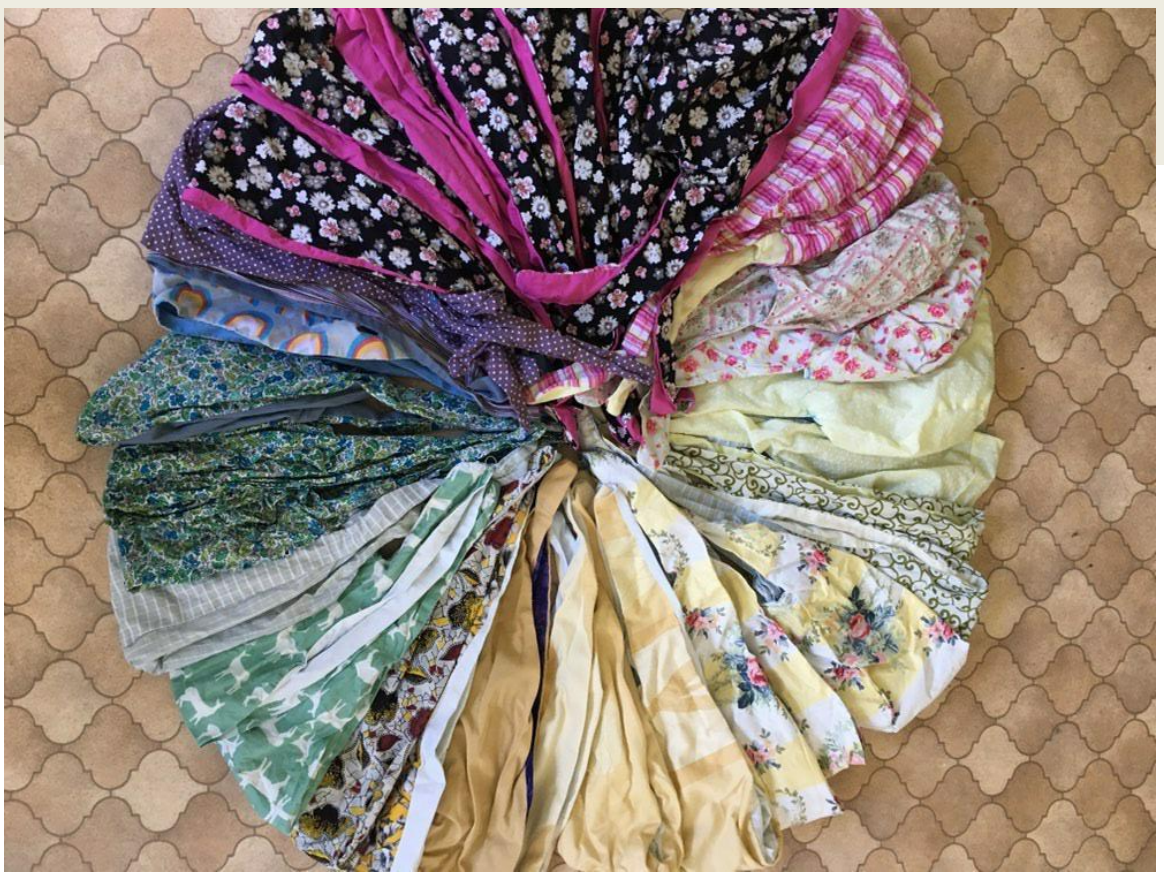
6TH // MAY // ISSUE NUMBER

NEWS AT HOME

WE CAN HARDLY MASK OUR JOY!

Masks and scrub caps



Local Sarah Whiteman's PPE creations

Many make PPE for frontline workers

JESSICA DUNN

All across the country, citizens, schools and businesses have been dusting off their sewing kits and tools to construct vital personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus outbreak. The equipment is then being donated to local frontline workers - such as hospital and care home staff.

Some of the visors sewn at a secondary school

Sew, a needle pulling thread

Some schools, despite being closed for the majority of pupils, have been putting their DT workshops to use in the last few weeks. Schools have risen to the challenge to create PPE for doctors and nurses on the front line during the coronavirus pandemic, with many design and technology departments creating masks or perspex visors for healthcare workers.

Fulford Secondary School in York has so far manufactured an enormous quantity of 1697 visors for frontline workers, with children of key workers joining the team in constructing the equipment. The school relayed on their Twitter how grateful they were for the funding support and donations of acetate – the material used to create the masks.

As well as visors, others have been sewing textile protective equipment at home. Local woman Sarah Whiteman, who is herself a key worker, has so far sewed 60 masks, and 120 scrub caps on her sewing machine.

"Sewing whilst isolating has given me a purpose, and helped me learn new skills. I love that I'm helping doctors and nurses to keep safe. I can't do anything big to help, but I can do this small thing," Miss Whiteman commented.

With increasing numbers of people rediscovering hobbies such as sewing at home, it's anyone's guess how many more will join the challenge to sew for the NHS. Have you been making PPE at home? Send us your pictures to be featured in next week's issue.

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