

THE SSA AREA 8 NEW YEAR'S PARTY

This event always starts the year with a large social get together. Each year I put on film show showing side saddle activities in the area, this year my theme was newcomers, juniors and hunting.

The theme of Rayna Matthew's talk was the 'Magic of Costume' which needless to say was amazing. She brought three costumes. The Countess of Mar, Catherine Empress of Austria and also a high society Welsh lady's costume. I happened to find film I took of her in coming at medium in the costumes in Holland 2002 which added to the occasion.

I took a number of pony saddles and four juniors were able to dress in costumes and model them followed by designing their own.

I displayed a number of costumes I have made for my daughter Caroline, Princess Vicky, Mary Queen of Scots and Marcia Pitt and a little Edwardian girl's riding outfit. These helped show the audience the difference between historical and concourse costume classes and illustrating that you do not have to be a top class seamstress to create something.

Phyllie Robertson had her stand and a warming lunch was enjoyed by all on a day when temperatures were down to -6.

Altogether a very inspiring start to the year.

Best wishes
Belinda Wilkins