get knitting!

ABOUT THE BIG KNIT

The Big Knit is a nationwide partnership between Innocent Drinks and Age UK. Volunteers across the country knit or crochet little woolly hats that are placed on smoothie bottles sold across the UK.

For every hatted bottle sold, 30p is donated to local Age UK charities - including Age UK Surrey - helping support older people in our community.

By taking part, you are helping Age UK Surrey reduce loneliness, offer practical support and create opportunities for connection and wellbeing.

Every little hat helps spark conversation, reduce loneliness and bring people together.



WHY IT MATTERS

The Big Knit is so much more than little hats.

Every hat helps raise vital funds for older people across Surrey while bringing communities together through conversation, creativity and shared moments.

Knitting and crochet can also support wellbeing and mindfulness, offering a calming and meaningful way to connect with others.

Many groups also enjoy the sustainable side of the campaign by reusing leftover wool and giving materials a new purpose.

Here is just a small snapshot of the many ways Age UK Surrey supports older people every day. [Click to find out more:](#)



Your little hats help make services like these possible.



1

KNIT YOUR HAT

Create a tiny woolly hat - simple, creative and full of care.

DROP IT OFF

Bring your hats to Age UK Surrey or a local collection point.

2



3



HATS MEETS DRINKS

Your hats are sent to Innocent Drinks, where they are placed on smoothie bottles.

4



IN THE SHOPS

The hatted bottles appear in supermarkets for one month in 2027 across the UK.

5



EVERY PURCHASE GIVES

For every bottle sold, 30p is donated to Age UK Surrey to support older people locally.

6



REAL IMPACT

Your small hat helps spark connection, reduce loneliness and fund vital support.

JOURNEY OF THE LITTLE KNITTED HAT

Six steps from your knitting needles or crochet hooks to making a real difference.

WHAT IS THE BIG KNIT LITTLE TEA PARTY?

A relaxed gathering where people come together to knit hats, share tea and cake and support the Big Knit campaign.

It can be:

- A knitting group session
- A care home afternoon
- A community cafe event
- A school or intergenerational activity
- A small gathering of friends

Everyone, of all ages, is welcome - knitters and non-knitters alike!

Put the kettle on, gather your wool (new or well-loved), and let's get knitting.



HOW TO HOST YOUR TEA PARTY

Hosting a tea party is easy, fun and flexible. You can keep it simple or make it a special event.

The most important ingredients are good company, a warm drink and plenty of creativity. And cake – let's not forget cake!

Choose Your Date and Venue

Select a space that feels welcoming and accessible.

Invite Guests

Use email, posters, newsletters or social media to spread the word. Encourage people to bring wool and their creativity.

We have created themed posters, invitations, bunting, cake toppers and more to help you bring about the best Big Knit Little Tea Party - see Page 7

Prepare Your Space

- Tea, coffee and cake
- Wool, needles and hat patterns
- Optional donation jar
- Display area for finished hats

Knit, Chat and Celebrate

- Create a relaxed atmosphere
- Share stories
- Encourage creativity
- Take a group photo with your hats

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to host your tea party. Keep it simple, have fun and enjoy bringing people together.



MAKE IT YOUR OWN - UPCYCLING IDEAS

You do not need to buy anything new. In fact, we love seeing hats made from materials you already have. Upcycling is a wonderful way to get creative while reducing waste. You might use:

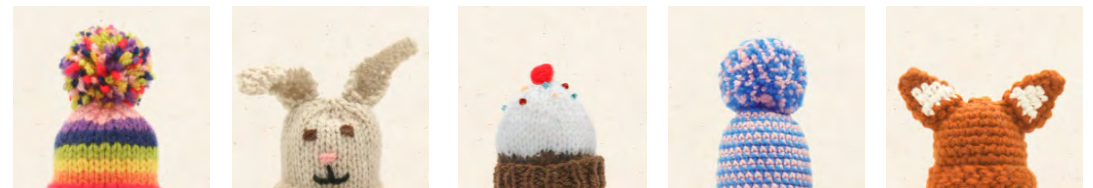
- Leftover wool from past projects
- Unravelled jumpers or scarves
- Odd bits of wool waiting for a purpose

Every hat tells a story. And, often the most special ones start with something already loved.

It is all part of turning something small into something meaningful.

HAT MAKING MADE EASY

Use Big Knit patterns or create your own. Knit or crochet - both are very welcome! Click on the image below for simple patterns to help you get started.



You will need:

- Double knitting wool
- 4mm needles and/or a crochet hook
- Scissors
- Pom-poms - optional but encouraged!

For even more ideas and official Big Knit patterns, visit our [WEBSITE](#).

Themed hats are always welcome.

Seasonal, playful, colourful...just have fun!



TIPS TO THROW A PARTY EVERYONE LOVES

While each hat raises funds through Innocent Drinks, your tea party can also raise additional support for Age UK Surrey. Ideas include:

- Suggested donation per guest
- Cake sale
- Small raffle
- “Sponsor a Hat” Challenge

Help spread the word and inspire others. Your stories will encourage others to be a part of this exciting campaign.

- Take photos of your group
- Share your hats proudly
- Tag Age UK Surrey - @ageuksurrey
- Use #BigKnit #ageuksurrey #innocentdrinks #surreymatters
- **EMAIL** us your photos and stories

Knitting and crochet bring people together, encourage creativity and can be a wonderfully calming activity for wellbeing and mindfulness.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS & ORGANISATION

We have created themed posters, invitations, bunting, cake toppers and more to help you create the best Big Knit Little Tea Party! Click below:

- **Themed posters for display**
- **Invitation template**
- **Themed bunting**
- **Themed cake toppers**
- **Sponsorship / Fundraising form for donations**



AFTER YOUR EVENT

- Count and send in donations
- Arrange hat collection or drop-off
- Share your photos with Age UK Surrey
- Thank your guests
- Celebrate your impact

You have helped create connection and that truly matters.

