

SWALE W.I MEETING 19th July 2021

We held our Summer Reunion Meeting at Richmond Town Hall on a gloriously sunny afternoon. Opening the meeting our President, Sue, welcomed new member Lynne and 20 other members. Apologies had been received from Angie Woodford, Joan McCallum, Vera Irwin and June Speight.

This meeting was originally scheduled to take place one month after the government's lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, but, in the event, we re-launched **Swale W.I.** on the day that the country began to get used to socialising again!

The Committee had planned for a reunion which would be a celebration of fun and friendship, with appropriate measures still in place to give confidence to our members meeting in person after 16 months of being restricted to only "virtual" contact. Members were encouraged to adopt whatever measures they felt comfortable with. The Town hall proved to be an excellent venue where we could all feel relaxed.







After some brief items of business a delicious buffet was prepared and served by Committee members wearing protective face coverings.



Lovely cakes had been provided by our Committee and June S, meringues by June H and as always Alayne produced beautiful flowers to decorate the tables



I am particularly grateful to all our Committee for their support and unfailing willingness to help to keep Swale W.I. on track during these very particular times. Their patience has helped in my efforts to learn how to use Zoom and make the most effective use of the limited time to ensure that the Committee business was still carried out successfully.

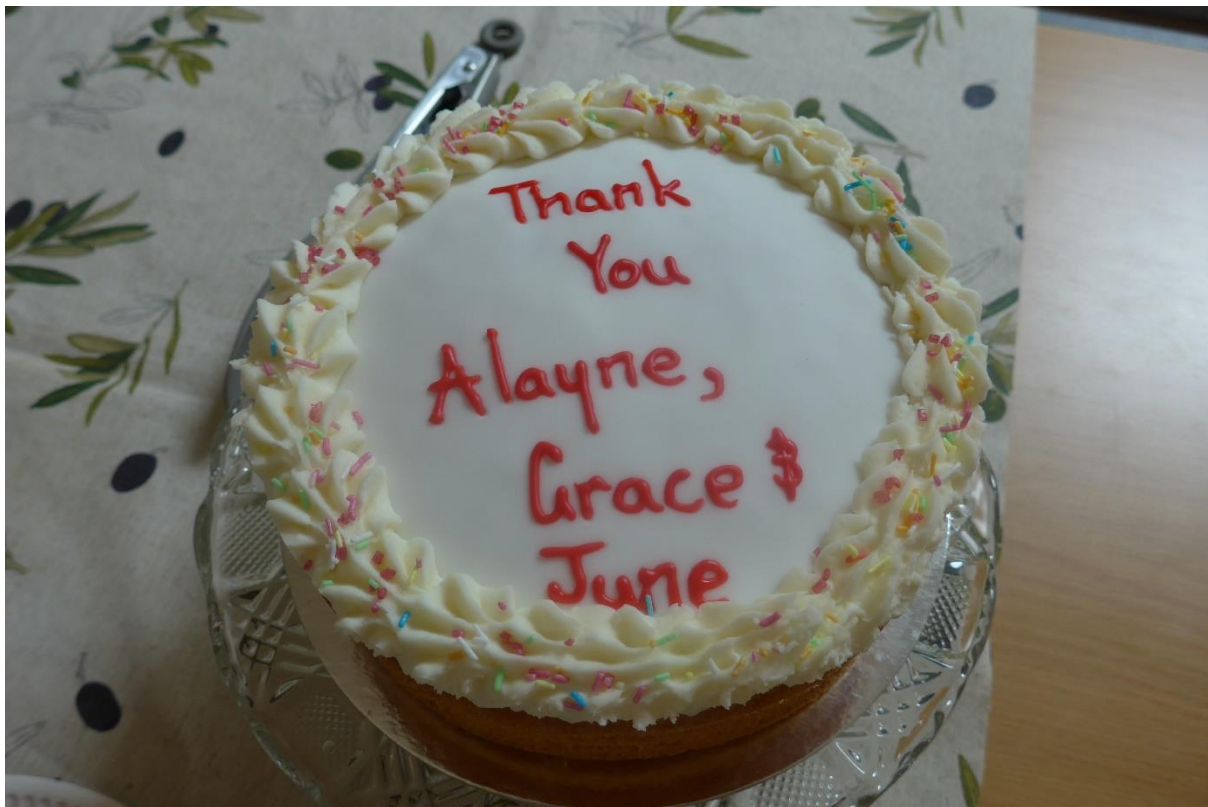
Our Treasurer, Lesley E must have the patience of a saint, considering how many times she has had to re-jig the budget in the past 18 months! We are all tremendously grateful to her for keeping our books balanced and managing our

financial affairs so well. I will be eternally grateful to her for explaining so clearly how the W.I. financial management works, for her support and for guiding me through all the details, so I fully understand how all our money is spent.

Lesley R has also done a sterling job of taking over as secretary this year. Her cheerful, willing support and her Minute-taking are invaluable..



On Monday we were finally able to thank retired Committee members Alayne, Grace and June – who shared a special cake as a well-deserved reward for their long service. Alayne, June and Grace have stood down from the Committee after almost 10 years of continuous service. Alayne and June were founder members of Swale and Grace joined soon after. All three of them welcomed me warmly when I knew no-one in Richmond – and they are responsible for where I am now! Alayne was President for over 5 years and was responsible for the firm foundation from which our membership has grown. She has also been responsible for lovely flower arrangements. June has been Secretary for all the time I have been a member and her hospitality is legendary! Committee meetings at her house were always enjoyable and invariably involved delicious homemade cakes and scones. Grace has been unfailingly cheerful and helpful and has always ensured that we have access to our meeting room at the Methodist Hall. It worries me that she trusted me to look after the key! Thank you to all our Committee members, past and present – I couldn't do any of it without you! *Sue (President)*





Once more we were treated to one of our Treasurer Lesley's ever popular quizzes which, as always, re-awakened some musical memories and ensured that we all had a good laugh.



Our next Meeting will be a Lunch Club at The Black Bull, Moulton on 16th August



All bookings should have been made with Lesley E, by 23rd July at the very latest, complete with payment and choice of menu

FUTURE MEETINGS – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE

We have decided to change our meeting venue to Richmond Town Hall
as we are still unsure of future arrangements with the Methodist Church Hall.

20th September - Gordon Henderson speaking about Binchester Roman Fort

18th October – Simon from the Northdale Horticultural project, Northallerton

15th November – Matt Cocker from Swaledale Mountain Rescue

13th December – Christmas Lunch at Catterick Golf Club