

ASHBY SPA WI

June 2014

This month's evening meeting was **Fun and Games** at Manor House School and was held on a beautiful summer's evening. The games were set up in the playground and on the grass area in front of the School: Netball Shots, Football Goals, Hoola Hoop, Bat and Ball, Lawn Darts and Bean Bags and Hoops. At registration everyone was given a sticker to indicate the team they were in and each team had 10 minutes at each station to score as many points as possible. Everyone seemed to have a good laugh and it was lovely to see all the ladies mixing and chatting, which was helped along afterwards with Pimms and nibbles. The Blue Team won and you will see them below with their medals, well done to June Scott, Helen Hassan, Josie Hemsley, Cynthia Wells and Mary Wilson.





Our Gardening Group sponsor and maintain a raised flower bed at the top of Market Street in Ashby de la Zouch and they are doing a fantastic job of keeping it looking beautiful. Below you will see the evidence. Well done ladies.



May 2014

A trip to Berkeley Castle, a walk round Hartshorne and our Resolutions Meeting are just a few of the highlights this month.

The Berkeley Castle Trip was organised by our President Sarah Bartholomew, a very relaxed and beautiful visit where we arrived in good time for our tour on a very hot sunny day. We were split into two groups, one which went the right way round and one that went in reverse due to the tours that had just started. I was on the reverse tour, guided by Bev and she had a fantastic

knowledge as you would expect for a guide but it couldn't have been easy doing it back to front. A fascinating family history. The yurt and surrounding garden area provided a lovely setting for lunch in the brilliant sunshine and ice creams later on! A walk round the terraced gardens gave great views of the exterior of the castle, which inside had seemed small and intimate. Also included was a walk through the butterfly house for anyone wanting a sauna while admiring the beautiful butterflies fluttering above the grouse who were busy munching on the unwanted bugs below. Watch out for photos taken on the day in the WI competitions at the Ashby Show.



This month's walk was a circular around Hartshorne, which I thought was going to be called off due to the heavy downpour that was happening at 7.30am. However by 10 am it was a beautiful sunny day, if a little humid, and 11 of us set off for a scenic 3.5 mile walk. Due to the wet and sunny weather of late the vegetation was rather long and wet in places so we did get soaked from the knees down but we had dried out by the time we stopped for refreshments at The Mill Wheel.

At the Resolutions Meeting, led by Valerie Moreland and Sarah Bartholomew, there was a majority vote to support a campaign to increase organ donation and we look forward to seeing how the WI vote as a whole and whether this campaign is taken forward. Caroline Scothern of the National Forest gave us an update on the Black to Green project that she is leading and for which she hopes to achieve further funding to inform, educate and train people in the area so that the community is involved in sustaining the area and activities. We hope as a WI that we can further support the aims of the National Forest. We had a Spring Posy competition that was won by Carole Booth, votes were by coin and these coins were collected as a donation to Hospice Hope, the local charity we are supporting this year and the total was £21.42. Thanks to all those that participated, also to those that voted for your donations. Helen Hassan donated the proceeds from her plant sale on the trading table to Hospice Hope and so thanks go to her for £10 and to those that bought the plants - good luck in nurturing them.

April 2014

This month our guest speaker was David Finkle, TV presenter, speaker, columnist and skilled pumpkin carver! His presentation was entitled **Chop It and Bag It** which was a talk on the production and packaging of farm produce, mainly in the meat industry. Highlighting the tactics

that supermarkets employ in their packaging that the consumer could misinterpret to believe they are purchasing a better quality product than that which they are actually being sold. Suffice to say, support your local producers and high street butcher!



Also this month Jean Preece organised a willow weaving taster session with Caroline Scothern of the National Forest and Peter Wood of Green Wood Days. Eleven ladies took up the opportunity of this free morning of tuition and made a fish, a snail and a sphere with fantastic results.

April's walk was a circular through Calke Park to take us through the Bluebells at Serpentine Wood, they weren't quite at their best but if anyone did the walk over Easter they were fabulous. However the photo below shows we had a brilliant turnout of 18 "Strollers" on a blue sky day.



A Brief Summary of 2014 events so far.....

In January Richard Buckley was our guest speaker. "**The Discovery of Richard III**", a very interesting account of this great historic event in our county, an amazing story and his book, "Richard III The King under the Car Park" about the history and ultimately the excavation of the Grey Friar's dig site for which he was the Project Manager, was available to purchase afterwards.

February's talk by Sara Smith gave a very detailed account on **Choosing the Right Bra** for your body shape, with advice on how to find the right style and size to suit.

In March Ros Marsh started her presentation off with a quiz on the role of the Magistrates Court and then used the question and answer format for imparting her wealth of knowledge on minor civil and criminal matters in her presentation "**What Do Magistrates Do?**".

As well as these regular meetings in March we had a Northern Lights Group event hosted by the Breedon WI with a talk by children's author and psychologist Andy Cope on "**The Art of Brilliance**" an inspiring talk on how to be happy with the moment, there was an excellent buffet supper provided and each WI attending presented their own little poem headed "The Art of Brilliance" in a poetry competition, an excellent night. Already in April we have had a visit to Royal Crown Derby, tour and buffet lunch. A really good guided walk around the factory showing the production of their china goods from the start at moulds, slip and clay all the way to the shiny, decorated and gilded finished product and I have to say even if you aren't a fan of the gilded designs I would defy you not to enjoy the experience. We have willow weaving in April to look forward to and hopefully a day trip to Berkley Castle in May, a trip to David Austin Roses in September and a day trip to London and the Houses of Parliament possibly in November. Watch this space!

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