



WOOLLY
MAMMOTH



STITCH WORKS LLC

18 AT HEART
STITCH CELEBRATION

*yarn-bomb

verb

1. Temporary graffiti or street art using yarn displays rather than paint.
2. Non-destructive craft fun.

With thanks to Karen Cheney and Ian Ellis from Selly Oak Neighbourhood Network Scheme and to Birmingham City Council who funded the project..

#sellyoaknns
@SellyOakNNS

**Live Life Laughing,
Doing the things you Love**



***18 at Heart* was a collaborative art project run by Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC in Selly Oak Constituency in 2020.**

A team of community stitchers crafted more than 670 unique tapestry hearts for a 'yarn bomb' of Birmingham's no.18 bus route. The majority of hearts were stitched during the national lockdown, March-June 2020. Collectively the stitchers have contributed around 1500 volunteer hours!

Alongside stitching, we shared memories of being aged 18.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the final planned artwork spanning 5.5 miles along the bus route had to be postponed until 2021.

This catalogue of hearts and memories has been produced as a thank you and keep sake for those who have taken part and to mark the end of the stitching.

Hearts and memories in this publication contributed by:

Denise, Liz, Claire, Valerie, Joaura, Sheila, Helen, Lorraine, Avril, Chris, Sandra, Jean, Jill, Alison, Wendy, Theresa, Kathleen, Caron, Darren, Susan, Diane, Julie, Janice, Joy, Annie, Magda, Anne, Janet, Sandra, Margaret, Grace, Janice, Tina and Suze.



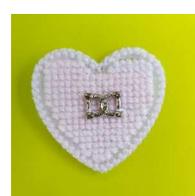
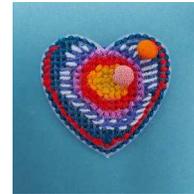
RAINBOWS OF HOPE



