

Ashby Spa WI

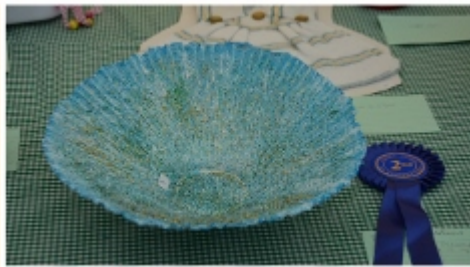
July 2016

Lots of photos this month mainly because I found it hard not to include the majority of those from our entries at the Ashby Show and also we had a great sports night and it would have been a shame not to try and get in a photo of each of the stations and six teams of ladies.

To begin the month on Friday 1 July we hosted the Federation Quiz night at Packington Memorial Hall, providing the refreshments for the 80 quizzers and the 10 extras including quiz masters and our team of ladies. Carole, Deb, Lorraine, Jean, Mary, Glenis, Sybil, and Angela made up the team of hostesses - serving the drinks and the cakes we had made - Val contributed some gluten free cupcakes too although wasn't able to come on the night. I think we did a good job and received a note of thanks from Anna Bold of our Federation WI. We also had a team in the Quiz made up of Alice, Gill, Lesley and Shan. It was a good night, please all watch out for it next year as you can put in multiple teams and it is open to friends and family and as far as I am aware that is the first time we have entered a team.

The Ashby Show took place on Sunday 10 July. We had another year of fantastic successes both for our WI entries and as individuals. Of major note were Linda Mott's macarons which were included in our WI Paris exhibit where she was awarded best cookery item in show! That exhibit came first in its category and as well as the macarons there was a beret made by Val Moreland and a handbag made by Alice Gibbons. Our woodland themed handicraft entry came first and the items were a jacket made by Val, a tree of life necklace set by Elaine Anderson, a flower arrangement by Christine Letts and a woodland nymph by Alice. Linda also won the Rachel Loke trophy for her knitted slippers, Val was runner up in the slippers. We gained the first three places in the book folding and all 4 entries were from our WI, 1st was Christine, 2nd Elaine and 3rd Val. Carole Booth got 3rd place in the photo competition. Marion Shuttleworth gained 1st place and Christine 2nd place in the lavender bag entry. Christine also achieved 2nd place at her first ever attempt at Ikebana flower arranging. In the doorstep competition Marian came 1st and Val came 3rd. Alice came second with her dish cloth bowl. We didn't get placed for our fruit themed food entry, however I think you have to agree it looked great. I hope you can find all these on the photos below. Polly Morgan's husband was placed 3rd in the photo of an unusual garden item. Also a mention to Ann Baker who was placed in several categories for her primary WI Appleby Magna but she is a joint member with Ashby Spa WI so we can be proud of her too.









The Strollers walked at Staunton Harold on a very hot day indeed, a walk we have done many times before but in the opposite direction and in Dimminsdale wood they were surprised to find the trees adorned with knitted creatures.



Our evening meeting was a fun and games night where we set up 6 potted sports stations, the teams did 8 mins at each and the team with the winning score was the purple team make up of Val, Glenys, Ronnie, Linda & Lorraine - they were awarded medals of Thorntons chocolates - we didn't think it would make a difference that they had 5 players to the other team's 4, as it was on a continual rotation at each game, but perhaps the bat & ball station was biased towards them, although I have to

say they were making the best effort at that station. Well done everyone for participating on what was a beautiful summers evening. For our refreshment break the Committee had made cakes and "Pimms" which everyone seemed to enjoy. We then held the business part of the meeting where we discussed our possible new venue and also Carole announced we had won the Civic Award for the best Environmental Improvement for our garden area.







So, that was another great month for Ashby Spa WI!

June 2016

The Craft Group meeting this month was making beads from newspaper to later make into jewellery and in the photo you will see next month's project too which is a reversible bag, the knitted items are fruit which we may see more of in the future. These nights are always fun, a good laugh and an easy opportunity to try out a new craft - don't fancy it one month but do the next, then newcomers are always welcome. Same with the coffee mornings and our two walking groups, it is not always the same people so if you haven't been before why not try the social groups I think you will find them all very friendly. The Strollers walk falls after our evening meeting this month so no photos of that but it is planned to walk from Ticknall if the ground isn't too wet!



