

THREADS OF CREATIVITY



THREADS OF CREATIVITY

Threads of Creativity is a community textiles project celebrating the diverse ways Stockport residents have stayed connected and creative throughout the pandemic. It was led by Stockport Culture Champions volunteers.

People from across the north west submitted individual squares via an open call. There were also online sessions held to bring people together, inspire creativity and to share tips and techniques.

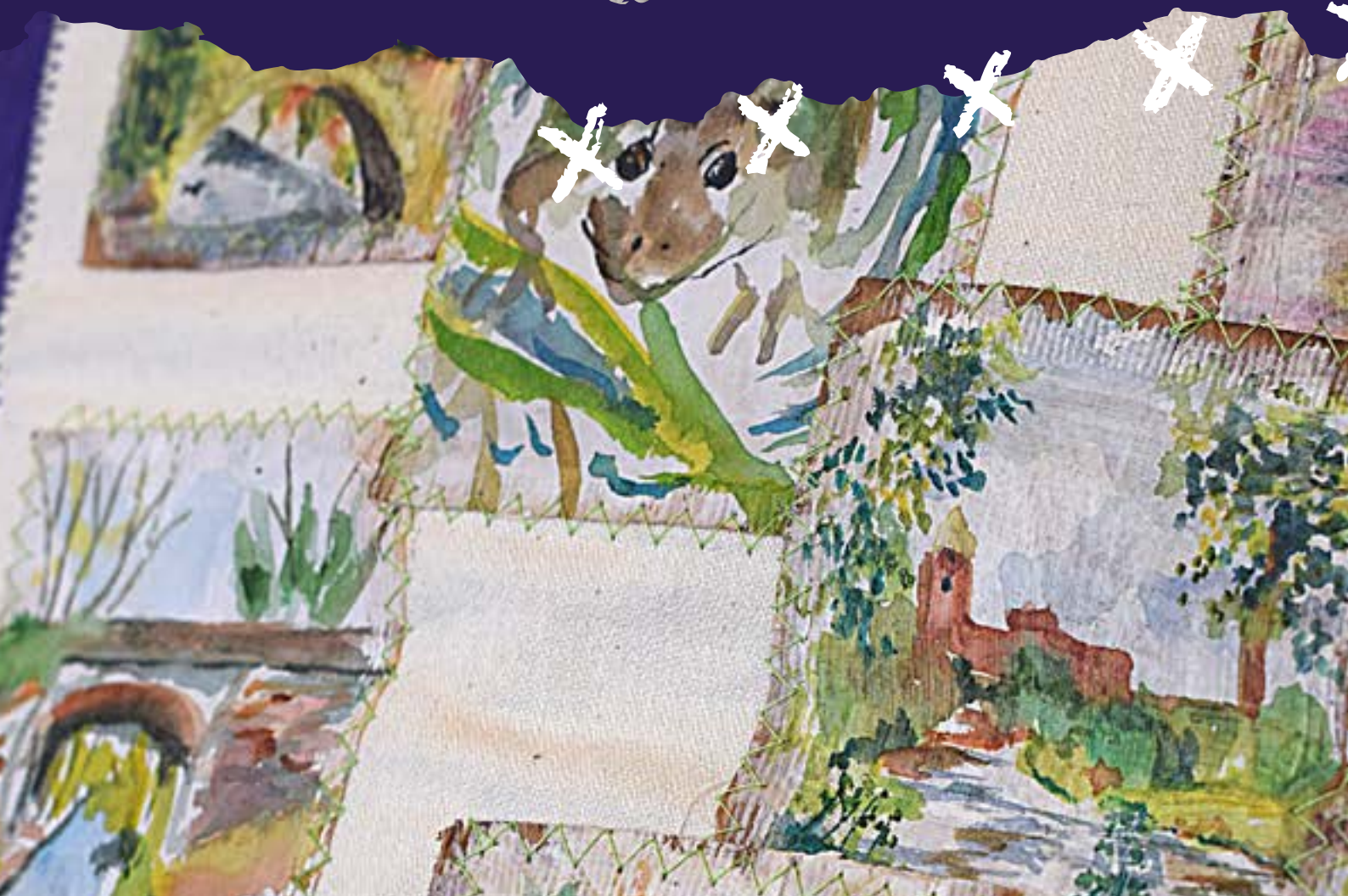
A total of 54 squares were received along with the stories behind them. A core team of dedicated volunteers met most weeks from March to August 2021 to design and stitch the banners, with guest artist support.



