

Ashby Spa WI

November 2015

At the very end of October our Skittles team lost to Mountsorrel WI and this photo shows them wiping away their tears, although I hear they were doing more laughing than crying! The photo is quite dark so I hope you can make out Lesley, Jean, Linda, Carole, Angie, Shan, Sybil & Val.



Also since October's report the Nordic Walking Group is up and running (well at least walking at a fast pace)! The first session on the last Thursday of October coincided with Barbara's birthday and the photos show Helen, Sybil, Barbara, Kay, Julia, Shan & Sue, with a couple of shots of Barbara enjoying celebrating afterwards. The Nordic Walking Group is now the Nordic/Power Walking Group, so that those without Nordic poles can join in.







I think Mountsorrel WI have been our Nemesis this year as they also knocked out Alice's darts team in the semi-finals of the league on 10th November. Well done to all the ladies that have competed on our behalf in both of the darts teams and the skittles, you have done a great job and remember - it isn't the winning it is the taking part that counts - there is always next year to get the trophies!

This month's Strollers walk was hijacked by a community litter pick - on pre-walking the route it was disappointing to see the amount of rubbish left behind by those using the area. Even though the weather forecast was awful 14 members turned up at the start and were then ambushed with the suggestion of an impromptu clear up! A fabulous job done, in part in drizzly conditions but not as bad as forecast, and by the end we had 4 bags of rubbish to take to the tip. This month's walkers were Barbara, Carol, Dorothy, Mary, Brenda, Margaret, Sue, Ronnie, Val, Elaine, Deb, Joan & Jean (& Helen who took the photo). We then went to Lakeside Bistro for a drink and cakes and decided to book a table after December's walk for a Christmas lunch!



The main event of the month was the Christmas Flower Arrangement demonstration by Pat Billings, what fantastic creations. These arrangements were then put into a raffle and 5 lucky ladies took one of them home with the proceeds going into the pot for this year's charity, the Alex Grose Memorial Fund. Pat was very skilled at arranging (at speed) and keeping the audience engaged, it seems we were lucky to have booked her as she retires next year. Helen Hassan helped with raising funds for



charity too by holding a basket and tote bag sale on the trading



tables.



As you can see from this shot of the audience we had a fabulous turn out of 70 ladies. Another successful night at Ashby Spa WI. Thanks especially go to Carole & Shan for their organisation of the 2015 programme of events and we still have one more to go, so be sure to join us for next month's Christmas with the Royal Household presentation by Colin Alderson, with mince pies and why not enter into the competition and bring along a homemade Christmas tree decoration - there are lots of easy ideas online - just Google it! (other search engines are available).

If you are a member and want to see the photos in higher definition please join our facebook page!

October 2015

The first event of October was the taster session of Nordic Walking that Julia Fraser organised on Sunday 4th. The two and half hour session included excellent instruction on technique and a 45 min walk afterwards to put the lesson into practice. This was our second taster session held recently and due to the interest shown Barbara Ivatt is starting up a new Group for Nordic Walking at Hicks Lodge

at 10am on the last Thursday of every month. For the first session in October, those people who think they would like to try it, but have yet to buy nordic walking poles, can participate by power walking. There are three different trails, 1.2/3.2/4.5 miles.



The craft group as led by Linda Mott in the making of Cuthbert Rabbit who featured recently in the WI Life Magazine, Linda says everyone "got on very well" with the project and here is Kay's Cuthbert which looks great.



In the middle of the month five ladies of the Garden Gang mustered at the top of Market Street and, under guidance from Jean Morrison, put the garden to bed for the winter with a good tidy up and we look forward to seeing the lovely flowers next year from the bulbs that are planted. Anyone is welcome to join in next year when we will have a rota for the upkeep of the garden, just sign up or you can turn up to one of the group working parties that are advertised. Thanks to Shan for the photos.