For our evening meeting Pat Hall gave her presentation "Life can be funny", where she gave examples from printed articles/manuals from the past that nowadays seem absurd and ridiculous as to how women were expected to behave in all

manner of situations from the bedroom to sitting at the sewing machine and most people had a good laugh. Margaret gave a short appeal on a project she is taking the initiative on - a bra collection for a cancer charity. We held a cake sale and approximately £50 was raised towards our charity, thanks to everyone who baked and to those that bought too. As well as our own members we had 5 visitors, 3 were from Hinckley Canalside WI - we hope we compared well - they have an even bigger membership than we do and we hope that they enjoyed the evening.

If you are at the Ashby Show on Sunday 10 July be sure to visit the WI competition tent to admire all the entries from our Federation WIs and see if we have any winning rosettes.

May 2016

With the Ashby Arts Festival fast approaching our Craft Group this month was a mixture of knitting and making stick people towards our yarn bombing installation or making dolly peg lavender bags. During the month we have been working in shifts to make the Art Board to the theme of Once Upon a Time, we hadn't realised it was supposed to be specific to a book so our design was tailored at the last minute to become Wind in the Willows - thanks to Polly and her daughter in law for their drawing of the design. Day one the team was Polly, Carole, Elaine & Deb who transferred the design to the board and started off the painting. Day two Helen, Jane and Polly continued with the painting and added those vital additions of Toad fishing in his boat on the lake & Mole!! Day three Jean, Carole, Margaret & Deb continued with the painting changing the tree into a willow! Day 4 Polly, Jean & Carole finished the painting. Day 5 was the varnishing which was down to Elaine & Carole and the project was finished, all ready to hang on the Sunday. It is now hanging in Wood Street above Ashby Tile & Bathrooms and opposite our garden area and it looks brilliant - right in front of a T junction for everyone to admire!



Day 1



Days 2, 3 & 4



The finished article!

The Strollers this month were led by Sue Bloor & Margaret Berry and walked a route from Conkers, stopping for refreshments at the Youth Hostel's cafe in Moira on a beautiful sunny day.



At our Resolutions Meeting this month Polly & Helen gave us the details that they had been briefed on, we then held small discussion groups, which admittedly didn't stick to the topic as talk did lead on to all sorts of conversations especially regarding the food waste topic, which went on to areas of cooking skills and children's education, where we thought we could right the wrongs! Anyhow we all got back to topic when it was time to vote and although everyone certainly wasn't in agreement the votes went "for" on both Resolutions, so we wait to see how that reflects nationwide at the AGM and whether the NFWI will take either, neither or both into campaigns! It was another busy meeting with Polly showcasing what can be done for the Bras-ket competition, an NFWI & Sutton Seeds collaboration for WI's to put forward, by photograph, their hanging Bras-kets. We will hold a competition within our own WI to decide which one will represent Ashby Spa WI, so please get planting, photograph your end result and send to us with the details of the plants used. We also held a competition of something useful or ornamental made from recycled parts, the entries included tea light holders made from cans and jars, a planter, a cosmetic pads holder, plastic flower arrangement and a beaded necklace - fantastic. The cosmetic pads holder made by Mary Wilson won the vote, made from twine around a gravy granules container topped with a pot pourri flower "finial"!



We also held a plant sale for our Bring and Buy charity table and it was the last opportunity to hand in any yarn bombing bits and pieces and stick people. Elaine thanked the ladies that had put so much effort into supporting her idea of the stick people and you will see from these photos and those over the last couple of months how lovely they have been. We look forward to seeing all the yarn bombing in place at the end of the month and hope to get some great photos again this year.



The Alex Grose Memorial Fund Committee within our WI held a quiz this month and made £76 towards the charity funds. This was a great night out at the Ivanhoe Social Club which included friends and family making up 8 teams of 4. Susan Strong and her partner did a fantastic job of the Quiz itself.



