

August 2015

This WI month began with the Craft Group's mosaic workshop with Jo Allsopp, there were about 18 ladies that signed up and after some instruction by Jo we proceeded to gather tiles, beads, etc, for our designs, breaking them to size and shape and sticking them in place on our heart or owl bases. It was a fun night trying out a new craft. Lots of laughs! Since then Jo has finished them off with grouting but the photos show what was achieved on the night. The Craft Group is run on a monthly sign up, so if there is a craft that comes along that you think you would like to try, please do put your name down, everyone welcome.



There were 16 ladies on this month's walk to Limehouse Dam and Sharps Bottom Wood, less than 3 miles but what a lovely walk, dogs Dexter and Mr Welby enjoyed their swims in the ponds en route! Afterwards the majority went for refreshments to Scaddows tearooms, a facility that closes on 13 September until the next soft fruit picking season.

Our evening meeting was a presentation on the origins of chocolate by Isaac of Chocolate Alchemy in Loughborough. Isaac was a natural presenter and his love of his job and chocolate was infectious, I am sure our members will be heading into the shop/cafe to sample some of his flavour combinations - white chocolate, lemon and salt could be my next favourite!



The whole evening had a great atmosphere, we were really pushing the charity fundraising as it was the last month that monies could be raised for Ashby & District Stroke Support Group. We held a cake sale that was extremely well supported by those that baked and also those that bought. Special thanks to anyone that did both as over £110 was raised. Thanks to Mary Wilson and Carol Land for manning the stall on behalf of the Strollers. We held our usual raffle with prizes sourced by Elaine Anderson, but also this month Elaine made jewellery sets of the two necklaces that were entered into the Ashby Show by her and Deb (me) and these were raffled off in a second raffle, thanks to all that bought tickets and especially to those that bought a ticket for both as that really made it worth while and pushed up the total raised. The last of the coin collection pots were handed in. Helen Hassan had made a fabulous array of tote bags and she generously donated the money for those to the

charity too. Thanks to everyone who has supported all our many fundraisers this year. Now we are all waiting in anticipation of what the grand total will be to pass over to the charity in October. Please bring any nominations for a local charity to support for our next year ready for the vote at September's meeting.



We did have a competition of a fun/amusing holiday photo - I think in all the effort of baking, the competition wasn't at the forefront of people's minds and we only had one entry, from Val - she won, of course!

Next month is our WI Centenary event, where we will be celebrating 100 years of the WI with cake and fizz and the choir will be providing our entertainment. We would like everyone to wear a hat in recognition of the ladies of yesteryear that founded and established this great organisation. We are hoping it will be a great social evening so please do come along.

July 2015

Margaret Berry organised a Nordic Walking taster session which took place the last weekend in June. Enjoyed by those that took part. Another one is in the pipeline, this time organised by Julia Fraser.



Another successful Ashby Show for our WI and with a bit of cajoling we had quite a good number of entries into the individual WI competitions and for those entries, an excellent rate of success. The photos below show those that won rosettes. Congratulations go to the following: Christine Letts whose flower arrangement was placed 2nd in its category, her wall hanging 3rd and her necklace a 1st. Marion Shuttleworth won the Rachel Loke Cup for her knitted handbag. Valerie Moreland got a 3rd for her handbag. Carole Booth got 2nd for her transformation of a recycled milk carton which she made into a bird box and her husband was placed 2nd in the men only category which was also a bird box although this time on a more traditional basis. Elaine Anderson got a 2nd for her necklace and Deb Winkles a third for hers.

We had two group entries that were put together by Val, Christine, Jean Morrison, Carole Booth and Sue Derrick. Their entry in On With The Show category won us 1st place which was designed on the theme of Music Hall based on the song Where Did You Get That Hat, a cross stitch of a lady in a hat made by Jean Preece, a felt hat made by Val, a cake decorated as a hat by Linda Mott, all set on a board that was covered in red velvet and tassels to give the idea of the stage curtain and a couple of treble clefs to set the scene. The other group entry was in the Handcraft category, three craft items and a flower arrangement, the display was titled The Gallery with the hare oil painting by Liz Hall, two framed needlework pictures by Marion Shuttleworth and the yellow flower arrangement through a frame to link the display by Christine & Sue. Thanks to this team of ladies that worked hard on their ideas to enter the competitions on behalf of our WI and congratulations on the win. Well done to everyone else that entered into the many competitions including herbs in a jam jar, single stem, oval table centre, 5 stem arrangement, rag doll, apricot teabread, battenburg, marmalade, sausage roll. Let's see if we can do even better next year with more of us taking part. There was fantastic competition from the other WIs particularly Sheepy Magna, Breedon on the Hill, Botcheston and Nailstone who all had good wins.





This month's evening meeting was an SOS Fashion Show, our models included Helen Baker, Val Moreland, Veronica Anders, Kay Darwin, Jane Elson, Jane Long, Polly Morgans and Lorraine Taylor and they did a brilliant job. The event was very well attended by 72 members and 6 visitors. Our charity bring and buy sale was hosted by the Craft Group selling craft items, unfinished projects, patterns, etc and raised £53 towards our annual fundraising for Ashby & District Stroke Support, we have one sale left to go towards this year's total which will be a cake sale next month.



