

Kings Hill and District U3A

Report on Autumn Show 2019

Our first ever Autumn Show, intended as a 'showcase' for members of certain groups to display the skills and knowledge they have developed through our U3A, along the lines of a village show, proved to be a very positive event. The Community Centre looked wonderful with displays by the Crafts, Quilting and Sewing, Knitting, Art, Photography 2, Flower Arranging and both Gardening groups, individual tables set up by the Board Games, Opera and Ballet, Spanish and Wine Appreciation groups, and individual displays by Phil Pretty and Angelene Rothwell.

Most groups elected to put on displays of their work, but in addition, the Flower Arranging and Gardening groups had entries judged by an experienced external judge, Malcolm Buller. This added to the interest of members and visitors.

Approximately 100 of our U3A members were involved in the event either helping, exhibiting or as visitors, and it was also nice to see a number of grandchildren of members there. People appreciated the chance to look at and discuss the work of the different groups in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone appreciated a slice of Brenda's delicious cake as well!

There are too many people to thank individually here, but a big 'thank you' to everyone who supported this event, which we hope to repeat in the future.

Reports from Individual Groups

Art

This group has recently re-started with a new convenor, and this was a good opportunity to get together and showcase the work we have done.

By coincidence, the show was also held on the birthday of Julian Smith, our first convenor, so we were able to celebrate with a birthday cake as well!



Wendy Griffiths

Crafts

The highlight of September was the Autumn Show. Unfortunately, June was unable to attend being otherwise occupied in Greece, but the ladies in the group were fantastic in not only setting up the table but also sending a report from Pauline Heselgrave and some photographs from Christine Taylor - thank you ladies, I'm very appreciative!



“The show was very good. I thought our table had a wide variety of items and we were talking to people about our projects all the time. There was lots of interest, both from the other exhibitors and visitors. A few people were also interested in joining the group; I think we must have given some inspiration! On the whole, it was a very friendly atmosphere.

Some of us were demonstrating – Pauline Miles doing some Blackwork, Angela Hopkin paper folding, Christine Taylor book folding. Pauline Heselgrave made an embroidery card, and Viv Simpson was crocheting. There was a lot of Oohs and Ahhs as people were looking. Viv went off to the refreshment tables and said she was going to teach someone to crochet! Vivien Brownlow and Mary Anderson were chatting to people all the time, and we all stayed to the end as it was so enjoyable. I thought our work and the other craft type stalls (knitting, quilting, sewing etc.) all looked very professional too.”

Pauline Heselgrave/June Budd

Flower Arranging

The Flower Arranging Group entered their first judged exhibition with a theme of “Autumn Splendour”. Nine members of the group did arrangements, and all were different, but they represented the theme really well.



We were pleased to get the judge’s opinions, as this will help us all in future



competitions. Some of the comments an idea of what not to do next time!

Overall, a very positive experience, which Congratulations to Vivien Brownlow who judge commented that all the entries were of a very high standard, and congratulated all the members on their work.

surprised us, and they definitely gave us

I hope the group members enjoyed. was the winner on the day, but the

Margaret Knock

Gardening Groups 1 and 2

The two gardening groups joined together for this event. There were two judged classes, for dahlias and for three flowering stems, and honours were shared between the two groups. One of our members commented that “From my own point of view, being a first-time exhibitor, it was really interesting to discover what the judge was looking for and to get some feedback.”



Angelene Rothwell from Gardening Group 1 also put on a separate display of her lovely orchids. Thanks to all the gardening group members who contributed.



In addition, there were some lovely exhibits of other flowers, and also impressive displays of fruit and vegetables including show quality leeks and runner beans, and a beautiful apple basket, all showing the pleasure we get from working in our gardens.



Linda Simmonds/Marion May

Knitting

The knitting group took over part of the sewing group's stand and enthusiastically entered into the spirit of their upcycling/recycling theme.

Marion May upcycled an unwanted garment into a lovely cosy snood. Barbara Hunt used oddments of leftover wool to knit an amazing steam engine and baby garments. Barbara Steadman also used leftover bits of wool for her incredible knit.

Diane Kerry knitted an attractive cardigan for a toddler with oddments of wool, and Karen Usher used leftover wool to knit a stunning scarecrow and wife, a pair of slippers and a snood.

Thanks to them all for taking part and showing their work.



Barbara Hunt/Lynda King

Photography Group 2



The photography group put on an impressive display of their recent work, with some eye-catching photographs.

Thanks to everyone for their work in producing the display.



Ian McGill

Quilting and Sewing

Our theme was 'Waste not, want not' and our members showed a wide range of how to use up scraps of material and old clothes and curtains etc. to upcycle into new items, such as quilts, cushions, peg bags, jacket, skirts and bags.



Di Kerry

General Display

In addition to the main displays by group members, there were displays provided by the Board games, Opera & Ballet, Wine Appreciation and Spanish groups with a distinctive Spanish theme, and some excellent specialist displays by two members Phil Pretty and Angelene Rothwell.

All in all, a good time was had by all, helped along by a taster of wine from the 'Spanish Corner', a cup of tea, a piece of cake, and a chance for a good chat!



Elaine Scutt