

# GRAPEVINE

## SPRING 2021

### CRAFTY HINTON

Picking up our series featuring the work of the Art and Craft Club members, in this edition we focus on two more talented villagers, Beryl Francis and Sandra Crumpler.

Beryl started her craft journey with crochet, the beginning of a lifelong love affair with pattern and textiles which led to her joining the Wiltshire Guild of Spinners, Weavers, Dyers and Associated Crafts. There she soon developed a love (and great affinity for) patchwork when the group decided to learn a myriad of techniques from around the world by working through "The Essential Sampler Quilt Book" - all 40 chapters! Many are demonstrated in this gorgeous quilt, which you really need to see 'in the flesh' to appreciate the skill and artistry that has gone into its making.



When she attended a course led by Mike Truman, Beryl found the confidence to join the then Great Hinton Art Group which soon expanded to accommodate a whole range of other arts and crafts, and welcomes all villagers no matter what their skill level. Beryl loves to share her craft, and also enjoys the challenge of learning from other members. As well as painting, she has also tried her hand at silk painting curtesy of Sandra (see right).

But patchwork and fabrics remain Beryl's passion, and she has created many pieces that are both useful and beautiful - just look at the 3D effect in this stunning quilt! Beryl loves the precision of patchwork, the juxtaposition of texture, colour, pattern and shape, and the precision and attention to detail needed to execute the perfect design.



During lockdown Beryl has put her skills to good use and made gifts for friends and family, but she's greatly looking forward to meeting up with old friends and new when the Art and Craft Group is able to get together again - not long now!



Over the years, Sandra Crumpler has tried her hand at a whole range of different arts and crafts, and very successfully too if the photos are anything to go by! As a teenager and in her 20's she made my own dresses and skirts. Then as a mum to three boys she made toddlers dungarees or shorts with applique pictures on them and cuddly toys for friends' children. As the boys got older, it was fancy dress outfits and many 'Blue Peter' style crafts with them.

Once the boys went to school Sandra learnt calligraphy and then sugar flower craft. The latter proved to be one of her proudest achievements when she made son Simon and his new wife Rina's wedding cake (right).



The next course was silk painting which Sandra owns is her favourite as the colours can be so vibrant. This was another huge achievement as son Russell needed 72 full size silk cushions as wedding favours!

She's also tried patchwork, macrame and crochet, but confesses not to have taken to knitting (her mum's forte apparently).

Screen printing, stained glass and enamelling all proved interesting but only as something to try, then along came Beryl with some books on 'Iris Folding' which Sandra uses to great effect on birthday, Christmas, baby, and new home cards.



Never idle, during Lockdown 3 Sandra has prepared for next Christmas by making some very cute Scandinavian gnomes from felt. And their long dangly knitted arms and legs look perfectly fine to me, despite the alleged lack of knitting skill!

So what's next for Sandra? Maybe a bit of paper cutting, though the silk painting and Iris Folding will keep her busy providing for family and friends .... where do I place my order?!!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FRIENDS

There have been a lot of changes in the village since the last Grapevine in October so we welcome many new villagers to our lovely hamlet. A Warm Welcome to Carys, Rees and Dylan; Sarah and Tim; Laura and Mark; Annette and Richard; Emma, Ricky and Arla; Julia, Andy and family; and Sue and Dave. Apologies if anyone has been left out! We hope you have found us friendly as we've met on our many walks around the village and look forward to seeing you when we can once again start up the many events and activities which are to be found here.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STAR COMPETITION



In December to cheer things up the children were invited to decorate a star and put it in their window for all to see.

The winner was decided by villagers' vote and was Hallie.

Well done Hallie, we hope you enjoyed the chocolate prize.



## GREAT HINTON LADIES CLUB

Well not a lot has happened over the last year! We managed to raise £260 at Christmas through our 'in lieu of cards' donations and appreciation of the Craft Group's knitting bonanza! Of which £195 was sent to The Friends of Trowbridge Museum. This along with last year's Christmas donation enabled them to buy a telescope made in the 1820's by Giobbio of Trowbridge, which will be displayed as being donated by the villagers of Great Hinton.

We will not be having an AGM in April as we are unable to meet and there seems to be no point anyway! Hopefully we will be able to start meetings again in September if all goes well. Please can you think of a charity which we could support for 2021/22 as we have supported the museum for two years now to compensate for the loss of income due to Covid. Preferably a local charity.

It is hoped that we can hold a fete the first weekend in July this year as long as 'rules' allow. It will be good to celebrate being able to get together again. This will be the last fund raising opportunity for the museum refurbishment project.