A total of 6 banners were sewn together in time for Arc's 'Stockport Together Again' exhibition at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery in September 2021.



www.Arc-Centre.org





1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6

1. Leaf Square by Sandra Evans

My square is a combination of the various things I have been doing during lockdown; walks being mindful of nature, watercolour painting, zen doodle with ink pens and cross stitch embroidery.

2. The Lowry Volunteer Group

We are all volunteers from the Lowry theatre at Salford Quays. When the 3 theatres, galleries, shop and restaurant closed in March 2020 we all felt rather lost. The Lowry was our social life, our friends, our routine and our passion....

3. Anita Draper

During the pandemic I was part of the Culture Buddies mail art project which supported older, isolated adults in Stockport by connecting residents with a volunteer buddy. We all swapped creative ideas through the post and it was rewarding to share my art ideas and receive their new additions and ideas. The participants were provided with their own art pack, so it was fun to explore all the artwork that could be created using those materials.

4. Anita Draper

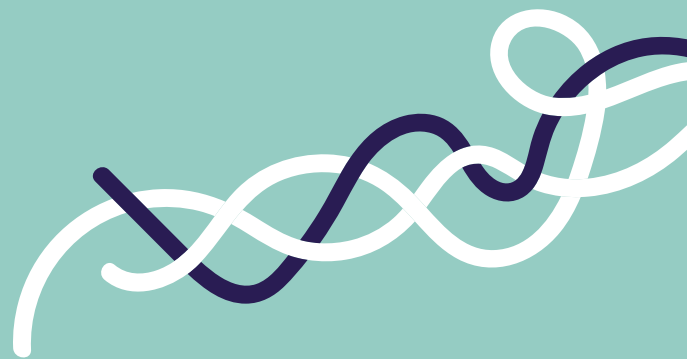
5. Lowry Group 4, 6. Lowry Group 5

7. Anita Draper

8. Rachel Freeley

9. Kirsty Higgins

Crochet is a hobby that I find relaxing, and during lockdown I crocheted NHS Bears for NHS workers that I know and rainbows for people to hang in their windows or for keyrings. Taking part in Arc's first Creative Challenge via Zoom near the beginning of lockdown was a great support and this is one of the techniques I enjoyed. We used polystyrene sheets to create unique designs from our own sketches, then printing ink was rolled over the shapes and the image printed onto fabric. I embellished my designs with embroidery and beads.





1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6

1. Arc Logo by Kath Walls

I used the Arc logo as a centrepiece to represent all the different things going on with Arc during lockdown.

2. Enid Price 1937-2019 by Kathryn Price

Clearing the house during 2020, we found dozens of hankies – Enid always used tissues – so this patch has been made with two with the letter E, one with lacy edging, and a coloured one made into little puffs with shiny buttons.

3. Jacqueline Lacey

My squares represent what I have learned during the pandemic. My favourite is the folded star as it is very striking, plus interesting to make...

4. Midnight Sky by Kath Walls

Response to the Young Peoples' Arc participant song "Midnight Sky".

5. Lowry Group 6

...We quickly adapted by setting up regular Zoom meet-ups, holding monthly online quizzes and chatting via Whatsapp. We met in distanced groups of 6 in the summer, have taken part in several local challenges and initiatives and shared recipes, gardening tips and places to visit in the future....

6. Barbara Aspinall

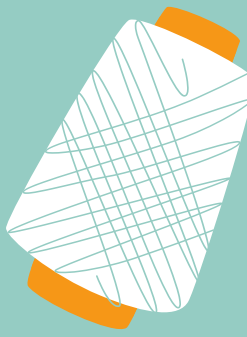
Throughout lockdown my embroidery and sewing kept me going.

7. Jacqueline Lacey

...I am 83 and I have been sewing since the age of 12, making clothes for myself, my friends, my husband and sons and curtains for our house. Since my retirement in 1997 I have been part of sewing and knitting groups and have been an embroiderer at Staircase House since 2005 and Bramall Hall for the last 2 years, helping to create all the soft furnishings...

