

We Ought To Have an Exhibition

An idea we had way back in April became a reality in September. Just why we planned it for six months ahead became clear as time passed. Firstly we invited artists and crafts people to exhibit with us - that was the easy part!



making lists and notes. The day before **THE** day, Lorna Aubrey and I placed the display stands and tables in the hall and turned the Baptist

church into a beautiful 'café'. Autumn berries adorned the tables and the entrance. All was serene.

Rallying Round

Then the idea grew, we could do lunches, teas, have demonstrations and displays; spinning, fabric bags and flowers, knitting and crocheting by Ikniit members, woodwork, felting. Then there was textile work, tapestry, silver jewellery, painting, macramé, patchwork, scrap booking, ArtsKool and something called Kanzashi. 20th Century Yarns from Kingham promised a display of wonderful hand-dyed wool and wool roving for sale. Our Ikniit member and 'yarn bomber' made crocheted bunting to adorn the railings. We could make and print posters and fliers to be distributed from Chipping Norton to Witney and the villages between.

We needed a hall; yes, the Wychwood Baptist Church Hall could accommodate us. We needed tables; yes, St Simon and St Jude's, Milton could lend us some. We needed display stands and picture hooks; yes, Dorothy and Brian Pavey could lend us some. We needed soup makers, cake and bread bakers and a relay of volunteers to help in the kitchen and serve the food. All fell into place as Lorna and I had meetings and some sleepless nights

No Celebrity Needed!

We opened the door at 8am on September 8th, welcomed our exhibitors and helped them display their work. Last minute touches and we were just ready at 10.30am - our opening time. No special celebrity to open the show, we had forgotten that!

A constant stream of visitors came through the door. The 'café' was packed with tea and coffee drinkers and later with soup and pudding eaters, exceeding all our expectations. Great interest was shown in the demonstrations and displays.

Two charities were chosen to benefit from the 'café' takings and donations, the Hope Dragonesti Church in Romania and the Anjali Dance Company in Banbury who teach adults and children with learning difficulties.; each received just over £200. Our thanks go to everyone; exhibitors, volunteers and all who helped in any way to make the day such a success.

Lorna Raye and Enid Hugill

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