

March 2015

Another busy month shown below in our photos! To kick off the month the Craft Group made Kumihimo braided bracelets, Kumihimo being an ancient Japanese art. You will see in the photo the circular frames that were used, when the bracelets were made they were left in the plastic bags for 24 hours to help keep their shape. Jacqui, the demonstrator, will be back in November to show how to make a snowflake or a heart with crystals.



The next big event in the WI calendar was the Annual Council Meeting, held at a new venue this year, five of our members were there, Valerie Moreland in her capacity of being on the Federation Leisure Committee, Carole Booth who was the driver for the guest speaker Angela Ripon and Kay Darwin, June Scott and Barbara O'Sullivan who represented us in the voting with one of them being our Delegate. June gave a summary of the ACM at our monthly meeting and by all accounts they all enjoyed the day, coming away feeling very much part of a wider organisation. Thanks to June for the photos from the day.

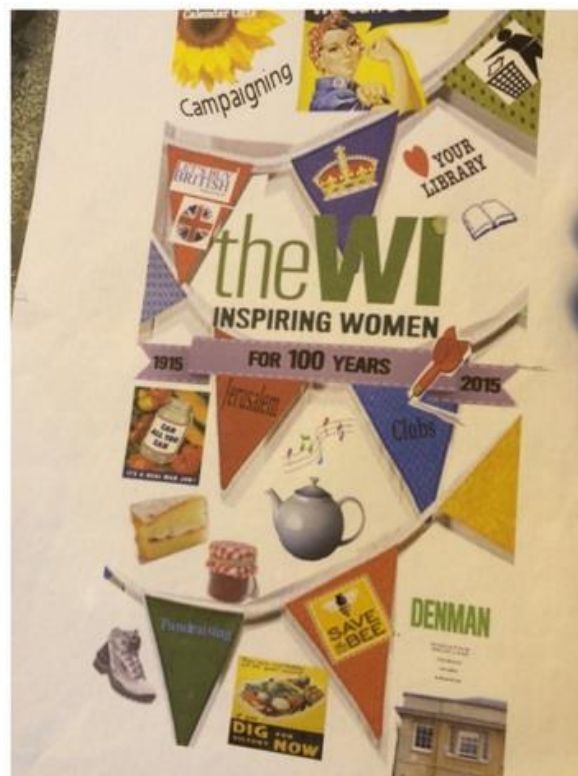


Our Tapestry Brick which was made by Valerie Moreland was awaiting its addition to the Brick Wall and below you will see a good picture of it along with the other new ones from other WIs that have yet to be added.



We held our Buckingham Palace Garden Party Ballot and Valerie Moreland is the lucky lady who will be representing our WI in June, a deserved win as she does so much for the WI at local and County levels.

During the month, after a shaky start, work started on the Art Board for the Ashby Arts Festival. After a plea by Sarah for volunteers to prep and paint the board Sarah ended up with enough people to get it under way and below you can see the design by Rosemary Mafriaci. I'm sure you will agree it looks fabulous. Well done to all the ladies that are helping Sarah and Rosie with that, who include Barbara Ivatt, Shan Milward, Jean Preece, Jean Morrison, Susan Strong, Kay Darwin, June Scott, Margaret Baxendale and Carole Booth apologies if I have missed anyone. Some of whom are in the photos. We look forward to seeing it up in the town in May along with our decorated yarn bombed tree.





The Strollers walked from Ibstock centre into Grange Wood and Battram Wood, most, if not all of us had not walked there before and it was a pleasant hour long walk although a bit short at 2.55 miles. There were 15 ladies and Maggie the dog. We went to Sunnyside Garden Centre afterwards for refreshments and more chat.

The darts teams have started their league matches, Sybil's team played Breedon and won 6:1 and Alice's team played Appleby Magna B and won 4:3. Well done both teams.

This month's presentation by Alan Gray "**You cannot be serious**" was an engaging and interesting look into his life in the world of tennis and its stars and more particularly Wimbledon where Alan had been a line judge and umpire during his career. The "Bridge" ladies ran the Bring and Buy for charity this month "jigsaws and games" which raised £69 and with more change pots being handed in the charity money is growing very nicely. Thank you to everyone who is contributing, this will make a huge difference to Ashby & District Stroke Support Group.



