

W.I. members show their skill

By JUNE LANDER

WHAT WOMAN can resist looking at beautiful hand-made objects, or stop to admire an attractive arrangement of flowers?

There will be a veritable feast of these things to see at the Crafts and Flowers Exhibition to be held by the Cornwall W.I. Federation at the City Hall, Truro, next Tuesday.

Many of the 11,000 WI members in Cornwall will be going to the exhibition, but it is hoped to welcome members of the public at this fascinating display.

Crafts which have gained or regained popularity — such as fabric pictures, patchwork and crochet — will be featured, alongside such abiding favourites as embroidery, toy-making, lacework, knitting and dressmaking.

Flower arrangements, echoing the craft theme, will be featured for the first time in a WI competitive exhibition in Cornwall.

The value of crafts has long been recognised by the WI and generations of WI members have helped to build up a high standard of WI craftwork — so much so that a speaker at a recent craft exhibition expressed the fear that WI standards might in fact get too high.

Working at a craft is seen as an enriching experience; as a means of expression; as a useful

and rewarding art; and as a link with the countryside, which is so important in a countrywomen's organisation.

The medical profession has long recognised the therapeutic value of craftwork. Crafts products play an increasingly important part in the expanding tourist industry of this country, and in Cornwall "doing a craft" has given an impetus and purpose to many a retired person's life.

Most women in their lives have been involved (voluntarily or involuntarily) in several crafts — whether it be knitting, sewing or dress-making. The WI gives them the opportunity of learning many different crafts "in depth," and getting a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction in the process.

As in every other part of WI work, "the sky's the limit," and the opportunity for any craftworker to develop her potential to the ultimate is fully catered for.

A new venture in Cornwall, which is helping to bring crafts to all members, is the setting up of craft areas. Six of these have been established, named after the Old Hundreds, with an area leader for each.

This has resulted in open days, with craft talks and demonstra-

tions, being held all over the county, as well as the organisation of area craft exhibitions, where work has been submitted and awarded gold, silver, blue, green or red stars.

Over 80 gold star winners from these area exhibitions will be displayed next Tuesday, as well as 130 silver award winning items. Altogether it is expected that more than 600 items will be on display, covering 19 different crafts.

Responsible for the design and layout of the exhibition is Mrs. Joan Hart, of The Lizard. Beside her flair for design, Mrs. Hart is an expert on the making of fabric pictures. She has collaborated in the writing of a national publication on the subject, and demonstrated the craft at the Ideal Home Exhibition in London earlier this year. She is also well-known for her teaching of cord-dolly making — a fascinating craft with its roots in history.

Special classes in a host of different crafts can be held by any local WI through the local education authority. The only stipulation is that there must be at least 12 students.

At county level day schools and classes are held, using the spacious rooms at the county headquarters in Strangways Terrace, Truro. The best tutors available demonstrate the latest in new

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CRAFTS & FLOWERS EXHIBITION

CITY HALL, TRURO — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th

materials and techniques. Members receive first-class tuition, and many a school of this sort has inspired a member to work for her National Craftworkers' Certificate, or to go on to demonstrate or teach that craft herself.

Among other services provided by the county are loan collections (a selection of well-made items of different crafts), which can be borrowed for showing at an institute meeting) and a craft library at County House (from which technical books may be borrowed for a small fee).

Because the National Federation recognises that good design is very important, the N.F.W.I. Design Award Scheme was instituted in 1968. The judges look for articles which combine faultless work with original design.

Cornwall was very proud when one of the first of these awards went to Mrs. Mary Wright, of Launceston, with her finely-knitted cardigan. Mrs. Wright has also produced a pattern for a fisherman's Guernsey which she made up from a 100-year-old photograph of Lizard fishermen. Published by

the Cornwall Federation, the pattern sells for 5p.

The National Federation also publishes many craft leaflets and booklets, the latest of these is on making a Continental quilt, and it has published four toy patterns, three of which (the Rag Doll, Bobtail Bunnie and the Otter) are seen in the picture.

The Floral Art section of the exhibition will be the first large competitive display by the W.I. in Cornwall of this art since the formation of the Floral Art Subcommittee of the Federation three years ago. An imaginative schedule has been prepared by this committee for the exhibition, with the craft link very much in mind.

Members entering will be translating Old English tapestry and petit point into flowers; using hand-made containers to feature cottage craft; preparing a collage of dried and preserved material, or looking ahead in a modern or abstract design.

In its few years of existence the committee has done a great deal of groundwork and created W.I. history, for Cornwall is the

first federation among the 61 in the country to set up as an examining body on floral art.

Very popular among members — especially beginners — have been the luncheon and day schools, held at various hotels throughout the county. Members bring materials and container for one arrangement. They receive instruction and watch demonstrations during the day, as well as enjoying a good lunch in a pleasant atmosphere.

And, talk up of lunches, there will be delicious home-made refreshments all day at the exhibition — including a ploughman's lunch from 12 to 2 p.m.

The official opening of the exhibition will be performed at 2.30 p.m. by the Women's Institute county chairman, Mrs. E. J. Donnelly, and the cups presented by the Mayor of Truro, Mrs. V. Bowden.

The exhibition is open, however, from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (tickets at the door 15p), and the Women's Institute are looking forward to meeting as many non-members as possible



The craft of toy-making is clearly appreciated by these little girls—Carolyn Rowe (nine), on the left, is holding Abigail, the Rag Doll; Catherine (seven), on the right, cuddles the Bobtail Bunny, while the Otter sits aloofly in the front. All are made from Women's Institute toy patterns. On the wall is a paper sculpture of the arms of Cornwall made by a W.I. member.

£ 8.70 →

CORNWALL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Crafts and Flowers Exhibition

CITY HALL, TRURO

Tuesday, October 10th, 11 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Official Opening 2.30 p.m. by Mrs. E. J. Donnelly, W.I. County

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