Three ladies have shown an interest in joining the Committee, however we still need a new Treasurer before we can even go forward into a new year and discuss the other officer vacancies of President,

Deputy President & Secretary. If you are good with figures and think you could take on the role please hurry up and volunteer as we are running out of time.

Alice's darts team shown below (minus Cyn & Sandra this time) have finished their matches and Sybil's team have still got 2 games to play - good luck A Team.



We are still sponsoring and tending the raised flower bed at the top of Market Street with members signed up on a two week rota to weed, dead head, etc. If you would like to take a turn please add your name at the next meeting. Elaine Anderson is shown doing her stint.

This month's walk is at Normanton Le Heath with the weather sure to be better than in October when only four of us battled with the wind to do the same route.

Thanks to Jean Preece and Margaret Berry for their photos this month. Don't forget if you are enjoying the company of WI ladies then take a photo to show us what you have been up to then send it to ashby.spa@googlemail.com and it can be added to these notes.

June 2015

This month we were unable to hold our regular meeting at Manor House School Hall so we decided to hold an activity evening in the form of a Summer Stroll. Thirty ladies walked a 4.6 mile circular route from Ashby to Packington to Ashby. Some peeled off towards the end as we passed close to their homes but the majority of us ended up in the "garden" of the Shoulder of Mutton for a relaxed chat over a drink or two. Thanks to everyone who turned up and to Alice Gibbons, Ann Nash and Jane Foulds who although were unable to do the walk joined us at the pub for the second part of the evening. Below you can see us starting off walking down Prior Park Road, where Sue Bloor caught up, thanks to a speedy drop off by her husband en route from Grandparent duties and we were joined at the Bath Grounds by Sarah Bartholomew, Polly Morgans navigated to Avenue Road and amazingly managed to find a parking space and join us at Western Park, it was all very uneventful from that point onwards and was completed with no further drama and in very good time. Although there were comments at the end about it having been a route march I think everyone enjoyed it! Another photo shows us with our much deserved drinks.



Our usual Tuesday morning Strollers Walk this month was the Staunton Harold circular and although we have done this walk a couple of times it was gratifying to know that it was a new route to a few of the ladies walking. Refreshments & chat afterwards in the sunshine in the Courtyard at the Stables Tea Rooms (no photos this month).

The two darts teams are still doing well and both A & B Teams have won all their matches so far, A Team have 2 games to play and B Team have only one. The league finishes on 15th July so we will shortly find out if any of our teams have made it through to the play offs. The photo shows Sybil's A Team - Carole Kitchen, Sheila Lewis, Jean Preece, Sybil Wallis & Lesley Eastgate (Barbara Ivatt also a teammate is missing from the photo).

At the beginning of the month Valerie Moreland & Lynne Fraser Rae went to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on what was a very windy day, which by all accounts produced some hilarious moments but a disastrous day for hats! The photo shows Val with Barbara & Ann from Ashby Castle WI. A great day enjoyed by all those lucky ladies that got an invite.



Our Summer Outing on 18th June was organised by Sarah but unfortunately she was unable to come with us due to family commitments. However, because she had done all the ground work the day ran smoothly and we had a fabulous time at Broughton Castle and afterwards at Stow on the Wolds. The visit started with tea/coffee & delicious "home-made" biscuits, followed by a very interesting and informative tour by the two guides that led us in two groups, finishing up with a walk around The Ladies' Garden which was beautiful. On the tour we went out on the roof where we could really appreciate the view and the location of the castle. The church was opened for us and I think a few ladies had the time to nip in and have a quick look. The photos show one of the views from the roof, Sandra Fox appreciating The Ladies Garden and Helen Hassan, Lorraine Taylor, Liz Jarvis and Marie Brien enjoying their picnic. It was great to visit a castle that has water in its moat which is due to the confluence of three waterways and one of the reasons that the castle was built at that location.



In June some members have also had tickets for the tour of the Hindu temple that is right next door to WI House in Leicester and the Tiffin & Tea Tour at Leicester University's Botanical Gardens at Oadby. The tour of the temple included a delicious lunch, what a great opportunity to taste authentic asian dishes made by the ladies of the Hindu community and to get an insight into their faith. If you have never been to the Botanical Gardens they are well worth a visit, easy free parking on the road outside, free entry too! A few photos below show a few of the sculptures currently in the grounds, there are houses on site that are empty but have a story to tell, a beautiful pond filled with carp, in fact it is like a mini Kew Gardens and like Kew has plenty of seating to take a rest and enjoy the surroundings and picnic. On the day we were split into groups of 12 and a guide took us round the gardens finishing with cake and coffee, raffle, competition (how many raisins in the fruit cake) and an opportunity to enter a quiz. Watch out for future events organised by the Trustees and Committees of our Federation as advertised on the noticeboards at our meetings and detailed in your What's On emails, they may broaden your horizons with new experiences or enrich knowledge/skills you already possess as well as the opportunity to meet other WI members who are quite willing to share their experiences and recommendations, bring those recommendations back with you and pass on!



Special mention this month to those that have sent me photos, Val, Elaine and Sybil. Much appreciated. If ever any of you are at a WI event and have taken photos that you think would be of interest to our members on Facebook or this webpage then please do send to me at our WI email address and I will use where possible.