GETTING ABOUT



BUTTONS & BITS



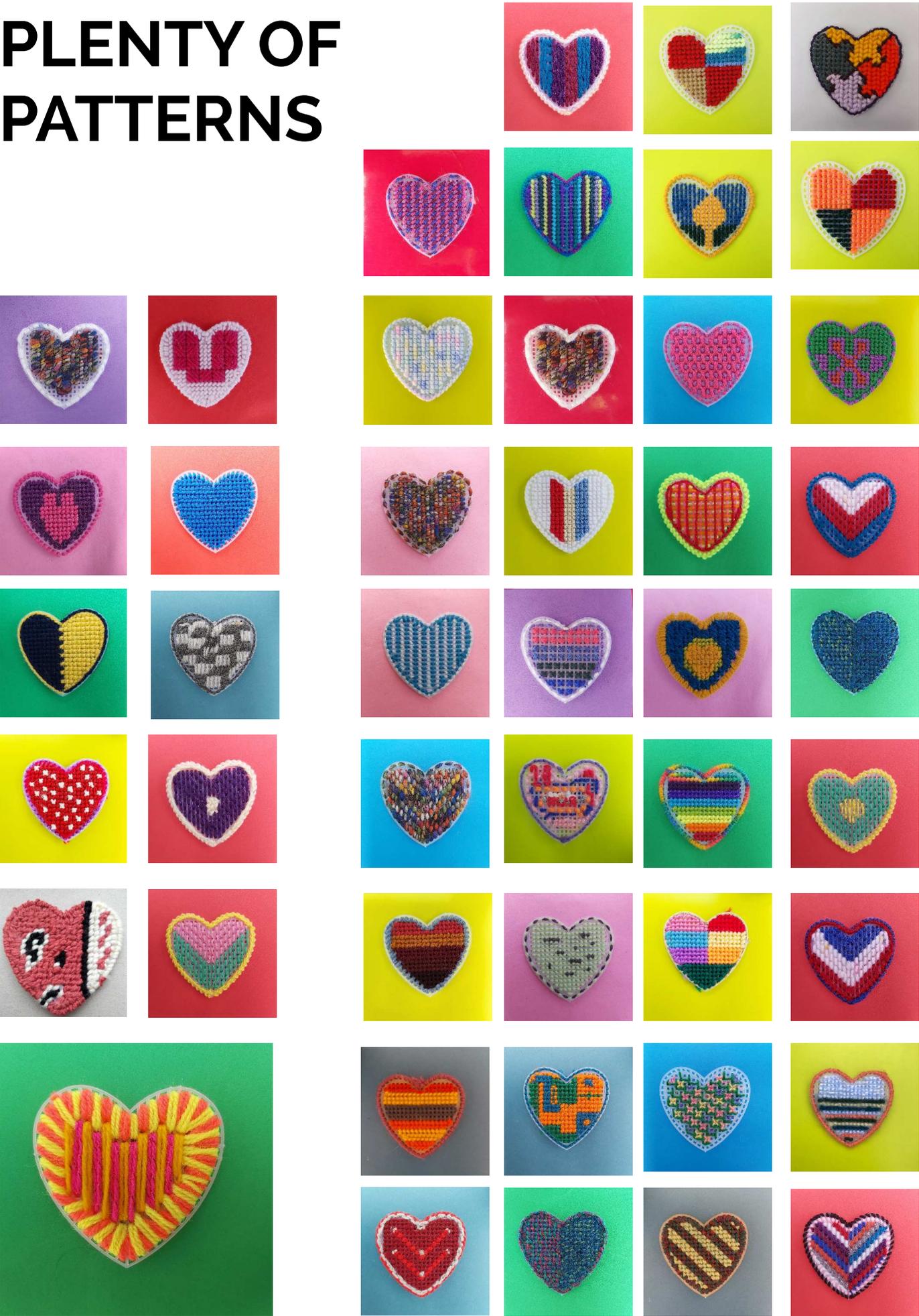
INSECTS



BIRDS



PLENTY OF PATTERNS



"At age 18, I had just started work and on my birthday, I was very shocked to be told that I had to buy cakes for everyone when I hadn't even received a first pay packet."

"I had a "Purdey" haircut along with many other young ladies at the time."

"I remember where I was when I heard of the assassination of President Kennedy on November 22nd 1963. I was at a dance at The Plaza, Rookery Road, Handsworth. I was almost 18."

"I had a Saturday job on the tills in the food hall at Littlewoods. The food hall was downstairs and I worked every school holiday too. No bar codes and scanning at the time. We memorised the prices of everything and we were sometimes tested on our maths skills."

"I was a regular patron of night clubs, having fond memories of Snobs, The Rum Runner, Barbarellas and others."

"Aged 18 I went to Nottingham University and was desperately home-sick. I tried and learned to enjoy natural yoghurt – with a sprinkle of brown sugar - and my Dad sent me a posy of lily of the valley through the post. I also had three simple ornaments in the shape of warriors, with bushy beards and no faces; one was a Viking – Hengis Pod; the second was a Scotsman – Haggis Pod; and the third was a Greek – Senna Pod."

"Aged 18 I worked at Moseley Hall Hospital on the YTS. I went onto residential home senior care. I took the 18 bus from Bartley Green to work and knew all the drivers. I took the 18 bus to a pub called the Bale of Hay. At 18 I met the man of my dreams drinking in Moseley and Kings Heath pubs and had my first dog called Susie."

"I remember the 18th birthday parties sitting on the floor to 'Oops upside your Head'."

"At 18 we would sit in the pub at lunchtime in upper sixth – where the teachers were over the other side of the bar."