WHERE TO DROP YOUR HATS

Your knitted creations can be sent directly to Age UK Surrey or to one of our drop-off locations.

- Age UK Surrey
Clockhouse Community Centre, Chapel Lane, **Milford** GU8 5EZ
- Age UK Surrey Store, 128 Walton Road, **East Molesey** KT8 0HP
- Age UK Surrey Vintage Store, 9-11 Junction Place, **Haslemere** GU27 1LE
- Age UK Surrey Vintage Store, 23 High Street, **Lingfield** RH7 6AA
- Age UK Surrey Help at Home, The Westway Community Café and Wellbeing Centre, Chaldon Road, **Caterham** CR3 5PG

Every hat you drop off becomes part of something much bigger.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A few helpful answers to make hosting your own Big Knit Little Tea Party feel simple, relaxed and enjoyable.

Do I need to be an experienced knitter or crocheter?

Not at all. Beginners are very welcome!
It is all about having a go and enjoying the moment.

Can we crochet as well as knit?

Yes, absolutely! Crochet hats are just as welcome as knitted ones.

Can people join even if they do not knit or crochet?

Absolutely! Everyone is welcome for tea, cake, conversation or simply to be part of the community.

Do we have to host a formal event?

Not at all. It can be as simple as weaving it into an existing group, cafe gathering, community meet-up or a relaxed get-together with friends and family.

Do we need to register our event?

It is not required, but we would love to hear from you so we can support you and celebrate what you are doing.

Do we need to raise money at the tea party?

No. Every hat already helps raise funds through the Big Knit.
Any additional fundraising is entirely optional and very much appreciated.

Do hats need to be a specific size or style?

Yes. Hats need to fit Innocent Drink bottles, so we suggest using official patterns as a guide. That said, there is plenty of room for creativity with colours and designs.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - 2

Where can we find patterns for little hats?

You can use official Big Knit patterns or create your own designs - both are very welcome. Some patterns to help you get started can be found here:

www.ageuk.org.uk/surrey/get-involved/big-knit/

Simple, creative, colourful...there is no right or wrong way. Have fun with it!

Do the hats need to be perfect?

Not at all. Every hat is appreciated.

The care and creativity behind each one is what matters most.

What if we only make a few hats?

Every single hat makes a difference. It all adds up.

There is no right or wrong way to take part. Enjoy making it your own!

What do we do with the hats once they are made?

You can send or drop them off to Age UK Surrey in Milford or at any of the designated drop-off locations listed in this guide (see page 8).

Are there posters or materials we can use to spread the word?

Yes! We have shared a set of materials (see page 7), including bunting, cake toppers, posters and invitations to help you promote your tea party and make it easy to bring to life.

Who does the Big Knit support?

The Big Knit is a national campaign run by Age UK in partnership with Innocent Drinks.

Is Age UK Surrey the same as Age UK?

Not quite. Age UK is the national charity, while Age UK Surrey is an independent local charity and part of the Age UK network. Although we share the same mission and brand, Age UK Surrey raises its own funds to provide services specifically for older people living in Surrey.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - 3

What happens to the hats that we knit?

Once the hats are collected by Age UK Surrey, they are sent to Innocent Drinks to be collated alongside hats from groups and supporters across the country as part of the nationwide Big Knit campaign.

The hats are then placed onto Innocent smoothie bottles, which appear in shops and supermarkets across the UK for a limited time in 2027. For every bottle sold with a hat, 30p is donated to Age UK Surrey, helping support older people locally through services that reduce loneliness and create connection.

What happens to the little hats after the smoothie is sold?

That is entirely up to the person who buys it! We have seen the hats reused as tiny hats for Jellycats and teddy bears, Christmas decorations, gift toppers, gear stick covers, dolls' house accessories and keepsakes. We love seeing the creative ways people give these little hats a second life.

When do the hats need to be finished?

The final date for sending hats in is **June 2027**. Hats can be collected throughout the year; we recommend getting started now and sending the hats in once you have a batch ready.

Can we share photos or videos from our tea party?

Yes, please! We love seeing your gatherings come to life. Feel free to share your photos, stories and little moments with us - whether it is hats in progress, tea and cake, group pictures or short videos from the day.

You can email them to fundraising@ageuksurrey.org.uk or share on social media by tagging Age UK Surrey and using hashtags like the #bigknit #ageuksurrey #innocentdrinks #surreymatters. Your posts help inspire others to join in and celebrate the joy, creativity & connection behind every hat.

Still have a question? We would love to hear from you.



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL

Thank you for supporting our work.

We are excited to see the hats and the moments you create. Thank you for your support in helping us to raise funds to help people across Surrey remain healthy, independent and connected.

If you have any questions, need ideas or a little guidance, we would love to hear from you - do **EMAIL** us. We are here to help make your Big Knit Little Tea Party as easy and enjoyable as possible.

Fundraising is extremely rewarding and can be both huge fun and a great challenge! We rely on voluntary contributions to fund our range of services. If you would like to get involved by volunteering, or find out more about fundraising or supporting an event, we would love to hear from you.

Age UK Surrey

The Clockhouse Community Centre
Chapel Lane, Milford, Surrey, GU8 5EZ
Tel: 01483 503414
Email: fundraising@ageuksurrey.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/surrey
Registered Charity Number: 1036450

**Please keep in touch
and follow our news on social media.**

