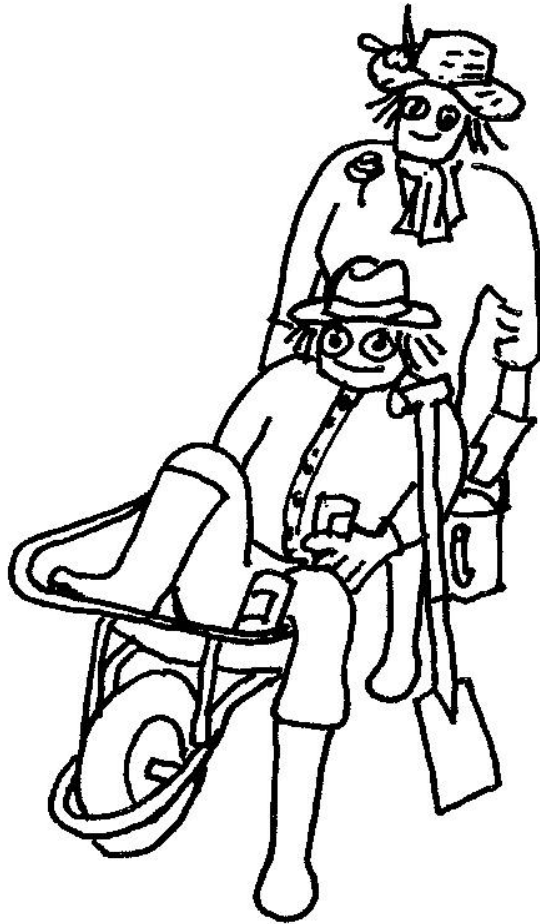


## SCARECROW FESTIVAL AND COMPETITION



36 scarecrows, 2 judges, 1 photographer and lots of laughing.

Way back at the beginning of the year I was informed that along with my sister Jacqui, I had been volunteered to judge the community scarecrow competition. It was to be held on the day of the open gardens and anyone could enter and leave them in their own garden, outside the village hall or in the Splash garden. We both agreed to this of course and looked forward to the day, totally unaware of the effect that it would have on our nerves.

As the competition drew closer, Scarecrows began to pop up everywhere, in bushes, under cars and hedges and even in a Kayak. Peter Icke sat on guard at the end of his drive all week, day and night never budging and never dropping his beloved clipboard.

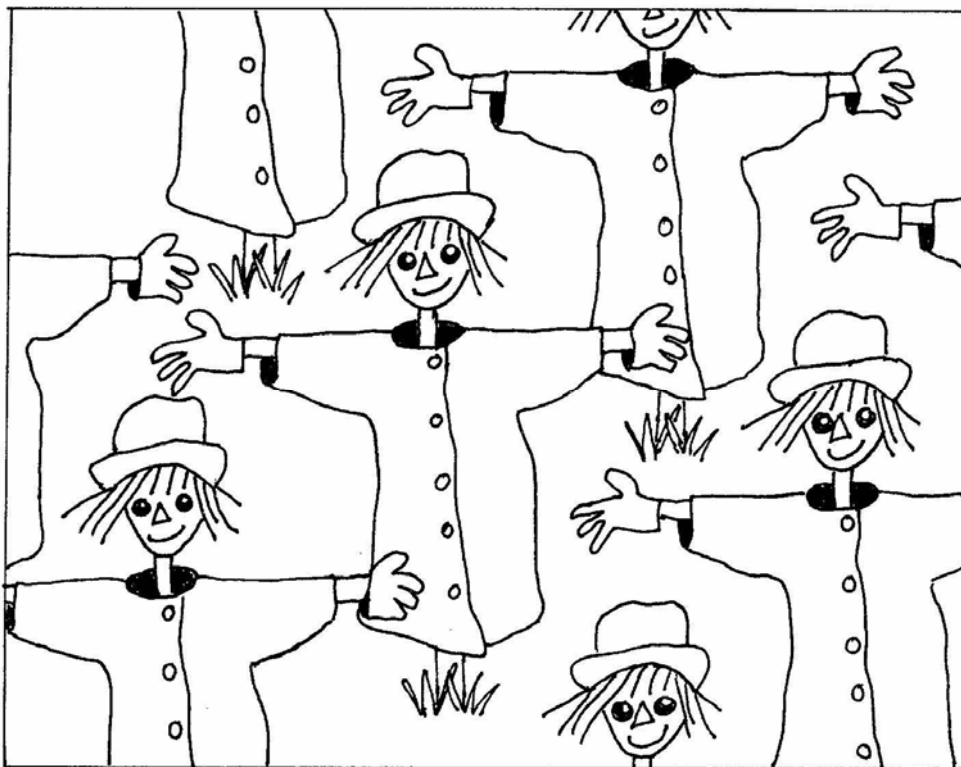
The day dawned with the sun shining so Jacqui and myself set off with our list of exhibits and criteria (ever the professionals) closely followed by Jamie King to take photographs along the way.

Our first stop was the post office; Hazel as ever was on duty but where was Alan? "Right" says Jacqui marching across to a grand looking Batman relaxing in a chair, "lets get on with it" to her utter surprise it leapt out of the chair and chased her across the drive. Until that moment I didn't realise that one person could jump up and down, run, stamp feet and scream all at the same time.

Me I just laughed for days. Thanks Alan!



Once the nerves were settled and the screaming had died down we slowly made our way around the village armed with sticks to poke any potential humans who dared to try it again. Myrddin lay in a wheelbarrow with a bag on his head for ages but to no avail, his timing was all wrong, sorry Myrddin.



Beginning at the West and finishing in Henllan we proceeded to poke, prod and squeeze some fabulous creations, 36 in all. The 26 who entered were marked out of 10 for durability and bird scaring to cuteness and most disturbing. It was a tough job but in the end Nikki & Haydn were the overall champions, closely followed by David & Karen Fisher, Laura Bowen and Rebecca & Gideon Carpenter. All in all the day was a real success, a true community event. We can't wait until next year, but be warned we will be armed!!

Christine