"Been reminiscing about when I was 18: starting at Birmingham School of Architecture, Indian print fabrics and patchouli, learning to like beer, an anti-nuclear protest in Germany, narrowboats, Barbarella's..."

"When I was 18, I was awarded bronze and silver medals for speech training and drama."

"Aged 18 was the year I moved out the area and lost contact with my group of friends. At the time people were going to pubs and clubs."

"When I was 18 I lived in Druids Heath. I had a boyfriend with a Triumph Norton Motorbike. He used to take me to Bromsgrove Bikers Café on it. We used to go somewhere called "El Cador" and it had a duke box. I remember listening to "Needles and Pins" by the Searchers. It was the first time I'd seen a man with shoulder length hair – I was so shocked. I was a bit of a rebel. I liked him. It started me looking at men with long hair – including my husband. "

"I was married in 1968 when I was 18. I worked at the same place as my husband. We went to a dance. Someone I did not like was pestering me. "Mick, you'll dance with me", I said. He said, "go on then". And that was that."

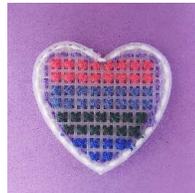
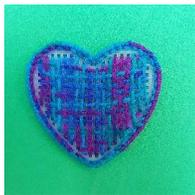
"When I was 18 I was still living in Tamworth (I didn't move over to Birmingham 'til 1996). I was at Tamworth college on a YTS training scheme. Most of my spare time was spent either mooching around the rag market (all those fabulous 2nd hand clothes stalls) or drinking in my favourite Tamworth hostelry Hamlets. It was the best place (still pretty good now, tho' the name had changed), full of a lovely lively bunch of misfits. There were rockers, indie kids, stoners, members of local bands and Goths all fighting to put their 50 pences in the juke box. I remember celebrating my 18th birthday in there with a group of friends. Brian, the landlord came over and asked what we were celebrating, I replied that it was my 18th, he gave me a proper telling off, I'd already been drinking in there for about a year and a half!!

