

## Poppy 'Growing' in Roslin



In November 2018, Poppyscotland asked everyone to celebrate and commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1. In Roslin, we asked if anyone would like to knit some poppies and we were amazed and delighted at the response. Volunteers aged 9 to 90 got out their knitting pins. Local shops ran out of red wool. Patterns were exchanged and shared. Thoughts of possibly getting 100 poppies were soon surpassed and we ended up with about 1000. We wondered how best to display them and it was decided that to stitch them on to a net might be the best idea so we got together and spent some happy hours together fortified by cups of tea.



When they were 'planted', the result was stunning. A beautiful poppy hedge at the War Memorial with more poppies on the hedge behind. So many different shapes and sizes of poppies, so many different shades of red, with a few blue poppies to remember all the horses who lost their lives and a few white as a symbol of peace. They were all stored and were reused on the hedge for Armistice Day 2019.



Further along Penicuik Road, outside the church, we had a Weeping Poppy Tree and inside, poppies on the window ledges.



May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 marked 75 years since the guns fell silent and the Second World War came to an end in Europe. Sadly all events planned to mark the day had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 but in Roslin, some of the poppies were reused outside the church as a small tribute. They certainly gave Little Ted and Tiny Ted who had been flying their balloons in the Wayside Pulpit to spread a little love during the Coronavirus Lockdown a bit of a boost!!



In 2018, Poppyscotland were also encouraging anyone who had floodlights outside buildings to 'Light up Red'. With Rosslyn Chapel and the two Roslin hotels, the church was illuminated red for the duration of the Poppy Appeal. The red filters were fitted again during the Poppy Appeal in 2019 and for VE Day in 2020.

Instructions on how to 'grow' poppies are available.

Winnie Stevenson, May 2020.