

Cynthia Shaw-G16 Needlework and Handicrafts Class at Mirfield Community Centre

Cynthia became a member of the above class in October 1992. She took along her tatting at the start because she was not sure what sort of crafts were acceptable. Other members of the group then began asking to be taught tatting, but the tutor could not tat. Cynthia offered to teach others and the tutor suggested that she become a tutor also.

She began with a class in the Council Offices in Mirfield which was fine until they changed the centre light for a rather grand chandelier. This looked opulent but gave out very little light so when the committee suggested they move to Mirfield Community Centre in 1995 she jumped at the chance. She went on to say that in all the 25 years there have only been three occasions on which the class has had to be cancelled.

The group have enjoyed a variety of needlecrafts but have also developed a friendship for each other which has led to them meeting at each other's homes during the summer.

One of the group members, Joyce Smith, said, "It's more than just a needlecraft group. We have shared ideas and problems with each other over the years, and even where to get the best special offers on goods and services."

The longest serving member of the group, Barbara Ovenden, has been working with Cynthia for 22 years having been introduced to the Third Age, by a neighbour, after the death of her husband. She chose the Moving to Music course in Dewsbury Town Hall but, on meeting her neighbour just after registering, was persuaded to go back to register for the Needlework and Handicrafts too!

Cynthia was presented with a card and a gift from the group at their last meeting before the Christmas break. She says that although she has thoroughly enjoyed her time as tutor over the last 25 years, she has decided to retire as she feels she can no longer sustain the full-time commitment to the group, but they are determined to keep in touch with one another.



Cynthia, in the centre, with her group.



Cynthia, centre, with the two longest serving members of the group, Pauline Balmforth(left) and Barbara Ovenden.