

OLDER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY



I was invited to the Older People's Assembly at the Scottish Parliament on Friday 2nd October 2009. It was a wonderful experience and we were in the debating chambers, which are exactly as you see on television.

The Deputy First Minister and Secretary of Health, Nicola Sturgeon, gave a presentation and took questions from the floor.

Also talking was David Manion, who leads the Steering Group for Scottish older people. We also heard from Sylvia Meehan of the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament and Ruth Marks, the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, plus another couple of our own MSPs.

After lunch we broke into three groups and had mini debates, then we heard from the expert panellists. All was very interesting and at times, very lively.

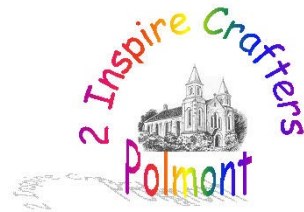
Some of the important points discussed were:

- Human dignity should be implemented and always protected for older people.
- There is a strong need for Public Authorities to be accountable for senior citizens
- We should never be afraid to speak out to be heard. Older people's views must be recognised and listened to.
- There is a strong need for an Older People's Assembly and hopefully this could now take place.
- We all have a right to participate in things and this right should not be taken away because we are older.

It was a wonderful experience to find out what our rights are, as senior citizens, and how we should always speak up for ourselves.

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole day and hope I might be invited again sometime in the future.

Betty Glen



SHARE-A-CRAFT

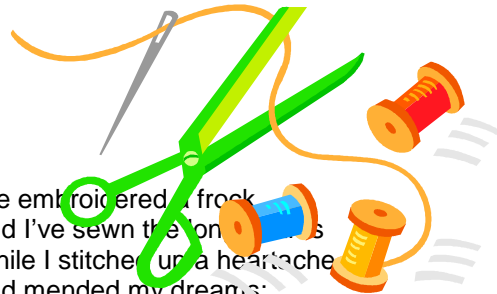
As another year draws to a close, Share-a-Craft has had a busy year. Our project this year has been a quilt and each member had an input into its stitching. When it was completed it was decided that we would donate it to the Victorian event to help boost the Church's dry rot fund. We would like to say a special thanks to the ladies of Share-a-Craft who are not members of our church and who have worked so hard to make our stall at the Victorian Fayre possible.

We now look forward to another year of happy stitching and perhaps another project.

Best wishes to you all

Grace and Margaret

THE STITCHER'S POEM



I've embroidered a frock
And I've sewn the long and short
While I stitched up a heartache
And mended my dreams;
I've patched a torn garment
And darned a big rent
While I worked in new hopes
And a sweeter content;
While stitching brings gladness
Or ease for life's pain
And healing from sadness
I cannot explain;
But for little hopes baffled
And foolish tears shed
I have sought and found comfort
With needle and thread.

Contributed by Grace Hodge