Our walk with the Strollers this month was in the National Forest area between Hartshorne and Foremark Reservoir, although it was a short walk of just under 3 miles it was good exercise due to the inclines giving our hearts a decent work out. Lovely weather for a beautiful walk for 19 ladies, through the autumn leaves of the woodland and a walk past Carvers Rocks. We drove on to The Wheel Inn, Ticknall for our drinks afterwards. If you haven't been on our walks they are generally really sociable, lots of chatting on the walk - so much so that most would not be able to tell you the route! We start at 10am and even with drinks are usually finished by 12pm or thereabouts, a pleasant social with the benefit of exercise and with the rest of the day left to do as you please. Thanks to Elaine for the photos.



The evening meeting as always in October was our AGM, where we look over the past year with financial and social reports and say goodbye to the old Committee and bring in the new one. We said thanks to our outgoing President Sarah Bartholomew, Treasurer Mary Silcock, Shan Milward, Jean Preece and Pat Bithell. Leading the Committee as our new President is Carole Booth, we have a new Treasurer in Lorraine Cooke who is also a new member! The two other new committee members are Polly Morgans and Helen Baker. So for 2016 we will have 9 committee members. We also presented a cheque, the result of last year's fundraising, to Ashby & District Stroke Support Group in the sum of £1412.13. Didn't we do well! - a big pat on the back to all members for raising such a great amount and to Julia & Barbara for spurring us on. We did have a vote on the charity to support next year and that will be announced next month. As well as our usual raffle we had a "Guess how many conkers in the jar" competition to win a ceramic pumpkin for halloween. We also had a quiz on the identities of Inspirational Women. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. The photos show those members stepping down from the committee, most members of the new committee (less Polly & Jane), the cheque being presented and the ladies that presented the nominations for charities to support. Thank to Julia for these photos.

Alice's darts team should be through to the semi finals of the league having won their quarter final against Market Bosworth, however at the time of writing they were yet to hear who to arrange a match with!

September 2015

At the beginning of September, 14 of our members took the coach to Harrogate on the L&RFWI organised trip to the Centennial Fair. A fabulous day out, it had been organised extremely well and although there were lots of people it wasn't over full so you could easily get to see everything. There was so much to see too, four halls full in fact of crafting, food, garden and household, travel, artisan gifts and crafts. There were workshops to participate in but I think you needed to be there for the whole day to be able to fit those in. There had been complaints about the catering on the first day so we did wonder what we would find being as they specifically asked that no food be taken into the venue. However they seemed to have corrected the first day glitches and the food service areas were functioning smoothly, with the Royal Hall - the beautiful adjoining theatre - set up with tables and chairs for sitting with refreshments. Unfortunately the only photo I have to use is one of me with two glasses of Pimms in my hands!

A few of our members took up an invite from Castle Donington WI to hear Nigel Lowey's presentation on St Pancras.



This month the Strollers walked at Melbourne, a 4.25 miles circular route that took the 12 of us plus one dog 2 hours to complete, we did get a couple of short showers on the way but otherwise it was a pleasant walk if you overlook the sticky mud from all the recent rain. Contrary to how the picture looks it was a fairly bright day!



Our evening event was a Celebration of 100 years of the WI. The Choir had been busy rehearsing to be the main focus of the evening and they took us through the 10 decades in song. Our President, Sarah, joined each section with the history of the WI's development from the war years right up to the campaigns of today. Mid way through Valerie Moreland and Ann Dawson were the star performers in "Victoria Sponge" a play written specifically for us by Kate Mallinder, a local playwright. We asked our members to wear hats on the night and you can see from the photos that many did with some taking it a stage further and wearing vintage costume too. Instead of having a competition for the best hat it was decided that everyone who had worn one would get a free entry into a draw for the WI Centenary Cookbook and Barbara Ivatt was the lucky winner. Cakes were provided by 9 volunteers and to complete the celebration they were served with fizz. A great night which everyone seemed to enjoy.







The evening was well attended by 69 members and 20 visitors!

Well done to everyone involved and thanks too, especially to the non members. There are a good few more photos on our Facebook page - open to members only - "friend" us and get access to another social side of your WI.