



Crafting For Our Community Made Possible by the National Lottery

Wings was very fortunate to receive a Grant for crafting from the **National Lottery Awards for All** last year. Since November 2020, WINGS, has been decorating our village sign for Remembrance, Jubilees, the Coronation, Christmas and Spring with crafts made from different materials, supplied by members as well as contributions from the local community to commemorate and celebrate.

The decorations captured the attention of so many locally and became such a talking point that as a result, we have had several new members join us from the local community, keen to learn new skills and be involved in improving where they live. From decorating with poppies for Remembrance, celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and the King's Coronation has been the perfect starting point to instruct our members in a variety of different crafting skills and mediums. We wanted to encourage our existing members and attract new ones to find at least one craft that they enjoy and will continue with. They could discover the therapeutic benefits and wellbeing that comes with the sense of self accomplishment. A sense of joy of giving something personally made to someone as gifts. By passing on those skills to friends and family members, we can ensure even more contributions to our decorating efforts from the wider community as well as our members. We are so grateful to the for agreeing to fund our project. This funding allowed us to purchase more crafting materials and supplies for projects for our members to attend, learn and make something creative. Many were inspired and surprised at their talents not knowing how creative they could be.

We started our journey with the lead up to the festivities of Christmas crafts. Our first project was being taught the skills used with beading to make beaded angels. These were given as a gift to a friend or family member, as a decoration on a tree or attached to a bag or keyring.



We tried our hand at floristry by making Christmas Candle centre table Decorations using fresh foliage from our gardens and natural seedhead decorations. All complete with a Christmas candle. A decoration that would last all through the Christmas period.



Then there was Mandala dotting, another use for crochet hooks and ball tools. This proved to be a popular choice where many members decorated stunning Christmas baubles. Many colour combinations made beautiful creations all in a fun and relaxing way. Our aprons certainly gave us a giggle too.

The New Year continued our painting theme as we had a Paint Along party. We had all chosen a Beach Hut picture as we all wished for warmer weather and favourite holiday destinations. It was amazing to see how they all came out so differently. Originals for everyone.



Continuing the Spring feeling and with Mandala dotting being so popular ,we had another go! This time we decorated plant pots and with all the various colour combinations and complete with a pansy. They all looked fantastic and again original.



Inspiration came with the February issue of WI Life with a felt embroidery project. So resources were bought and lead by one of our members, an evening for embroidery stitches to be remembered or taught our little hanging projects were created.



Following on with a sewing theme we hired a tutor to show us how to embroider an organza landscape complete with sheep. This process involved layering up different colours of organza, attached using different types of threads, cottons and stitches to form a framed landscape picture.



To finish our journey members had a go at padded notebook covers. A useful item for our members to hold any crafting notes for the future.



To continue all this enthusiasm, creativity and inspiration for our WINGs members, we have purchased resources in order to continue our journey of introducing and skill learning with other craft sessions in the future months to come.