"While stitching the hearts I have been thinking about days gone by travelling on the 18 bus on various outings with my mom and sister - my dad worked long hours to provide for us. It is surprising how memories have come flooding back from realising the colour of the buses have changed to thinking about my school days."

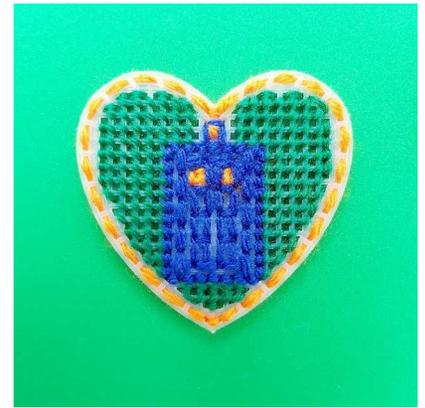
"I have always lived near to and used the 18 bus. When I was a young girl I remember the destination on the front of the 18 bus was Bangham Pit - I always wondered where/what - Bangham Pit was!!"

"We went on a trip to Malta. British soldiers were stationed there at the time and after befriending a few of them, managed to set foot on HMS Hermes."

DAZZLING DESIGNS



HOBBIES & LEISURE

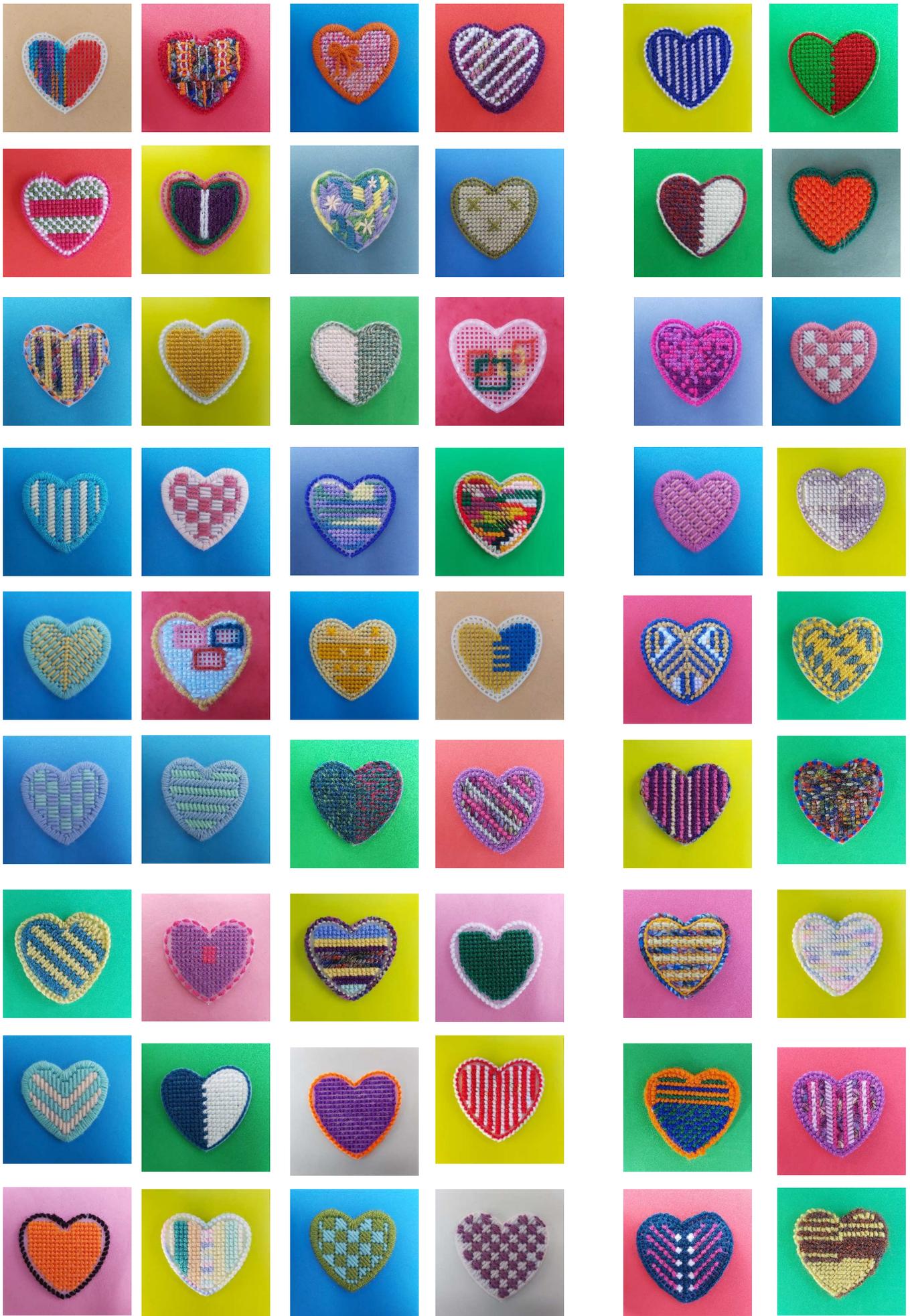


THE WEATHER & SEASONS



PLENTIFUL PATTERNS







ANIMALS



FACES



FLOWER POWER



"We converted to decimal currency when I was 18. I remember the excitement and being allowed out of school to go to the shop over the road to spend some money. It was Monday 15th Feb (1971)."

"At 18 I was married and had a son so was busy looking after him. Elvis Presley was my favourite singer. I also helped to look after my sister who was 4 years old."

"I turned 18 in the summer of 1976, during the heatwave. My room was too hot at night, so I dragged a camp bed into the garden. It was certainly cooler, but I didn't get much sleep, with owls calling as I tried to settle down and foxes barking at dawn. I remember the fraught days revising for my A-levels beside the new garden pond my dad was building. When he put the liner in and filled it with water for the first time, our Labrador jumped straight in and I wasn't far behind! The day before the physics exam, I was cramming frantically when a gust of wind blew all my notes into the pond – I could have cried!"

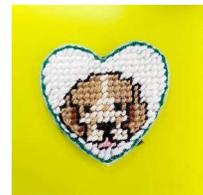
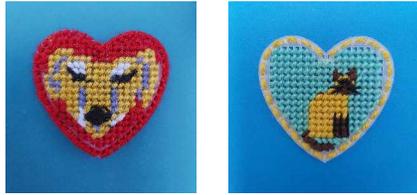
"When I was 18, I went on a Youth Hostelling holiday with a friend and her sister. We stayed at hostels in Ambleside, Ullsewater, Keswick, Buttermere, Derwentwater, Grasmere, Elterwater and Windemere. According to the post cards I sent home (for 3d postage each) I had very painful blisters."

"I went through my 'memories' draw and reminded me of several things that happened when I was (about) 18. When I was 18, I started wearing contact lenses, rather than spectacles. They were brilliant when I went into steaming places. They were so much more convenient than glasses. I was able to wear lenses for about 30 years."

"In the sixth form common room there were arguments between the different groups over the record player and cassette tapes. Between Duran Duran, Japan, Human League, and heavy rock. After weeks of name calling between the different groups I pulled down P.H's trousers in the middle of the common room."

"The heart with the 18172 was my conductor's badge in the 1950s. BCT stands for Birmingham City Transport. The one with the 27 on signifies a single decker bus we operated from Selly Oak Garage."

