

KYRLE Probus Club's biennial Art and Craft exhibition held last week at the Conservative Club, was generally agreed to be one of the best yet.

Some 20 exhibitors, drawn from members, their wives and family took part and drew glowing praise from organiser Don Nicholson. "This could well be the best art and craft exhibition we've had. There's been a wonderful quality and diversity of items on show. You're a clever lot in Kyrle Probus," said Don in thanking all the exhibitors and also the helpers for putting the show together.

Earlier, President Martin Barr welcomed everyone to the exhibition and thanked Don and especially the exhibitors for putting together such a high quality show.

There was much to admire, including brilliant paintings in different media by Brian Wozencroft, Rosemary Oddy, Avril Fuller, Andrew Chalmers, Dorothy Newman and Don Nicholson.



There was also startlingly good photography by John Billinger (Don Nicholson's son-in-law) and Louise Hamilton who also displayed her skill in knitwear and, using a technique called 'long stitch,' Louise showed a framed piece that one could almost have taken to be a painting. Don showed his skill in fine art photography, in a book he had helped produce on the history of How Caple Church.

Geoff Blake presented a table of his war medals collection, which included five Arctic Star medals awarded to Kyrle Probus member Tug Wilson. There were nine Arctic Stars awarded in all, but only five could be awarded to any one serviceman, so Tug, a member of the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm, had the full set. The ribbon from Tug's MBE award was also on display

A couple of strides away from Geoff's medals table, John Harley displayed memorabilia from World War II. They included a model of the Fairy Swordfish, a bi-plane aircraft which dropped torpedo bombs and which Tug Wilson flew off the aircraft carrier Ark Royal as part

of the attack that crippled the German battleship Bismark in 1941 and eventually led to its sinking. What a story to put on display.



David Oddy also displayed model aircraft from his collection, while Ashley Letts showed photographs of glider aircraft he had actually constructed as a member of the Assault Glider Trust. Ashley's wife, Leila, displayed the skill – and patience, needed in her chosen craft of bobbin lace making. The superb pieces of delicate lace she produced seemed well worth the effort.



Gail Harley is well known for her crewel work, which this year displayed various aspects of Ross-on-Wye, while Jenny Kennedy's patchwork quilting drew much admiration. Judith Courtney showed a myriad skills in the items she displayed, including silver jewellery making.

Among woodwork items on display were a very fine Windsor chair and a washstand mirror and boxes by John Taylor, while a small scale, perfectly detailed wooden Jeep by John Fellowes (brother of member Mervyn) was equally eye-catching. David Kennedy put on display a wind spoiler, with detailed drawing and photographs of how it can be used on a car to good effect.



The exhibition was rounded off with an enjoyable buffet lunch prepared by the Conservative Club.