April 2016

April's Craft Group was a lesson in book folding led by Val Moreland who had already made heart and "home" folds to show us the finished result. We all chose which one we would like to make, the "home" text had many more folds than the heart and you can see from the photo that those following the heart pattern either completed or were very near completion by the end of the class. The "home" ones were ho ho ho-ing into homework time!!



The Strollers walking group are moving forward with a new format after meeting up at the Staunton Stables Tearooms at the Ferrers Centre for a coffee & chat. The walks will continue with members volunteering to lead walks on a rota basis. Don't forget to take some photos ladies and pass them on for putting in these notes and on our Facebook page. Watch out for walk details in the What's On as they may not go out in a separate email.

Our choir would love new members, particularly if you regard yourself/are classified as contralto (alto) please do consider joining this friendly group. Don't forget our other social gatherings too, book club, darts, coffee morning & Nordic/Power Walking (most people do not have Nordic walking poles and therefore power walk the routes with those that do).

This month's main event was a presentation by Geoffrey Smith, a Fuchsia grower and exhibitor at the Chelsea Flower Show. Geoffrey gave an interesting account sprinkled with tales of disaster of the work that goes into the amazing transformation of the public park at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the building of the exhibition areas. His slides included before and after shots of the site as it takes shape, from dismantling and digging up of the tennis courts to the erection of the marquees as well as the gardens in progress and completed, photos of exhibitors and Tuesday's last day purchase misjudgments! Hopefully everyone enjoyed it as we had a fabulous turn out of 74 members and 3 visitors.



Our Bring and Buy table this month was a book sale hosted by the Reading Group, this was very well supported and there were lots of books donated so hopefully we raised a good amount for the charity. Members also brought in their coin collections to add to the running total. Our yarn bombing event takes place at the end of May and we had some lovely donations towards this as you will see from the photos, lengths of colourful knitting, pom poms, knitted animals, pom pom cupcake garland and wonderfully individual stick people.



March 2016

The sugar craft session at this month's craft meeting was led by Ann Baker, we made a Christmas Rose and a Calla Lily and picked up tips and tricks from Ann for our future projects for all those lovely cakes we will be decorating in the future! .



Next month will be book folding and those that went to the ACM in Leicester this month will have seen the fabulous flower design book folding exhibits in the Forest Group's winning entry in the Huxley Cup. Photos below show a couple of ideas and I look forward to showing you next month's results.



The Strollers walked from Spring Cottage for a pleasant circular and finished up at Lakeside Bistro for coffee & cake and another hour of chat - as usual - we are never short of conversation, I think we could sit there all day if we weren't so busy trying to fit so much into our days.



Our evening meeting was a relaxed and humorous presentation by Deborah Spencer on behalf of the Stilton Cheesemakers' Association. The Bring and Buy table hosted by the Coffee Group was selling biscuits/teas/coffees and was well supported and there were lovely prizes in our Easter/Spring themed raffle. The stick people shown below are an idea for members to

contribute an easy craft project for our yarn bombing event. The ladies at the fundraising table were taking in their confectionery quiz sheets and team entries for the quiz in April at the Ivanhoe Social Club.



Other WI events this month included the Annual Council Meeting (ACM), which was a great day with the main guest speaker being The Right Honourable Michael Portillo. The other speakers who were equally interesting were Timothy Diggle of Leicester Hospitals Charity, Jenny Gilbert of AJ Atkinson, Funeral Directors for Richard III's Interment, Baroness Hazel

Byford of Rothley on her life in the House of Lords and Barbara Harpham of Heart Research UK. If you haven't been to an ACM yet, do put your name down for a ticket next year it really is a good day and they always have quality speakers.

We also had our annual Northern Lights Group event hosted by Osgathorpe WI with Heather Jacks the winner of the Great British Sewing Bee 2014 giving a very good presentation on how she came to enter the competition, with a history of her sewing background and the journey through each stage with the trials and tribulations along the way.

Unfortunately I have no photos for either of those events.

That's All Folks!! See you next month.