PETS



THE SEASIDE

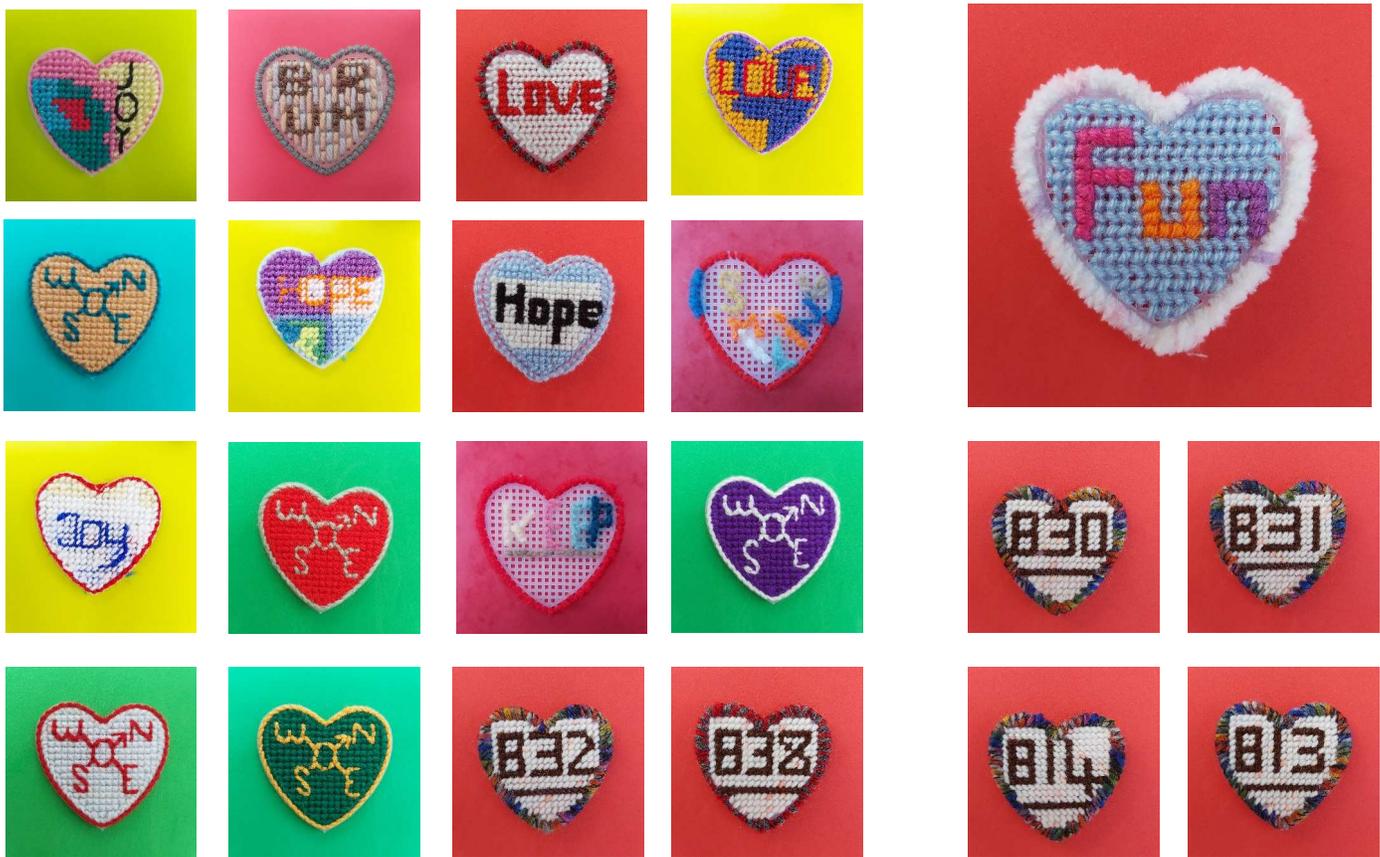


BEAUTIFUL BARGELLO



WORDS





HEART WITHIN A HEART



A-Z

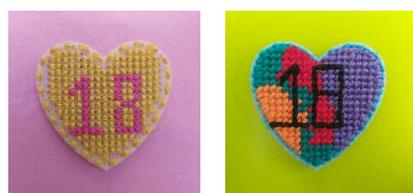
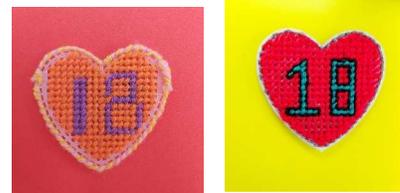
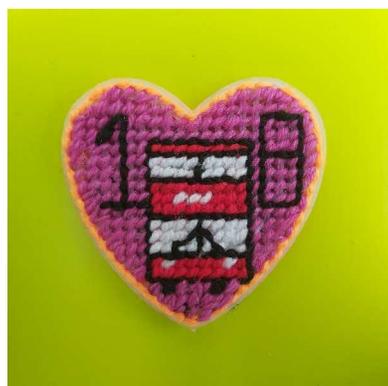
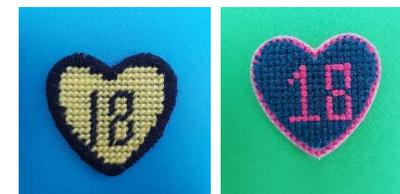
HUNGRY CATERPILLAR



FOOD AND DRINK



18 AT HEART



A PERSONAL JOURNEY



AND FINALLY...



**Over 670 hearts stitched.
Yarn Bomb coming 2021!**

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and supported the project so far.



Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC is a Birmingham-based social enterprise on a social mission to stitch Birmingham's communities together through creative fun and shared purpose to build a connected, content, and colourful city.

www.woollymammothstitch.works

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Selly Oak
NNS

“ Live
Laugh
Love “