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Report by: Gladys Temple

President Audrey Harrison welcomed everyone and thanked Noeline Foster for the flowers.

The bulb order for a total of £192.30 has been sent off so we look forward to a lovely show in spring. Volunteers were asked to collect house to house for the hospice, names to Freda please. Jean Balfour gave a comprehensive report from the AGM at Liverpool. As the report was in WI Life she felt it was not necessary to give such a full report but members found it interesting to hear from her point of view. The County News was reported on and several

items pointed out. On the 9th October Sing for your Supper, Ghost Stories 12th September in WI House, Bowls Jumble and Darts Pairs. Margaret Mynes and Mavis Graham sold raffle tickets and Muriel Mattinson took names for the Darts at Aspatria on 13th October.

Abbeytown WI

Audrey then introduced Kevin Bethwaite from Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service. He is a Station Manager in the Community Risk Department and has been in the Fire Service for 15 years. He has served in various parts of Cumbria. He asked us to guess how much time was spent on emergency operations and we were

surprised to hear it was only 4-5%, however they are kept busy with the training and education side of the service. Groups of young people are taken on courses and given an insight into the work giving them self-confidence and a sense of worth this has been a great success. They work with small children giving them fun but getting across the message that fire is dangerous. They also send out lots of leaflets to the childrens' parents to warn of dangers in the home. Ninety people a year die because they do not have working smoke alarms

Since the Carlisle floods the Fire Service now train with the lifeboat crews and can respond to floods with better equipment. Mobile phone chargers, candles and chip pans are the cause of most fires and Kevin gave out leaflets with ideas to help make homes safer. Names were taken for home visits to assess smoke alarms and emergency escape routes.

Freda Garner thanked Kevin for an interesting and informative talk. Joyce Wilson, Mary Briggs and Joan Graham served refreshments.

Gladys Temple and Audrey Harrison won the competition for a Royal souvenir while Elsie Donald and Joyce Wilson won the flower of the month.

Mary Spark, Pam Taylor and Margaret Mynes won raffle prizes. The card bingo was organised by Mrs Dargie's group.

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