

Secretary's Report 2018

In January we sadly lost Valerie Cooper, a long standing and loyal member of Asby WI. We welcomed two new members, Maggie Johnson and Julie Docker.

November 2017 Annie Johnson was confirmed as President for the following year as was Susan Renshaw as Vice President, Anne Hulse, Treasurer and Jackie Smart, Secretary. Three members joined the Committee, Helen Cooper, Louise Reeve and Gwen Hadrill.

December This was a Poetry and Plonk evening. After the business part of the meeting, glasses were filled and names were drawn for who would read a favourite piece of literature be it poetry, prose or an amusing ditty

January Is our holiday month. It was agreed that we would have a belated Christmas lunch in the newly re-opened village pub. However, due to illness, this was cancelled at the last minute.

February Carole Marsden, the speaker for the evening, was unable to attend. An impromptu quiz was held the subject of which was 'tea'.

March Asha Richardson gave a talk on the Ankoma Project in Ghana. She covered the expansion of its work with photographs to illustrate. She also talked about the proposal to bring some youngsters from the village to the UK in September.

April Shirley Crisp, a local entrepreneur, talked about how she started her underwear company called UNIBU with high quality knickers made using British workers and materials.

May The resolutions for the NFWI annual meeting in Cardiff were discussed. This resulted in our delegate, Annie Johnson, being asked to vote in favour of the motion Mental Health Matters as Much as Physical Health.

There was a coach trip to Salford Quays. Thirty four people attended and it was enjoyed by all.

June This month began with our "Bountiful Button Bonanza" where we collected over 17,000 buttons for the Lakes School Holocaust Project, and incidentally raised over £250 for the Ankoma Project by serving afternoon teas in the village hall.

Later in the month a very pleasant evening was spent at High Plains with Louise and Stephen Reeve. We were given a demonstration of training a pony to driving harness, and then we all had the opportunity to 'have a go'.

July We had our postponed Christmas lunch at the Three Greyhounds, Great Asby.

The guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Michael Roberts from PFK, local auctioneers and property agents. He held a very interesting Antiques Road Show with items brought by members and visitors being commented on and valued.

August Laura Harker gave a cookery demonstration entitled 'Summer Dreams' where she produced a variety of goodies, including sorbet, fruit and cream filled buns and lime sponge. Members were invited to taste and all agreed they were delicious.

September Tommy Thomlinson, a cobbler who was based in Penrith and now retired, gave a talk on his life as a cobbler. He covered his becoming an apprentice to owning his own shop and the need to diversify to stay in business.

October Our speaker this month was Lynn Barnes from Vista Veg. She described the transition from growing and giving away vegetables from her own garden to a successful veg box scheme now run as a co-operative.

October was also the month when it was our turn to hold the Group Meeting.

This was a very successful meeting with many members from other groups. The speaker was Archie Workman with his illustrated talk 'Life in the Gutter'. After a successful career in engineering he now has a job as a lengthsman in South Cumbria looking after drains, verges and sign posts. It was a very interesting and amusing talk.

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

Jackie Smart, Secretary