

May 2015

Our evening meeting was to vote on the Resolution of "Failing to Care", the result was a majority vote against, with members feeling that it wasn't something that was achievable and therefore would be a waste of NFWI funds to take any further. We await the result on the vote at national level at the AGM next month to see if the rest of the country is in agreement with the ladies of Ashby Spa WI. After the vote we held a Beetle Drive, this is such a simple thing to do but so much fun which really brings out the competitiveness of some. We also held a plant sale for Ashby & District Stroke Support and again our members did us proud with their donations and nearly all plants were sold on the night too, so a great result. We also reiterated the need for members to step forward and volunteer on the Committee, all of our Officer Positions will be vacant in October, these are President, Vice President, Treasurer & Secretary. We also need a Programme Secretary for the 2017 events calendar. Earlier in the month an email was sent to members with a breakdown on the positions and details on the roles the committee members cover as well as those that other members contribute to making us such a successful WI with all our sub groups. We currently have 120 members and a waiting list of over 40 ladies.



Included this month are lots of photos due to our involvement in the Ashby Arts Festival. A group of our members, directed by Jean Morrison, yarn bombed the little garden area at the top of Market Street in which the raised garden bed is located that we plant and tend for the town. This was a fun hour and made possible by the fantastic support we had from our members in donating wool, knitted lengths and "baubles". What a lovely mix of things we had to adorn the trees and shrubs. Thanks to everyone involved including relatives and friends and from at least one member of a neighbouring WI. Apologies if your items haven't made the photos but everything that was donated was put out. I hope that you have managed to get into town to have a look or have seen the Ashby Arts Festival official photos and video of the event photographed at their best on Day One. Also the Art Board that was designed and painted in March/April was up and displayed in Derby Road in a prominent place

and will have been viewed by many over the three weeks since 10th. Both have certainly increased our profile in the town.









May's walk was a short route through Grace Dieu Woods and on a day that was forecast to be heavy showers we managed to get away with a short light shower midway round. It was a really pretty walk along a lovely brook, there was a huge carpet of wild garlic flowers throughout the woodland, we crossed over the brook via stepping stones and walked around Grace Dieu Priory ruins. The rain came down in torrents as we left the Bulls Head and it continued to rain for the rest of the day, so another lucky walk day.



One of the photos above shows our Darts B Team (Sandra Fox, Pat Bithell, Cyn Wells, Alice Gibbons & Theresa Wilkins with two missing Joy - on holiday & Deb - taking the photo) but it is hard to get everyone there at the same time and to remember on that date to take a photo, so this is the best we could do. The Team is joined by Paul Monks, the very accommodating landlord at the Bowling Green where we practice.

Since I last wrote some of our members have taken up other opportunities including a Button Dabble Day, Spring Reverie, Flower Pounding and a trip to Highgrove with Ashby Castle WI. The Spring Reverie and the Flower Pounding have been recommended as being really good events with the Flower Pounding being described by one of our members as being "fantastic" and by another as "the best day out for a long time".

That brings to an end another wonderful month with our WI seen through my eyes, of course there is a lot more going on but as I'm not at everything I do need other's views and input. If you attend any of our groups or go to something at Federation/National level and want to write a summary of the day please do forward to me at our usual email address with photos too if you have them or if you don't want to write just the photos would be good.

April 2015

April's report will be a lot shorter than those of late and sincere apologies for the quality of photos, the lighting in the Hall doesn't help, we need a photographer - any volunteers?

The Art Board has been completed and will be displayed in town from 10th May for the Ashby Arts Festival later in the month. Watch out for it, hopefully at the top of Market Street near to or opposite our garden, you won't be able to confuse it with anyone else's as it is so obviously WI inspired.

Also at the end of March we had our charity skittles night, thanks to the loan of Helen Hassan's family's travel skittle alley that was assembled in the Congregational Church Hall. Another fantastic night of fun and games, it was a great laugh. We have held one of these nights for three years running and if we do so again next year those of you who haven't been to one should consider coming along.



Our meeting this month was a visit from the History Wardrobe, Lucy and Meri gave us a fantastic delivery of their "Women and the Great War" history of ladies clothes through years 1914-1918. They are a very entertaining duo and I suspect we may see more of them in the coming years as they have a huge number of presentations. Below are some bad photos of some of their outfits, particularly fetching is the aviator hood that Meri is modelling.







Our competition this month was an "egg cosy" and you can see the cute entries below. The winner was Linda Mott's little lilac bunny at the front, beautiful. Brilliant effort by everyone.



We continue to collect your knitted lengths and "baubles" for our yarn bombing event, thank you and keep those needles clicking ladies! Thanks also for your continued support for this year's charity collections for Ashby Stroke & District Support Group, you are helping by collecting your change, buying raffle tickets and contributing to the monthly bring and buy stalls.

May's meeting is our Resolutions meeting where Jane Elson will be leading us on the Failing to Care issue and we will vote on whether the WI should take the campaign forward. There will also be a Beetle Drive and Phoenix Cards will be selling too. The Bring and Buy stall is being hosted by the Garden Gang and they would appreciate your donations of plants, cuttings, seeds and the like for the May meeting.