

Setting up at the Rusland Reading Room, stopping on the way to put out our 'Film Show Tonight' signs on the way. The Rusland Valley is a beautiful quiet place and we show films in four different village halls. That afternoon a children's special - The Wrong Trousers. Projector, amp, dvd player, induction loop all set up. Edifice built at the front from lightweight trestle tables for our three front speakers, and the sub woofer installed. The two rear speakers set up. All the cabling going to the right place and the right way round! Taped to the floor to prevent slips and trips.

Putting up the screen next. Two legs to be unfolded, stage left and stage right, with the handles on the outside. Then the frame; like a telescope it unfold and expands; must make sure the clips are in place. Then the screen itself, wrapped safely in it's protective sheet. Unfolded carefully and made sure it was the right way up; start fixing it to the frame; remembering to start at the bottom otherwise the double-sided press studs really hurt your fingers when you have to stretch the screen onto the last side of the frame. Screw the frame onto the legs - making sure it's at the necessary height for the hall.

Test the picture set up and sound for the films - and then get the trailers dvd ready. Put out the chairs and a table for the refreshments and admissions book.

The families come then, and swarm like locusts round the drinks and sweets and then found their seats. A packed programme that afternoon, a local teenage film maker came to tell the audience about his new film and talked about stop frame animation and showed us his latest 'set'. After answering our questions he sat in the audience to watch two of the thirty second films that were entries in the local horticultural show last summer. The children taught by our very own 'film-making unit'.

Then the main event - Wallace and Gromit in The Wrong Trousers. How we all laughed at the jam in the face and the train chase. Everyone sat rapt in the adventure - not a single trip to the loo by our young viewers.

The film finishes and as parents gather up their offspring along with their rubbish, we

reorganise the room for the evening's festivities. Trestle tables are set up, tableclothed, and chairs arranged around them.

A trip back home to get changed and have a cup of tea and then it's back to the hall again.

A Red Riding Hood basket, containing two types of home made biscuits for the Jacob's Join Supper and drinks for ourselves, not forgotten.

The biscuits joined a lovely spread of dips, home made baby quiches, parsnip pie, chicken legs, vine tomatoes, swiss roll and chocolate éclairs. But first of all the spicy parsnip soup; served with crème fraiche and parsley no less! We all ate and talked and drank and gossiped and caught up on local news.

Then a quick rearrangement of the tables and turning around of seats and we watched the trailers. Then the film was introduced and we were told especially what to watch out for and a bit about the director and how the film was nothing like the book.

The lights dimmed once more and we were all transported to the Britain of 2027 and held in it's grip the whole length of the film. I heard someone describe how intense the film was and say "I nearly forgot to breathe." The credits rolled and the lights came back on.

Everyone helping to clear up and pack up. The film committee and spouses packing the speakers and equipment away; the others sorting out the leftover food and stacking chairs and tables. Thankfully the screen could stay up - another local group is using it very soon.

And that's it all over and done with again. And we'll be doing it all over again very soon.