

Abbeytown WI

At our November meeting the members stood in silence in memory of Mrs Peggy Barwise, a member for many years who was on the committee and always so helpful in her own quiet way. She will be sadly missed.

Thanks went to Audrey Harrison for the table flower arrangement. Guest Elaine McQueen was welcomed, hopefully she will become a member. Thanks went to Elinor Roper, Freda Garner and Margaret Moore and all who helped with the Flower Festival. The Rev. Tembey's letter was read out, the event raised £1,190 for the Abbey.

Various arrangements were agreed for Christmas events. Unfortunately the speaker from the Fire Service was not able to attend so our guest judged the photo of a bird: 1st Freda Garner, 2nd Elsie Donald. Flower: 1st Elinor Roper, 2nd Margaret Ackerley. The raffle winners were Gladys Temple, Freda Garner and Elsie Roper.

At the December meeting Isobel Hurst was thanked for the table flower arrangement, the November records were read. 8 members attended Aikton WI and enjoyed the antiques evening. The Roe Valley Band has agreed to play at our 78th Birthday Party in March. Crofton WI invited 12 members to their Christmas party in January. Everyone is encouraged to walk 90 miles in 2005 to keep fit.

All members of the committee agreed to stay on but President Gladys Temple resigned. Audrey Harrison was elected to be the new President.

Freda Garner thanked Gladys for her six years of hard work, she then produced a Christmas quiz: winners were 1st Irene Irving, 2nd Joyce Wilson. Carols were played during the festive supper, which was provided by the members.

The competition for a 2005 calendar winners: 1st Margaret Moore, 2nd Elsie Donald. Flower winners: 1st Freda Garner, 2nd Elsie Donald. Raffle winners: 1st Margaret Moore, 2nd Irene Irving, 3rd Elsie Foster. Nellie Holliday produced a wonderful collection of over 3,400 stamps.

The meeting closed wishing everyone a happy Christmas and healthy new year.

Due to lack of lighting and heating in the Assembly Rooms, new President Mrs Audrey Harrison had to cancel the January meeting. The winner of the most points in the competition for 2004 was Elsie Donald who also won the most points in the flower competition. Members are reminded that subs are due, £21. New members will be made most welcome at the next meeting 7:30pm on 8th February, when the speaker will be from the Fire Services and the competition is a safety slogan.

Causeway-head WI

November - Maureen Irving and Pauline Nixon will be competing in the final of the WI Darts Competition at Wigton Bowling Club on Friday 12th November.

From Jan 2005, Causewayhead WI will be meeting in the Silloth Methodist Church Hall as our numbers have grown to more than 40 and a larger meeting room is needed. It is with regret we will be leaving the Catholic Church Hall where we have met for so many years.

Craft work is needed for display at Ripley Castle in May.

Causeway Head WI has entered for a 2004 Herdie Award in the Community Environmental category in respect of the activities of the Garden Gang in maintaining the gardens at the Discovery Centre in Silloth.

Our speaker, Mr Graham Wilde spoke on the mining industry in West Cumbria with particular reference to the pit disaster in 1947 at the William Mine at Whitehaven. He a retired principal Scientific Officer and he gave a fascinating and sometimes harrowing account of the history of mining from Bell pits to the driving of mining roads miles under the Solway. He listed the fatalities in some of the local mining disasters. In the William Pit disaster of 1947, 104 died from carbon monoxide poisoning. This disaster hastened research by the Coal Board into the provision of suitable gas masks with equipment to convert carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide.

The competition for three pieces of short

Silloth & District Pensioners



98 year olds: Evelyn Bates, Mary Shackley & Mary Hurst standing is 94 year old Ernie Jackson

On Saturday 28th November the Silloth & District Pensioners held their Annual Christmas Party. The Chairperson Mrs Diana Shaw welcomed everyone and thanked the Stanwix family for allowing us once again to celebrate our party in their lovely nightclub.

What a wonderful party it was from start to finish. The dancing started at 3.30 by the "Row Valley Duo" and it was lovely to see people on the dance floor.

Tea was served at 4:30pm, 162 pensioners sitting down, the Caterers as usual were Yvonne from the Curzon Grill, Maryport. The meal was served by the Committee and helpers, including three students from Solway Community Technology College (Emma Johnstone, Jacob Cork and Ashley Damon).

Next came the free drawing which had over 60 prizes, most wrapped very attractively with Festive papers or in baskets by Judith Jameson with her Artistic flare. The lucky winners must have been delighted with their prizes.

The oldest lady and the oldest gent in the room was presented with a tin of biscuits and the longest married couple which were Les & Janet Reeves were also presented with a tin of biscuits.

The paying raffle made £190 with lots of good prizes.

Singer "Jacky" finished the night with his renditions of popular songs, finishing with "Auld Langsyne" with lots of people on the floor.

Vice Chairperson Maureen Irving thanked the Entertainers, all the Committee, and helpers who not only worked so hard on the night but also in the organising of the event making the night a total success.

Each year it get's harder to find people to help at the party, so anyone who would like to help we would be delighted to hear from them.

bread was won by Margaret Durham and Jean Graham. Jean Vorley and Mavis Walker had winning post cards.

December - President Pat Bell welcomed members to the 2004 AGM as everyone sat down at festively decorated tables to enjoy a supper cooked and served by the Committee.

Pat reminded us that the annual subscription of £21 would be collected at the January meeting. Programme organiser, Diana Shaw has arranged a varied and interesting programme for 2005.

The A darts team will play at Aspatria Rugby Club on Feb 7th and the B team at Kirkbride on Feb 16th. The WI Spring Council Meeting will be held at the Shepherds

Inn on April 2nd.

We were delighted to welcome back Jean Wilson after her operation.

Carol Haynes and Molly Lomax won the raffle. Grocery parcels were taken home by Mrs Gladys Tyson and Pat Bell.

Eileen Chambers entertained us with some of the amusing anecdotes she collects. The Flower Cup was presented to Anne Harrison, and the Competition Cup to Margaret Durham.

Members had brought their own examples of beautiful embroidery and craft work to enable items to be selected to go to Ripley Castle in May.

What a busy and interesting year we have had.

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