

## November 2014



The above photo shows November's meeting of the Craft Group, the evening was a willow weaving session where regular Craft Group members were joined by a few of our general members to make up numbers. The photo shows some of the items made on a fun and enjoyable evening - wreaths, Christmas rings with star and stars on sticks. The photo below shows Anna (instructor) and Christine Letts who is fishing with her rod and fish and I am reliably informed that is not a pixie hat on her head but a cornucopia.



A late photo of October's "strollers". As forecast in October's report below, the day was very windy but we escaped with only one sharp shower. Brenda Elsam, Jean Morrison and Elaine Anderson were the three who braved the weather and we had a nice brisk walk at Normanton Le Heath with much deserved tea and cake at Cattows tea rooms afterwards.



Remembrance Sunday in Ashby was attended by quite a few of our ladies and Polly Morgans represented us by participating in the parade and laying a wreath on our behalf, the photo shows Polly (in red) with her counterpart from Ashby Castle WI.

Our visit to the Houses of Parliament on 17th was a great success, approximately 50 people were split into two groups for guided tours around the stunning building, we then met up in the House of Commons where we were joined by Andrew Bridgen MP. While the police did a security sweep before the afternoon session of parliament he took us to a meeting room where he gave a very informative talk followed by an interesting question and answer session. Afterwards he took us out on to the bar terrace which overlooks the Thames. He then had to leave for Prayers and Questions to the Home Secretary but before that he secured us passes to get into the Public Gallery. Some of us sat in to see his first question which although numbered at 13 was called jointly with number 5 so we still had time afterwards for a late lunch and shopping, some ladies went to see the Poppy installation at the Tower. This was a brilliant day, history & culture, shopping, eating & drinking. Thank you Sarah Bartholomew for organizing a truly successful day trip. Sorry there are no photos at the time of writing.



November's walk was "A Hack Round Ticknall", as the title implies it was mainly on bridle paths and so was a bit muddy in places but the autumn colours more than compensated and a bright, dry day made it a very pleasant short walk. Nine walkers and one dog (Pi) this month. As you will see from the photo we finished up in The Wheel Inn for drinks, some had the usual coffee but a good few of us had mulled wine! Well it is nearly Christmas and it was very nearly 12 o'clock! Last but not least our evening meeting this month was "Antiques Roadshow" with Richard Plant, members brought in their treasured possessions for a valuation and description. Richard tried to get through as many as possible, unfortunately there were no overwhelmingly high valuations although he did like a few of the items. The highest values were given to a silver

platter and a gold watch and chain, with special mention to two spelter busts and a chalice which did have value and a piece of the Berlin Wall which was a piece of social/political history. His advice was to buy things you like and use them, rather than putting a purchase away to keep it in good condition to later find it doesn't have any real monetary value. We also had a table sale of jewellery, scarves and basketware, the proceeds of which will go towards our charity fundraising. Christine Letts and Valerie Moreland modelled two beautiful hats each, all with embellishments, that they had made from scratch whilst on a course at Denman College, they looked very professional and I wish I had taken a photo to show those of you who were not able to make it on the night. The course comes highly recommended by them.

## October 2014

October is AGM month and this year we were celebrating our 5th Anniversary. Our President - Sarah Bartholomew, our Treasurer - Mary Silcock and our Secretary - Linda Mott, summarized the year 2013/14. We elected new committee members Margaret Baxendale, Pat Bithell and Elaine Anderson and voted in Ashby & District Stroke Support Group as the local charity we will be raising funds for over the coming year. Valerie Moreland and Linda Mott stood down from the Committee, thanks ladies from everyone at our WI for all your work in making the group so successful.

Dr Geoff Foulds, the Chairman of Hospice Hope, accepted a cheque in the sum of £1462.87 raised by our members during 2013/2014 and gave us an overview of the aims and goals of Hospice Hope in the coming months and years ahead. Dr Foulds also judged our cake competition, the cakes were then eaten during the break and we continued afterwards with Alice Gibbons as our bingo caller for 6 games of bingo. Thanks to Manor House School PTA for the loan of the bingo machine.



October also saw the beginning of the NFWI's centenary year celebrations and the Centenary Baton was in the LRFWI area at a couple of events supported by our members. The first was on October 8th at Foxton Locks, where our pennants, now strung as bunting, joined with those made by the rest of our Federation and on 9th October a walk followed by a cream tea at Bradgate Park.



Our sub groups continue to flourish although new faces are always welcome. You will see below photos of recent Craft Group projects, cards (led by Linda) and pot holders (led by Alice). This month's walk is at Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Woods, not sure it will be very pleasant though with winds and rain forecast!



## September 2014

This month's evening event was presented by Sue Cadman "**My Life as a Roly Poly**". Sue gave an entertaining account of how her life was spent in the world of dance and TV, from skipping off school to take dance lessons, then taking exams to become a dance teacher, joining a flying ballet and everything else between that took her into the world of TV as a Roly Poly.

The pennants for the Centenary Bunting have now been collected and sewn together and there are a few photos below to show how good it looks (apologies for the lighting). This bunting will be strung together with the rest of those made by WIs in our Federation and will be on display at the Centenary Baton event at Foxton Locks on 8 October. Well done to the ladies that contributed their lovely handiwork.



The Craft Group made Scissor Covers at this month's meeting. If you would like to join the Craft Group please speak to a Committee Member at the next meeting or send us an email to find out what you need to take along for the current month's project.



The Strollers walked a 3 mile circular at Moira Furnace that we hadn't done before. The route took us through Shortheath. Another sunny day, thirteen ladies and a dog (Maggie) had a very pleasant walk finishing with a catch up over coffee and cake at the Furnace Tea Rooms.

Our members had additional opportunities during September from other WIs in our area. The first was a trip to National Trust Waddesdon Manor on Thursday 18th and the second was a Flower Arranging Demonstration at Netherseal WI on Friday 19th. It pays to go to our monthly events to pick up on these extra invites as they are usually last minute where the other WIs are struggling to make the numbers needed to pay for coaches, speakers, etc and we may not have the opportunity to advertise them on our monthly What's On email in time for you to take advantage. Photos show the Ashby Spa ladies that went on the Waddesdon trip. The flower arrangement is "Dorothy" from a theme on the evening of Over the Rainbow. Ian (the florist) made his interpretations of The Tornado, Dorothy, The Yellow Brick Road, The Tin Man, Green Mountain and The Rainbow. They filled the stage and were amazing.

