



## *Creativity craft shop anniversary*

- Elaine Well, I'm in Rostrenen today in the amazing shop Creativity to talk to the two lovely ladies who run this shop, Jackie and Tina ... so, to start off, when did you start the shop and where did the idea come from?
- Jackie The shop has been open for 1 year today, a great milestone for us, and we both traded independently until a year ago, em, markets, fêtes, fairs, probably for 5 or 6 years prior to that ...
- Elaine So ha... you knew each other beforehand?
- Tina Last year we ended up on the market together, standing next to each other, em, then we came, Jackie came up with the idea that we got together, we started at, upstairs in HyFolk, Sally let us go up there, so then we looked for the ... this was the only property that was for rent at the time, so we managed to get it...
- Elaine Did you have any difficulties in sort of getting involved with that, because sometimes the paperwork can be off putting for people ...
- Jackie No we didn't, there was no barrier, we, they were working on this the landlord and landlady ... and we knocked on the door, can we have a look, and agreed there and then, and said we'd like to be in in 8 weeks, and they went "hmmm" ... ??? (lots of crosstalk) and we were in 8 weeks later ...
- Elaine Who does what? How do you divide the workload?
- Jackie I like to do the knitting obviously, yeah, the knitting needles and the buttons and I like to source the items that we order on the creative side and Tina orders for the crafting side, you know, so the things, the things that she's more interested in ...
- Tina Jackie was always known as the button lady....
- Elaine Which is a fantastic idea ...
- Jackie Yes, because it started, primarily for me because of the expense of buying buttons and needles in France so I've just got to source them elsewhere knowing that I needed them and other people needed them, and that's why we started with markets and then we progressed into starting the shop and then ...

Elaine Brilliant, absolutely brilliant , so Tina, you make, I know you make lovely dolls ...

Tina I make lots of different things ... all the bunting, dolls, I'm always doing something, this and that, .....

Jackie So that's new line that Tina's taken on board ...

Elaine You've got all these ideas....

Tina ... not enough time ...

Elaine So, I believe you have a particularly interesting outworker if I could call him ...

Jackie Yes, our local little business man, Christian, he's deaf and dumb, he's 82, he was brought up in Paris and lived in a Red Cross home... orphanage ... moved to Rostrenen 15/18 years ago, by himself now, lives in a home ... but he came to us and sat down one day and asked if he could knit, and he knits our 4-ply pure wool socks for us, without a pattern, and just knits merrily away ...

Elaine That's incredible isn't it ...

Jackie And actually with no teaching ...

Tina We've managed to learn French sign language to get along with, and we do get along with doing it, so yeah, and he's taught us, he can't speak French ...

Elaine He can sign it, there you go, that's another way..?.it's communication, that's wonderful and the fact that he doesn't use a pattern, amazing ... tells us about your customers, are they, I mean, you're attract quite a lot of French. You're open on market days, so do you get a mix of English and French?

Tina We started off mainly with the English but we do seem to be going more, the percentage is higher with the French customers now, they *love* the painted furniture, but yes, definitely get more French than we do the English now ...

Elaine So where you source the goods from, do you have to order from England?

Jackie We order, all the wool that we have and the knitting patterns comes from England, the .?. threads obviously French, pure wool we buy in England, but we have a lady now that's approached us to see about selling angora, so that might be another line shortly ... buttons, oh, from everywhere, from Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Malaysia ... wherever ...

Elaine ... fantastic, worldwide, you see ...you're contibuting to the world

economy.

Jackie Yes, we're trying to. (lots of crosstalk)

Elaine What future plans do you have? (lots of laughter)

Jackie ? very excited about this.

Tina We have just, last night, we've just found out that we're going to be stocking Annie Sloane chalk paint.....

Elaine Oh,fantastic!

Tina We are really really pleased about it ... the paint that we use...

Jackie ....it's been hard work trying to establish, being strong enough, and that this is growth in the business ...to persuade the Annie Sloane company to take us on board, we were looking to stock it for Brittany, we applied with some information photographs, before and after photographs, résumé, we told them we were going to be interviewed today, that we wanted a decision by yesterday, and we got that call last night, late last night ...

Elaine Excellent ...

Tina Yes ... we're the appointed stockists now for Brittany ...

Elaine Excellent ...

Tina Yes ...

Elaine And finally though when are you open?

Tina We are open all day Tuesday, from 10 o'clock - well, usually from half past nine, to 5 o'clock because we don't close for lunch, so that's Tuesday which is market day in Rostrenen, em, Thursday from 10 to 5 and Friday 10 to 5, currently that is our opening hours, and then winter time we, we do open on a Saturday, but more than likely this year we'll just do Saturday afternoon...

Elaine I think that, I think the more hours you are open then, the more, the better in some respects ...

Jackie Yup, yup ...

Elaine Because I think otherwise shops that actually don't open very often, people forget and stop going there ...

Tina Yes ... and of course being taken on board the Annie Sloane, we're going to need half a day, or a full day per month, to do workshops ...

Elaine So a very good idea. Are you actually going to do any workshops

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...

T and J Yeah, yeah.

Elaine .....because it's very very popular now, isn't it, painted furniture?  
Well, thank you very much ...

Jackie You're welcome ...

Elaine, ...it's been lovely talking to you and as I said, I shall certainly be  
back ...

T and J Thank you!