Keep safe.

Sandra

## KC CUP - LOGO COMPETITION 2020

There were five entries for this and the winner was decided by villagers' votes.

The winner was Carol Clarke. Well done Carol.

The logo is displayed on the notice board and available to use for letter heading if wished.



Since photography seems to always be a popular theme, the competition for 2021 is a photo of an animal. This can be a pet, wild animal or captive animal and can be cute, crazy or ..... You have until October to take a photo so get snapping!



## ART AND CRAFT GROUP

Last September the ladies in our craft group busied ourselves in separate homes during the long dark evenings knitting, crocheting and cross-stitching to decorate the telephone kiosk, post-box and notice board in festive Christmas style. The kiosk was covered in scarf-sized strips which were sewn together to give it a woolly jumper and Mary made a jolly robin for the post box and a nativity scene inside the kiosk. After the season all the strips were separated, washed and, with added fringes, turned into 18 children's scarves that were sent to a London charity who passed them on to wherever they were needed most. Our generous villagers kindly made donations of appreciation amounting to £200, most of which was given to Trowbridge Museum for their refurbishment fund - our Ladies Club charity of the year.

It was a lot of enjoyable work and we were thrilled to have had photos in the Steeple Ashton magazine, Wiltshire Times and Bath Gazette. Sandra was even interviewed on BBC Wiltshire radio!



Following on from this we decided to do something on a smaller scale for Easter and so we set about yarn-bombing the seat by the kiosk with flowers, chicks, butterflies and bunnies. Mary's wonderful rabbit crowned the post box, and Beryl had three hens-with-attitude guarding a nest of chocolate eggs inside the kiosk. Lorraine's cross-stitch banner adorned the top of the kiosk. Along with Mary Strickland's beautiful floral tub display the scene was set for Easter. We were so pleased to see photos of children enjoying it all on our village Facebook page.

We are now looking forward to being able to meet together again, when weather permits, to chat and craft in our gardens but working on our individual projects. Once we are able to meet in the hall again we will be very happy to welcome anyone who would like to join us for two hours on a Friday morning, 10 - 12 noon.

Carol

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED



The trustees who manage our village hall need a Treasurer to succeed Richard Clarke, who is stepping down after ten years' sterling service. The role, which is voluntary, includes paying bills, preparing accounts and generally looking after the financial affairs of the hall. In aggregate, the time commitment is estimated to be approximately 30 hours a year, including attendance at meetings of the trustees. Richard Clarke is happy to be contacted for more detailed information about the role which needs not much more financial expertise than to add up two columns of figures – income and expenditure – and subtract one from the other! And there's a very easy to use computer program to do that for you.

If you are interested in helping to keep alive a much-appreciated village asset and would like more details about what the role involves, please contact Richard Clarke or the trustees' chairman, Andy Saunders.

Andy Saunders: 07976 595283,  
Andrew.saunders@ccep.com

Richard Clarke: 01380 870635  
rclarke15@btinternet.com

## KIOSK LIBRARY

We are delighted that many of you have continued to support our village Kiosk Library during the winter months, both by borrowing and donating books. We have recently had an overhaul, taking out books with last year's date on them and replacing them with at least sixty new titles and each week we are filling any empty spaces.

Sadly we have to report that there have been quite a lot of books in poor condition, too large for the shelves or of unsuitable content, which adds to the amount we take to the Mind charity shop (this obviously has not been possible during lockdown so we have to store them at home). Please only donate novels that are in excellent condition and ideally not more than ten at any one time.

We were so pleased that many of you enjoyed the Christmas and Easter decorations. Thank you all for your lovely comments, and as always -

Keep reading.....

Anne and Beryl

## GREAT HINTON VILLAGE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It has, by any measure since 1945, been an extraordinary 14 months that we and the country have experienced; the upshot of which has been a total cessation of formal large group social activity within the Village; it has also affected many privately, making it difficult to see family and close friends. It has also made it difficult for the new residents to meet the rest of the Village and get to know who is who.

It is hoped, but cannot be guaranteed, that 2021 will see the beginnings of some return to social gatherings intra Village households outdoors and indoors. However, whilst the Government has provided a "Road Map" to the easing of restrictions it is not all plain sailing; and there is also a very big dose of personal appetite for risk of contagion or not, which will skew an individual's desire to meet up with non-family members. The relevant steps for the Village Social life, taken from the Government web page, are:

### **Step 3 – not before 17 May**

*Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.*

I do not believe that Step 3 gives any scope for the start / restoration of any of social events between non-related households within the Village.

