

Happy New Year!



January 2015

New year, new programme and we started it off with Dawn Sumner's presentation "**Womens Health**" based on Reflexology and how she believes it can help your overall well being as an alternative therapy to improve your health. Shan Milward was her "client" for the evening and Shan certainly looked chilled after her general treatment.



The first of our themed trading tables was an "unwanted Christmas present" bring and buy, plenty of items were brought in and I'm sure it resulted in a good boost to the funds for Ashby & District Stroke Support Group. Our last collection for Pennies for Friendship brought in excess of £20 so we have a healthier amount to contribute this year. Thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to both of these and to the Choir members who ran the bring and buy stall. Valerie Moreland brought in the "Tapestry Brick" which was done by Alice Gibbons and is now finished and ready to join with those from the rest of the Federation. It looks great and the little write up with it explains the design. Those going to the ACM will have the opportunity to see the whole "wall" on display.



Linda Mott brought in examples of what can be made at the February's craft group, a scented heated cushion or a lap holder for a tablet (iPad, etc). Kay Darwin is organizing a dinner/dance/party for our Centenary Celebration which will be on the evening of Saturday 26 September at the Lyric Rooms, I hope as many of you as possible will support us by coming along for what will undoubtedly be a great night. Put the date in your diary so you don't double book.

We will be yarn bombing later in the year and the details of that were disclosed at the meeting, hopefully that will make for some good photos come May/June. This is something everyone can help with and involves wool/knitting/crocheting but don't think if you don't knit you are excluded as we all know how to make a pom pom..... just sew a couple together with a few finishing touches and ta-dah! Also we would like to create an Art Board for display (there is a set theme), so anyone with creative ideas who hasn't already signed up.....roll up, roll up! I'm being deliberately vague as it is hush hush really and further details will be in What's On.



During the month the Craft Group upcycled their Christmas cards into tree decorations/gift holders and you can see their creations in the photo above. The Strollers walked at Spring Cottage on a frosty day, unfortunately at the end of the walk the hard ground had melted into a horrid slippery sludgy mess, but we recovered with cake and coffee at Lakeside Tearooms with a further hour of chat. Some of our members took up the invite to Coleorton WI's January event which was billed as a presentation by Charles

Hanson. However he was otherwise engaged but his colleague Vanessa Savage took his place. Vanessa gave a very interesting talk about the antiques trade and high street trends and advised on what they thought to be the next good buy/hot trend and how to distinguish between fake and true amber. Vanessa also gave a few ladies some nice surprises with her valuations on items they had brought in, one piece of "costume jewellery" turned out to be platinum and diamond!

Next month we have "**Cupcake Decorating**" and the Bring and Buy Trading Table will be run by our Darts Teams and will be dried or tinned food (with a good shelf life). How about making a "Saucy Garter" for February's competition.

December 2014

This month's evening event was a Christmas Social, a faith supper with quiz. During the business part of the evening Barbara Ivatt and Julia Fraser put forward their ideas for boosting the fundraising for our local charity. The first of which started the funds off with a healthy collection from donations for signing the communal Christmas Card. Another you may wish to join in with is to keep a "change pot" at home over the year and to donate whatever you accumulate. Each month there will be a theme to the trading table, led by our sub groups, for members to both contribute to and to buy from, watch out for information in our monthly What's On newsletter. On the trading table Polly Morgans was taking orders for her lovely wreaths and table decorations, a percentage of her takings will be going to Ashby & District Stroke Support Group.



The Craft Group announced their new format, each month they will put to the membership the project for the following month and those interested can sign up on a month by month basis. Val and Linda are hoping to secure guest demonstrators on a regular basis for new ideas.

There was a voluntary collection of loose change for Pennies for Friendship, this will be carried forward into next month and then sent to our Federation WI, this money goes to Associated Country Women of the World. ACWW is a worldwide non-sectarian and non-political organisation with charitable status. Its members pledge to improve living conditions in a practical way, and support basic education and local development projects to fight hunger and disease. Each WI donates small amounts to ACWW, this money is used to help underprivileged women in third world countries.

Thanks to Alice and Sybil who will be the leaders of our two darts teams for 2015.



The social side of the evening kicked off with a lovely song from our Choir on the 12 days of Christmas rewritten to be Ashby Spa WI specific, it was excellent and a great start to the night. Carole Booth was our Quiz Master with a seasonal quiz that proved, as they so often do, that some of us don't know as much as we think we do! Thanks to everyone for making it a great night.

There were nine strollers on our walk this month, not a frosty enough morning to do the planned walk but a dry sunny walk starting from Moira Furnace - and you can't often say that in December, we even had our coffee and cake sitting outside at The Hub although we did cool down pretty quickly.

Well that is it for 2014, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see you in January for "Women's Health" with Dawn Sumner.