8. Michelle Higginbottom

9. Lowry Group





1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6



1. Rachel A.

2. Jacqueline Lacey

...I also worked in the team at St Mary's church in creating the 'Story of the A6' banners for Arc, which was very enjoyable.

I'd always used a large table in the guest bedroom to do my machine sewing, but in January 2020 I decided to create a sewing room in the smallest bedroom - little did i know what a lifesaver that room was going to be!...

3. Lowry Group 8

...Together we have supported each other; sharing difficult situations, happy celebrations and keeping our spirits high...

4. Kathryn Price

A mask! Sewn early in the first lockdown, and the elastic wasn't very stretchy and soft, so this one wasn't very comfortable! And goodness, masks have been a part of everyone's pandemic experience. Clearing the house during 2020 we found dozens of hankies altho' the lady always used tissues so this has been made with the lady's initials.

5. Michelle Cullen

6. Stockport & Rivers by Kath Walls

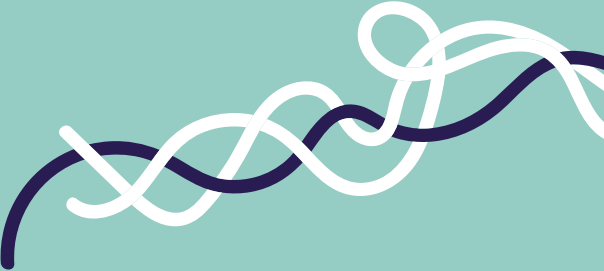
Not being from Stockport I was fascinated, when I first came here, to find it is the birthplace of the famous River Mersey, so made the map of the town showing rivers, not roads.

7. Young People's Song by Anita Draper

8. Lowry Group 2

9. Kathryn Price

At least we can go for walks even if we have to stay local and can only look at the hills in the distance, hoping to be able to travel and walk there soon.





1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6

1. Kathryn Price

Like many families, we couldn't get together at Christmas, so raised a glass of bubbly and opened presents on a Zoom meeting in Stockport, Liverpool and Edinburgh.

2. Anne Littlehailes

During lockdown I was interested in finding a different type of art to try when I came across using buttons to create a piece of artwork.

3. Myra Dipper

4. Rainbows in Windows by Sarah Kelso-Thompson

5. Gillian Oakes

6. Enjoying Gardens on Local Walks by Kath Walls

7. Lowry Group 1

...Our squares have been designed by 10 of our volunteers to show the vast range of things we've been up to – whilst waiting with bated breath until the Lowry can, once again, open its doors to staff, volunteers and our lovely patrons...

8. Kath Tindale

9. Jacqueline Lacey

...Up until lockdown I had only done hand patchwork, so I started to learn as much as I could about machine quilting by watching Youtube videos. Since then I have made patchwork cushions and a runner for my house, cushions for my 2 grandsons, baby quotes for friend's grandchildren and my oldest friend's great grandchild. I even made a whole duvet cover for our bed and plan to make a quote for one of my grandsons.

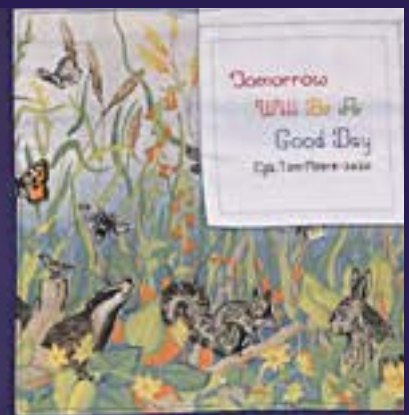
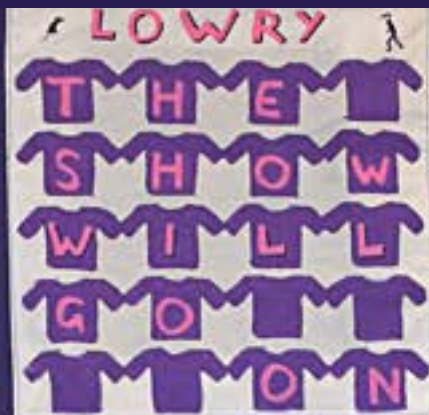




1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6

1. Kath Tindale

2. Lowry Group 7

3. Kathryn Price

A quote from Captain Tom - and the wildlife was thriving in lockdown showing us a reason why tomorrow will be a better day.