### **Step 4 - not before 21 June**

*We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that previously applied.*

Step 4 provides some hope that the restarting of events involving non-related Village households can be considered. However, before any real thought is given to planning a calendar of social events, it is vital that the Social Committee understands Villagers appetite for meeting up with other Villagers outdoors and indoors and in what numbers. Therefore, may I ask each household in the Village to send an email to the Social Committee secretary at ([chlover75@yahoo.com](mailto:chlover75@yahoo.com)) with the following information:

*Address in Village (plus name if you wish)*

*Happy to meet others, up to (number) people, outdoors from (date)?*

*Happy to meet others, up to (number) people, indoors from (date)?*

Once the Committee has this information, and therefore an understanding of people's appetite for mixing, a meaningful Social Calendar of events can be considered. In tandem with the Social Committee's look to the future, the Village Trust will be looking at the use of the Village Hall and when the current ban can start to be eased, and what numbers and in what manner that easing will allow meetings to take place.

The Committee are looking forward to the opportunity to restart events and getting to meet up with all the new and old residents before the chill of winter 2021 arrives.

Graham

**LET'S HOPE WE CAN ALL GET BACK TO SOME KIND OF NORMAL SOON!**



Some of the community events and activities enjoyed by villagers before the restrictions of Covid hit us - puppet-making with the Ladies Club, village street party, village flowers, summer fete, Chinese New Year, tea and cakes in the Village Hall, fun and visits with the various clubs and societies that generally run regularly throughout the year.



## AUDREY

The family of Audrey Plummer hope to hold a celebration of her life on Saturday 18th September at St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton, followed by a reception at Steeple Ashton village hall. This is, of course, subject to the lifting of restrictions on social gathering this summer.

Further details will be confirmed nearer the time, but the family would like this to be open to all who knew and loved Audrey.



From the editor: I am so very sorry that when compiling the tributes from villagers to Audrey – or Aud to her many friends – for the previous edition of the Grapevine, I somehow managed to lose one from Anne Truman. Anne knew Audrey for many years and was most disappointed to have been left out of the autumn edition, so I share her words now to remind us again of an amazing lady ....

Aud was a dear friend for over 35 years and I have many happy memories of all the social events that we enjoyed in the village. She was inspirational in getting everyone involved, be it harvest suppers, starting the very successful Lunch Club (yes, she got me cooking too!), as well as the Saturday morning activities several of us put on for the children in the hall some years ago. Nothing was too much trouble for her and she was so kind and supportive when Mike was ill and after he passed away. He too was very fond of Audrey and they joked that she was just a week older than him! We all miss her so very much.

## 100 CLUB

A bit of background information for all the newcomers into the village. The 100 club is a major source of financing the running costs of the village hall. We currently have 109 members who pay £15 subscription per year. Approximately half the income is redistributed as prizes, of which there are five each month - £20, £15, £12, £10 and £8. There are also two bonus prizes - one in the summer and one at Christmas.

In March 2021 we held the final draw of the 2020/21 100 club year. Well done to all the winners, I hope you found your winnings posted through your letterbox a nice surprise. We've decided, due to the current Government restrictions around the pandemic, to delay the start of the 2021/22 100 Club year. It is felt that later in the year will be a more appropriate time for collectors to be knocking on doors collecting subscriptions. Alternative payment methods may also be considered in future. So please hold onto your subscription monies as we will be resuming this well-supported fundraising activity later in the year.

The monthly draws usually take place at village social events, although during 2020/21 alternative methods were used! It is hoped as people leave the village, new residents will kindly join the club. If you are interested in joining before we commence the draws later in the year, please do get in touch with me.

Thank you to all existing members for your continued support.

