

CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP

The Creative Craft Group was one of the first Interest Groups to be formed after Heart of England U3A was established in 2001. The first meeting was held at Roma Rudd's home when a programme of workshops for the following year was planned. The first project was a simple cross stitched book mark with initial.

Before long, extra space was needed for the craft afternoons and the annex attached to the Methodist Hall was chosen as an ideal venue for the monthly 2 hour sessions. The cost of each session has been minimal, covering the hire of the hall and the occasional need to purchase special materials. Members have supplied most materials from their stock from home.

The experience and expertise of members has provided the majority of skills needed to complete the selected workshops but occasionally, to add variety, a specialist has been invited to demonstrate a particular craft; eg. beading, silk printing, card making. Many crafts have been enjoyed by members over the years and here are just a few:

Victorian Sewing Box using card and fabric; Boxes using firm card and fabric; Small Box using embroidery on plastic canvas; Fabric covered coat hanger; Knitted cover for coat hanger with lace; Glass Leaves; Japanese Purse using a gentleman's tie; Plastic canvas cottages; Patchwork Cushioncover; Paper making; Flower Crafts; Knitted toys; Picture Frame using shells; Tassel Making; Paper Beads using envelopes; Decorated Eggs for Easter.

Some of the Christmas Crafts: Door Wreath; Candle Decoupage using Christmas Serviettes; Advent Calendar; Tree Decorations; Decorated mini Christmas trees using pine cones and cotton reels.

The Group has also produced projects jointly which have then been sent to special Units . Some examples of these are: Scrap books for the Acorns Children's Hospice; Cuddle Quilts for terminally ill children; Patchwork Quillow which was the main raffle prize at the Christmas meeting in 2008. The Group have recently completed a knitted Nativity Scene which will be exhibited at the Methodist Church Christmas Crib Display and will then be the main raffle prize at the December 2010 meeting.

THE CARD-MAKING CLUB

By January 2005, members were becoming interested in making cards so it was decided to introduce a special sub-group who wished to meet regularly to produce cards for themselves and to learn new techniques. Any cards not required by members were given to Carolyn Leach who set up a sale table at monthly meetings and cards are sold to members at £1 each. All the proceeds from the sale of these cards has been donated to a large number of charities since then. The card makers have also set up tables at local fund-raising events: Art and Craft Fair in St Gregory's Hall in August 2010, The Table Top sale for the Youth Cafe, and at the Methodist Church Christmas Bazaar. Again, all the proceeds from these tables have been donated to the organising Charity.