4. YPA Christmas Song by Sandra Evans

5. Kirstie Higgins

6. Kathryn Price - Hearts on Tartan

7. Unknown Artist

8. Sending love in the post by Helen Todd

During lockdown I've been writing letters and making cards to send to my family who live miles away and I haven't seen since last summer (apart from Zoom and Face Time). Made from curtain lining and an old sheet with felt stamps and flowers and using a Sizzix machine to cut out the butterfly and hearts. I used basic embroidery stitches to attach and random stitches to represent the addresses.

9. Keeping Us Together by Sandra Evans

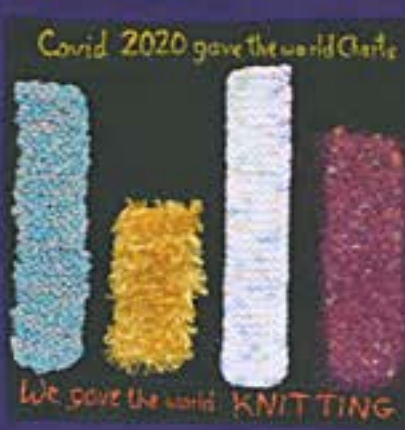
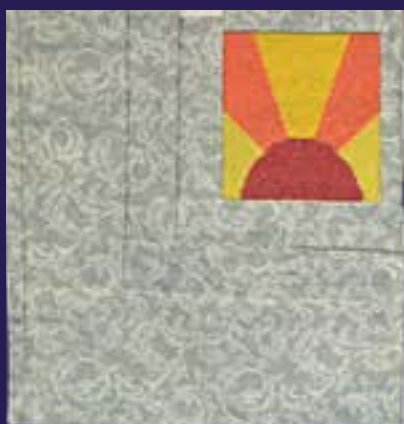




1

2

3



7

8

9

4

5

6

1. John Richard Frederick Price 1932-2020 by Kathryn Price

Beth cross-stitched this sun symbol as a present for her Grandad John (widower of Enid) when he was in hospital after an accident in November 2019, to remind him of the patterned glass in the windows at home. As a little girl, she loved the coloured windows of her grandparents' house, where they'd lived for over fifty years. The cross-stitch was then framed on the wall in his room when he moved to a care home in January 2020. John died of covid in April 2020. The cross stitch has been made up to a 12" patch using leftover curtain fabric from their house.

2. Kathryn Price

During lockdown we've been making bread. This very simple patch was made because Rick got a Beer Bread Mix for Christmas, in this fabric bag. The bread (olive oil and rosemary) was delicious.

3. Drumming Classes by Diana Powell

4. 'Cool Echoey Thing' songwords by Kathryn Price

'My heart is full of light even though it's dark' – the heart is edged with black to hint at darkness outside.

There is a home to come to, with sun seeping through the window, and I hope everything else is suggested, eg question mark for 'Doubt settles in my mind'. I enjoyed the snowflake, and hope the fraying icicles suggest thaw and melting – and just one or two little music notes.

5. Lowry Group 9

6. Kathryn Price

During the first lockdown of 2020 lots of people were sewing for the NHS, but scrubs are a bit complicated so I made laundry bags. The frontline workers could change out of their scrubs, put them in a bag and throw it straight in a washing machine without having to handle the clothes again. If you look very closely this little bag has elephants on the fabric - like an elephant we can never forget what the NHS has done during this crisis.

7. Community Patchwork by Unknown

I enjoyed doing my square for the Community Patchwork Quilt project and look forward to seeing other squares when the quilt is finished.

8. Kathryn Price

Trying to stay optimistic. The sun doesn't always shine, but smiles help.

9. Lockdown Walks by Carole Hughes

Lockdown walks and sketches painted onto tea bags with gesso, watercolour paint and watercolour pen.



We would like to thank all the creative people who submitted to the banners and those who made this project possible with their hard work!

A huge thank you to our Team of Culture Champions volunteers, who have dedicated so much of their time and creative skills to stitch the banners. We would like to thank our funders and volunteer Sandra Evans for securing funding for the materials for the project through Future Fires. We would also like to thank guest artist Yvonne Noworyta.