Rachael Lawes, tel: 07717 810938

### 100 Club - 2020/21

	No.	£20	No.	£15	No.	£12	No.	£10	No.	£8
April	58	Rosie Souster	54	Diane Norris	81	Sylvia Baker	3	Adrian Kwasnicki	15	Ken Young
May	1	Dianne Kwasnicki	12	Rebecca Locke	7	Sue Selwyn-Smith	66	Sandra Crumpler	63	Catherine Cooper
June	47	Terri Dodd	116	Debbie Ellis	30	Mandy Henderson	126	Lorraine Holmes	10	Mike Evans
July	18	Peter Doel	90	Mary Winterburn	102	Carol Clarke	41	Anne Truman	92	Jackie Crease
August	107	Steve Adams	100	Ros Cornelius	22	Paul Winterburn	48	Ralph Hansford	87	Nick Hawkins
September	103	Steve Yates	46	Richard Newman	48	Ralph Hansford	96	Jonathan Tapper	13	Adam Young
October	65	Sue Andrews	116	Debbie Ellis	120	Katie/Ernie Shepperdson	101	Mike Lawes	10	Mike Evans
November	31	George McDonic	113	Jacqui Monkton	5	Oliver King	51	Peter Bryant	85	Sue Smith
December	86	C Munday	105	Robert Noad	87	Nick Hawkins	110	Will Scott	52	Gill Verschoyle
January	49	Veronic Francis	4	Geoffrey Truman	33	Chris Munday	22	Paul Winterburn	101	Mike Lawes
February	12	Rebecca Locke	101	Mike Lawes	62	Gill Whatley	125	Chloe Saunders	56	Claire Evans
March	44	Matt Long	122	John Propert	45	Shona Hawkins	113	Jacqui Monckton	34	Carol Burch

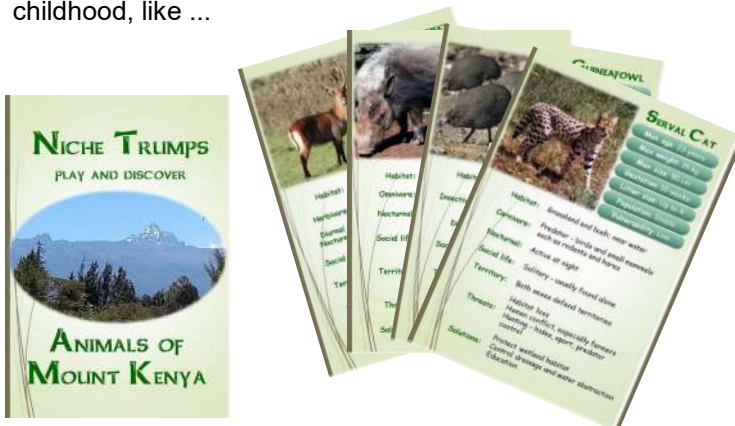
## A LUCKY ESCAPE!

Three years ago I went on a study tour to learn about farming in central Kenya, and from the very first day fell in love with the landscape, wildlife and people of this wonderful country. Since then, I'm very happy to say that I've managed to carve my own small niche there working for the Mount Kenya Trust, a charity that supports the wildlife, forests, water resources and people on the mountain. In January 2019 I spent two and a half months in Nanyuki, working on a couple of projects for the Trust before being rather abruptly and dramatically evacuated at the end of March because of Covid! However, I wasn't about to let anything, not even a global pandemic, stop me from returning and I somehow managed to escape lockdown 3 at the end of January to go back.



Last year I bid for funding from the Thin Green Line, an Australian organisation that supports rangers all over the world and is really keen to explore ways to get young people involved. I pitched an idea for an environmental education package for Kenyan school kids and was lucky enough to be granted \$15,000 to develop and deliver the Mount Kenya Trust Junior Ranger Programme to around 240 children over the course of a year.

Having spent time while I was back in the UK developing the concept, once I was in Kenya again I began creating the materials I needed for the games and other activities I'd come up with to help the children learn about their environment, the plants and animals they share it with, and the threats it faces. As Kenyan schooling tends to be pretty traditional, and resources are generally very thin on the ground, we decided that our programme should be as interactive and fun as possible, so I started by creating some twists on old favourites from my own childhood, like ...



The felt mountain ... made from strips of felt fabric representing the different habitat zones on Mount Kenya.



Remember Fuzzy Felt? Well, luckily I managed to get four 'On Safari' sets which will help children (and adults!) to explore the ecological relationships between the animals that live in each zone, and what happens if the habitats are damaged by, for example, too much water extraction, logging, hunting, or over-grazing.

The Mount Kenya Rangers patrol the mountain to both monitor the wildlife and also to track down those involved in illegal activities, and the idea is that they will be involved in the sessions with the children, bringing first hand experience to the programme.



Judging by the fun we all had trying out the games on the training day, I'm guessing it's going to be a great success once we're finally allowed into schools again!

We also managed to arrange a proper safari as the final session for the kids who complete the programme, and I'm delighted that the education officers from both the reserves I visited to discuss this were really supportive of the programme and are keen to collaborate. And what's more, they want me to design some bespoke materials for their education centres too, so there'll be plenty to keep me busy when I get back to Kenya next year!

Jemma