

## MISSION 5000

In September this year I was at a Zoom meeting, during which Sharon King, who's the MNDA's Regional Fundraiser for the East Midlands, was talking about a future fundraising project, namely Mission 5000. She suggested a number of different ways to cover a mile (or miles) and, I think as an afterthought, suggested it would be possible even to knit a mile of wool. Well, as I'm a knitter, I thought "Wow, I could do that – and I'll make a jumper while I'm doing it.". The bands on most, if not all, balls of wool indicate not only the weight of the ball but also the distance that they cover and, in addition, knitting patterns state how many balls of wool are needed to make a garment, so it was easy to calculate how much I'd need to use a mile of wool and also what I could make with it.

Mission 5000 was to start on 13<sup>th</sup> September and finish on 18<sup>th</sup> October, so I had just over 5 weeks to complete my project. I decided which wool to use from my stash and downloaded a new pattern from the internet and was ready to start on the given day. I'd already bombarded my alto friends from the Northampton Bach Choir, members of St Mary's Church, Wellingborough and my family and other friends with requests for sponsorship and they responded with huge generosity.

I had a few days holiday booked in Stratford on Avon during the period in which Mission 5000 was taking place and my knitting should have come with me – but I left it behind by mistake, so lost 4 knitting days! Nevertheless, I managed to finish the jumper before Mission 5000 came to an end and was pleased with it. By the 18<sup>th</sup> October I'd raised £540 plus some Gift Aid, which took the total going to the MNDA to nearly £600. I was very pleased with the result and thought that was a good finish.

Then, in early November I received notification from Just Giving that a further donation had been made to my Just Giving Page! I had a look and saw that a payment of £52.80 had arrived but it had no name or message against it so I had no idea who'd sent it - and it was a very strange amount. A few days later, a letter arrived from one of my sisters, who's retired and not particularly well off – and I now quote from her letter :

"I finally remembered to send my donation to MND in Roger's memory. I was going to make it a penny an inch until I found out how many inches in a mile! So I made do with a penny a foot."

There are 5,280 feet in a mile, hence the payment of £52.80 (plus the Gift Aid). As at today's date, I've managed to raise £598.20 plus £81.95 in Gift Aid, a total of **£680.15**- and it's all down to the generosity of my (and, of course, my late husband, Roger's) friends.