

SHEBBEAR WI

Brenda Clark

July saw another hugely successful Shebbear and Buckland Filleigh Flower Show. Wonderful weather and lots of people made it a very busy day for our WI group, who were kept incredibly busy in the kitchen providing tea and refreshments for the visitors.

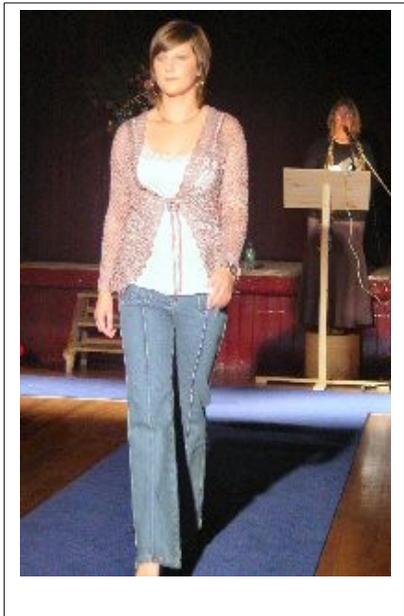
For September's meeting, which was held on the 13th, we were lucky enough to have as our special guest Mrs Deborah Hastings who spoke about the many colourful rag rugs she makes as a hobby. She also uses her gift to teach others and is the only teacher we have in the West Country. She used a slide show to give us an insight into the history and production of rag rugs. Unfortunately, not many rugs have survived to the present day, only a rare few. Many of course were made to make the mud floors of cottages more comfortable and were often put in front of the hearth. Rag rugging was a good way to use up all the old pieces of clothing that would have otherwise been discarded. The rag ruggers would have used all the old flour sacks as a backing material for the rugs, and for the first year of a rug's life it would have acted as a bed cover. These rugs could not be washed, but were taken outside and given a good beating. Deborah brought along some pieces of sacking and materials she had cut into strips and we all had the opportunity of "having a go". She was asked to judge the competition, which was for the best piece of finished work. 1. Jenny Harris 2. Marilyn Pearce 3. Eileen Dungate. Flower of the month winner was Rose Buse with an enormous Begonia.



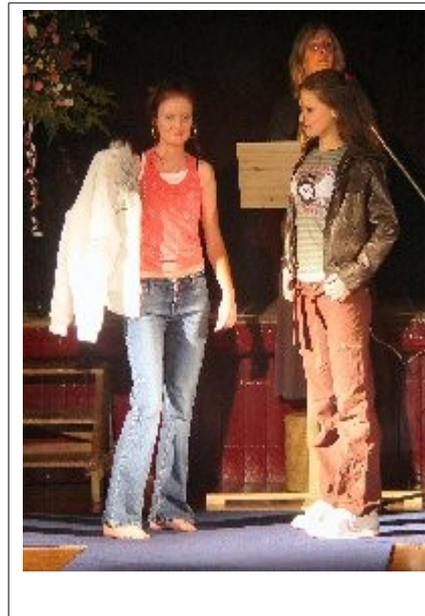
On Friday 15 September, Shebbear WI hosted a spectacular Fashion Show. Many weeks of hard work by Lorna Wyard went into the organising of this event. We worried whether we would sell enough tickets; find enough volunteers to be models and most important of all, would we get the local shops to support us? The committee used a lot of leg work walking around the village selling tickets, putting up posters, 'phoning people, ordering food and finally on Friday evening many hours of hard work came to fruition. With only three practice runs up the catwalk, Shebbear WI put on one of their best events so far. Over 100 people were kind enough to support us in this venture by buying tickets. The younger members of our village also gave us a great deal of support by modelling a range of younger fashions.

The ladies were incredibly nervous about strutting their stuff, but after the first cruise down the catwalk we relaxed and endeavoured to become real professionals. We all absolutely thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

The support of all the helpers "back stage" was invaluable and we must also give thanks to Olive Ackland and her helpers for their culinary skills in providing the usual high quality buffet. Marion Ogborne and June Ackland for their enormous help to the models in getting outfits ready for the quick changes and Julie Lynn for her make up artistry. Sarah Grills also did a magnificent job on the flower arrangements. Marilyn Pearce and Trish Brinklow for selling and folding all those raffle tickets! We also have to thank Steve Pearce and Christopher Goode for supplying the sound and lighting, and Bryan Lacey who came along to take a photographic record of the evening for the village magazine and WI records.



A really big THANK YOU must go to our young models who did a fantastic job, and although were as nervous as we were, actually enjoyed the whole experience, and asked if we could do it again next year! These were Kate Dymond, Danni Richard, Hannah Walsh, Natalie and Victoria Lynn and two of our youngest models, Scarlet Powell and Laura Carden.



We also owe a great deal of gratitude to Mackays (M&Co), Marks & Spencers and Chandni Chowk for their support in supplying us with all the lovely outfits, and especially to the ladies from Mackays who came along to help out on the night. A huge thank you also for all the support with donations of raffle prizes from other local businesses. These include: The Devil's Stone Inn, Kings of Holsworthy, Sainsburys, Tesco, Brooks Garden Centre, Homeleigh Garden Centre, Moors Furniture, The Berry Tree, Natural Touch and Somerfield all from Holsworthy. Waitrose, Jeneca Jewels of Great Torrington, Bideford Carpets and Martins of Bradworthy. Also to Morrisons of Bideford for the supply of foodstuffs.

A few more friends came to help us out on the evening with a range of goods which complemented the fashion show. We had Sara Robinson from the village with a table selling her Avon beauty products, Kathy Priest, beauty therapist, and the ladies from Jeneca beads, also our own Rosemary Brightmore's range of hand made silver jewellery. Last, but definitely not least, a huge **THANK YOU** to all those lovely ladies who came along and supported us by buying tickets. We know you all enjoyed it as we have received many lovely compliments. THANK YOU everyone, we couldn't have done it without all your help.



Next month's meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 October in the village hall at 7.30 pm and our special guest speaker will be Lyn Harris who will be coming along to show us how to decorate our Christmas cakes. Visitors and potential new members always made very welcome.

Also on the 20 October is our Autumn Group meeting. The competition will comprise of the best depiction of a musical and our guest speaker will be the ever-popular Dougie Mounce from Radio Devon. If anyone would like to come along as a visitor for the evening, there will be a small charge made to cover costs. Our meeting will, as always, be held in the village hall and start at 7.30 pm.