

February 2016

The Craft Group led by Linda Mott started off our WI's month of activities with a session on Easy Knit Slippers. They weren't completed on the night but the photo shows the progress made and how they could look once finished. Ann Bartram sent in a photo of her first completed one.



The Coffee Club are enjoying their relocation at the Ivanhoe Club. The Reading Group have relocated to the Ivanhoe too and met there for the first time this month. The Strollers had a lovely day for their walk at Staunton Harold. We have one team going into the WI Darts League this year beginning in March/April. The choir is always open to new singers joining and I believe have a few dates in their diary to rehearse for. If you fancy a faster paced walk then the Nordic/Power Walkers meet on the last Thursday of the month. Dates and times and contact information are in the monthly What's On emails for all our groups.



Our evening meeting this month was Folk Tales & Funny Folk by Geoff Harris who shared his stories of British Folklore. Our members continued to show us how community/charity minded they are with lots of support for the Bring and Buy puzzles sale manned by Cyn & Sandra, donations of jewellery for the Treasure Your Heart Appeal and more contributions of loose change, all for charity. We held a Green Hearts Competition as a nod towards the WI campaign to promote discussion on Climate Change and the Environment. Susan Strong won with her heart pendant necklace made from recycled parts of sentimental value.





We also held a charity fundraising social evening, Helen & Mohammed Hassan assembled their skittle alley at the Ashby Congregational Church Hall and we had a fun night of skittles. Five teams of five, each person selecting their team from tickets in a bag. With BYO drinks and nibbles on the table the night had a great atmosphere of joking and competition. Team C won the night, congratulations to Elaine, Terri, Heather, Mandy and Sue Stobbs. The photos show the teams with the winners jubilant with their box of chocs. Sue Bloor is missing from her team photo and Helen is missing from hers too, although Elaine managed to snap Helen at one of her other roles of the evening, selling raffle tickets.







These photos and more are available on our Facebook page, if you are a member please "friend" us.

January 2016

We have had a great start to the New Year, with lots going on as usual with our WI, another fabulous turn out of ladies to see Mike Peachey presenting an oil painting demonstration. I think Mike was expecting a bit more audience participation but at least Alice and Wendy didn't let us down, with Alice stepping up first to paint the rocks in the seascape and Wendy adding some final flourishes with her seagulls. It is amazing that the painting was completed as Mike did a very good job of keeping us entertained and there was a lot of laughter in the hall. You can see the painting from beginning to end in the photos.





The Bring & Buy stall hosted by the Choir was unwanted gifts and a photo shows Sybil and Joy who manned the stall. Heather Grose, mother of Alex Grose and founder of the Alex Grose Memorial Fund (AGMF) gave us an overview of the charity and thanked us for our promise to support them this year. Susan Strong shared her fundraising ideas. We had a collection of loose change for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship appeal. Members filled in their voting slips on which Resolution they thought should be taken forward this year. Our majority vote went to No 8 as listed - Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia. We will find out in the next few months which is the overall winner of the vote. We then

debate the issue at WI level in May and vote as to whether we think it should be taken on by the NFWI as a campaign which is decided at the AGM.



The Coffee Club met at their new venue, the Ivanhoe Club and celebrated by sending in their first photo! Question is did they stick to coffee and tea - photo shows some of the 12 ladies that met at the beginning of the month sat at the bar! The Craft Group made doorstops and they look so good, chickens, an owl and a dog. Jean, Val & Shan met to give the garden a tidy up.





Thanks to all contributors of photos this month, Elaine, Shan, Val & Barbara

December 2015

Our Craft Group workshop this month was to make a wire and bead decorated heart and you can see the creations in the photo, very pretty. These came in handy for our "fun" competition at our meeting later in the month which was to bring a homemade Christmas tree decoration.



The Strollers decided to go for a Christmas lunch after this month's walk and so it was planned to be a route around Moira, as we had booked a table at Lakeside. After a 4 mile walk we spent a lovely relaxed 3 hours eating, drinking and chatting - such a nice social event that it has been suggested we do it again during the year.



For our evening meeting Colin Alderson travelled from Harrogate to give us his talk on "Christmas in the Royal Household" as a former pastry chef to the Queen, having worked at the Royal residences of Buckingham Palace, Sandringham, Windsor and on the Royal Yacht Britannia, for 5 years during the 1970s. He left to run his own hotel in Harrogate and now works as a chef with St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate where he also enjoys making the residents their celebration cakes. He gave a lovely, interesting and gentle presentation with slides, on his life while working for our Royal family with a few little stories and recipes along the way to give us a real insight into the grandeur of their lives with regards to the catering side in particular and in the days when they didn't have to do costings! Afterwards Colin judged our competition entries and chose Ann Bartram's knitted angel as the winner.



We then went on to indulge in the mince pies that some of our members had volunteered to provide, Jean dressed the tables with the Christmas trees made at last month's Craft group for which we didn't get a picture at the time! Elaine decorated the noticeboards festively with lights, etc and also themed the raffle around Christmas. These little touches all added to the night. Well done to Polly in her capacity as Vice President standing in for Carole for the first time. Another successful and popular evening 66 members and 4 visitors. The new programmes are now printed and these will be given out to those that have renewed their subs the following month together with their receipt. In the meantime you can always find the programme on the tab above.





Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!