Keep the knitting up for the yarn bombing event, we need colourful long lengths of knitting about 3-4 inches wide and "knitted baubles" straight forward balls or creatures all gratefully received to dress the tree when the time comes. The picture below shows the work done by some already but we do need more and volunteers to decorate the tree on Friday 22 May. Also shown are the lovely prizes Elaine Anderson put together for this month's raffle although admittedly not a great photo from me. Elaine tries to do the prizes to a theme, this month was Easter with an Easter tree, a bunny chalk board and a filled Easter basket but with a nod to Wimbledon with the Strawberries

and Cream bundle. She does a great job with the raffle prizes and noticeboards and puts a lot of thought and effort into their display and presentation.



Last but not least the Northern Lights Group Meeting was held at the Beaumont Centre, Peggs Green and was extremely well supported by Ashby Spa WI. Lesley Smith was Margaret Thatcher and as usual was fantastic. If you are reading this and haven't seen Lesley as one of her many characters then do look her out as she is well worth the ticket money, her main base is at Tutbury Castle but she does come to venues in Ashby. On show at this event was the Northern Lights entry and first place winner in the Monroe Cup. June took a photo of this flower arrangement at the ACM and it is shown in a photo above.

Later on this month we have a Skittles Night on Wednesday 25 March, which is the main fundraiser for our local charity, there are still tickets available please email ashby.spa@googlemail.com.

Next month we have The History Wardrobe "**Women and the Great War**" which, going on past performances, will be a fantastic presentation of historic fashion with great humour. The competition in April is "An Egg Cosy".

February 2015



February's meeting was presented by Claire Mayles - **Cupcake Decorating**. Claire provided an abundance of moulds, coloured fondant paste, stamps, patterned mats and rolling pins as well as cornflour muslin dusting pads and her frosted cupcakes. She explained the basics of how and why

the mouldings are used now that interest in decorated cakes has escalated. The market for cakes has changed by the fact that many people no longer want to incur the costs of the sugar crafting skills traditionally used for cake decorating when buying cakes from professionals. Home bakers have also increased in number encouraged by TV programmes like The Great British Bake Off and it is a much easier way of making an impressive creation. After Claire had demonstrated some techniques everyone got a chance to decorate their own cupcake, a very small selection are shown in the photos. This was a great social evening and we hope that everyone enjoyed it.



We held a Bring and Buy sale of dried/tinned goods which raised over £30 for Ashby & District Stroke Support. Thanks to Sybil and Sheila who manned the table on behalf of the darts teams. Those tins that were left over were taken by Sybil to the Food Bank resulting in two charities benefiting from the trading table this month. Our "Saucy Garter" competition also raised some money for the charity and people brought in their "change pot" collections, so I am sure the fund is growing at a pace. Next month the Bridge ladies are hosting a "Jigsaws & Games" Bring and Buy, so if you have any complete jigsaws or games that you would like to donate please bring them to March's meeting.



In the photos you will also see this month's Craft Group creations which were padded Tablet holders or scented pillows. The little owl "photo bombing" is an example of what could be appearing in our yarn bombing later in the year!

This month's walk was our annual circular route around Dimminsdale Nature Reserve at Staunton Harold to admire the snowdrops at their peak. It was a beautiful sunny day and we finished with

refreshments at the Stables Tea Rooms at the Ferrers Centre for a further hour of chat! We had 18 ladies on the walk and 4 dogs which was a great turnout.



We are already canvassing for new Committee Members for October, there are six out of the eleven currently on the committee who will be standing down. All the "officer" positions will be up for grabs, these are President, Treasurer and Secretary, as you can see from that we do need people with certain skills as well as general helpers. Perhaps there is a group of friends who think they could join up together and make their mark. You may think you can't just come on the Committee and go straight into these posts but if you think about the first Committee in 2009 everyone was completely new to WI and they did a great job from scratch with great enthusiasm and drive, anyone joining this year will have the benefit of a handover/shadowing period to learn the ropes. Perhaps you have been on a Committee before and know what is required and are ready to hop back into it, or perhaps you have good admin or organisational skills that are going to waste now that you are retired. If you are still working but have a few spare hours a month and can make Committee Meetings and the Monthly Presentations you too are a possible candidate! Our previous President Tara and our current President Sarah both worked/work as does Carole our Programme Secretary. Some WIs are completely made up of ladies who still work. Please seriously consider this as we can't run without volunteers on the Committee. Also don't leave it until October as the earlier you come forward the more "training" that can be given to boost your knowledge/confidence if needed.

We look forward to next month's meeting - **You Cannot Be Serious** by Alan Gray retired Wimbledon Umpire.