

## Asby WI Secretary's Annual Report 2017

2017 has seen changes in Asby WI with Annie Johnson taking over as President from Susan Renshaw at the beginning of the year. Gwen Hadrill continued as Secretary until May when she relinquished her position and Jackie Smart took on the job. Anne Hulse has continued as Treasurer. Other committee members have been Pat Bevan, Pam Cowey, Rachel Forrest, Carol Smith, June Sowerby and Susan Renshaw as Vice-President.

In February we sadly lost Dorothy Hayton, a long standing member of the WI for over 50 years.

Total membership for the year is 20, average attendance at meetings 15.

**November:** Several events took place this month. The first was the cake stall at the Christmas Fair which raised £82.60. Members took part in the Federation fun quiz as Lowther Castle Hotel. The team Asby Heralds came joint second and Asby Angels third.

Some Long Service certificates were handed out in acknowledgment of 50 and 40 years membership of the WI.

**December:** Our speaker was Barbara Colbear on making Christmas decorations. She provided every member with individual craft packages from which we made a decoration to take home.

**January:** Our holiday month, however five members visited a textile exhibition at Farfield Mill Sedburgh and a New Year lunch was held at Mrs. Miller's, Culgaith.

**February:** We had a fascinating on "The Humble Sewing Needle" covering both its history and many uses. This month we sadly lost Dorothy Hayton.

**March:** Member Jackie Lambert gave a talk on the work of Carlisle & North Lakeland Hospice at Home, a local and vital charity which provides for end of life care at home. Members of the Knit & Natter Group sold a variety of home produced crafts at the Appleby Table Top Sale. This made ££143.00 profit which would contribute to the planned outing to Hexham in June.

The Knit & Natter Group proposed a Walk & Talk Group.

The resolutions for the NFWI Annual Meeting were announced, these being "Alleviating Loneliness" and "Plastic Soup-keep micro plastics out of our oceans."

**April:** The visiting speaker was Emily Atherton, news editor of the Herald. She covered the history of the paper from printing blocks to the modern digital production. Members contributed to the Federation's £10 Challenge with a contribution of £33.00 raised on the cake stall at the Christmas Fair. The Walk & Talk Group's first outing was to Acorn Bank. There were 8 members, 1 guest and 1 dog. It was enjoyed by all.

**May:** The resolutions for the NFWI Annual Meeting were presented, with Annie Johnson speaking on the importance of keeping micro-plastics out of our oceans. The speaker for alleviating loneliness was absent and it was decided to leave our delegate, Barbara Colbear, to vote accordingly.

There was a coach trip to Chester on 17<sup>th</sup> May which was enjoyed by all.

**June:** The intention for the June meeting was to visit Grandma's Attic in Bowness, unfortunately this was cancelled. There was a coach trip to Hexham on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Ten members and 17 guests were present. It was an enjoyable day with both discovering the history of Hexham and retail therapy taking place.

**July:** Brenda Austin gave a very interesting and educational talk on "Gardens in Cumbria". She referred to books by John Evelyn and William Wordsworth. She also covered a variety of different uses for plants, for example as medicine and pollen rich.

A donation in memory of Dorothy Hayton was made to the Federation Memorial Bursary Fund and a letter of thanks received.

**August:** This month's meeting was an "Open Meeting". There were a number of guests from other WIs and from Great Asby village. They had come to hear our visiting speaker, Suzanne Herbert. Her talk was entitled "Bags for all Occasions". She has a wide ranging knowledge on the use of textiles. She demonstrated various aspects of making bags and purses.

As the walks have been poorly attended it was decided to abandon the Walk & Talk group. We sent £50.00 to ACWW Pennies for Friendship.

**September:** The meeting began with the visiting speaker Rosie Kelly. She gave a fascinating talk on the history of circuses and her life and training as a circus performer. Members enjoyed the challenge of having a go at juggling, tossing balls and plate spinning.

**October:** There were 5 guests for this meeting. They had come to hear our visiting speaker Judith Smith talk about how she was inspired to set up a business selling pashminas. Her talk was entitled "Do you know your Fabrics?" and she explained how she sources her fabrics from India and how the fabrics are different.

We said good-bye to June Sowerby. She was thanked for her contributions to Asby WI and we wished her well in her new home in Bolton.

Louise had made a beautiful bag in which to put the basics for our refreshments along with all notices connected to serving refreshments.

Throughout the year members visited other groups and attended a variety of events.