



Rain was bouncing off the tarmac as Angela and her husband Mike arrived in two cars, both stuffed to the roof with frames ladders, a display board, stool and chair, clothes rails, a washing line and a raft of rugs to display on the morning of our
Open Day, Saturday 2 June, 2018



Luckily several other members arrived too, dripping wet as well (“I can’t make cake but I can help with the fetching and carrying”) and the hall descended into a flurry of co-ordinated chaos as we dragged chairs into place, dragged them back again. moved tables around.....the bunting miraculously stretched across the honey coloured beams, a miracle because no-one had



actually measured the room in advance, and the banner turned out to be exactly the right size to fit an available curtain rod. When Radio York arrived at 10.30am, there was a semblance of order beginning to emerge. Even the rain seemed to grasp the importance of the occasion and it eased to allow Heather Lamborn, one of our founder members, the chance to be heard, explaining the origins of the group and the purpose of the Open Day, (Her interview can be heard until the end of the month at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0677qv7>).

Carol’s single handed display of donated cakes was just too tempting for some and the kettles worked overtime before the finishing touches were tweaked and re-tweaked as more mats and members arrived to fill the hall with colour and chatter. By the time the first visitor arrived, we were astonished to discover just how prolific and professional our year’s collective output had been. It was good to admire the range of techniques, designs and colour choices that confirmed our eclecticism.

Here is a selection of the exhibits we and our visitors enjoyed:



and here is some feedback from an early visitor

"Huge thanks to Ebor Ruggers who opened their doors to visitors today. My mum and I were amazed by the skills and designs on display. Who knew that recycling old bits of fabric could produce such beautiful items. so many varied techniques.... and plenty of patience with newbies who fancied a go. feeling inspired and perhaps a little hooked!"



It is fascinating to see what different effects can be achieved using similar colour ways...



and interesting to see just how one geometric pattern, a circle, can be interpreted in widely differing ways.....



Flowers are clearly a common inspiration



as are animals, domestic or otherwise



Feedback from members was positive too; they clearly enjoyed the day!

“What a marvellous day at the club yesterday. It’s a fabulous hall which looked amazing with the bunting and all the marvellous work displayed”

“I thought the whole committee pulled together and worked so well. A number of people said how good the atmosphere was. The hall was lovely and bright, very uplifting.”

and here is a postscript from Angela:



“The committee was thrilled to find members (and the 30-40 visitors) thoroughly enjoying the display, being able to see completed work en masse instead of WIP as is usual at meetings. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day, whether with rugs, with help, with baking cakes, with the tea rota and with clearing away at the end, You were all magnificent”

echoed by a comment from the cake-display team:

“There’s such a buzz with the group at the moment which I don’t remember there being for a long time..... long may it last!”

News of future exhibitions and events you may wish to attend:

Ryedale Folk Museum's Country Crafts Weekend

will be held this year at Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 August. The Museum is currently looking for new demonstrators to join the team. The idea is to educate visitors about traditional country crafts. Although there is no payment for the demonstrators, each may use the event to promote their classes/workshops and perhaps set up a 'stall' with items for sale. If you would like to get involved, please contact Kirsty Holtby (01751 417367) www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk.

Art in the Pen Saturday 21st-Sunday 22nd July

held at Thirsk Auction Mart, there will be demonstrations galore and lots of woolly stallholders, including York Textile Makers at Stall 21, with their rugs, mats and hangings. The nearby cafe serves lovely food too, I'm told.

West Riding Ruggers

will be part of an exhibition to be held until mid July in the Community Room at the Castle Museum, York. Entitled Threads of War, their sweetheart pin cushions join other textile pieces relating to WWI and women's roles within it. www.yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk.

Later in the year,

The British Wool Show

will be held at Murton in August. More details later but save the date: Friday 10/Saturday 11th August and

10 York Crafters will hold their much cherished exhibition at The Cemetery Chapel, York from Friday 19th - Sunday 21st October.

And last but not least,

Ebor Ruggers' trip to the TIGHR exhibition of rugs and mats from all over the world in Grinton Church on Tuesday 9 October. If you would like to join this trip please let Roisheen have your £10 deposit at the July meeting. (Full price is £20). With the opportunity to visit not only the Fleece Co-operative but also Swaledale Museum in the afternoon, this promises to be a day out to remember.

A note from the editor:

As you will have guessed, our Open Day brought forth a wealth of mats, rugs and wall-hangings, many of which were either not photographed or were photographed very badly (by yours truly). The fact that yours has been omitted largely depends on these two factors and, as Angela has promised, it will be essential to appoint an official photographer should we decide to hold a similar event in future. I hope to include many of those omitted rugs in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, I know my place.....on the.....

and the last word from Angela:
"You were all magnificent. I have already thanked the committee; they just got on with the job; thanks again team ER! But well done members, it wouldn't have happened without you",



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