

ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON UNDER HILL WI FEBRUARY 2016

This February was Ashton WI's 75th Birthday. We were obviously a wartime WI, having been founded in 1941 and when researching information for a project later in the year, discovered what a talented and busy WI we have been! The Worcestershire Federation are putting together a County 2016 celebration book and each WI has been asked to provide one A5 page depicting interesting items that have stood out from the year 1980 – 2016. Marion Nelson has taken on this project and looking back at old minute and report book, plus the many photo albums, has revealed Ashton W.I. has been involved in many interesting projects – celebrity speakers, craftwork of all kinds, drama, local community and county activities. It appears we entered competitions regularly at the Great Comberton Annual Flower and Produce Show, often winning many prizes. Several members have enjoyed annual holidays to Scotland and joined other WIs on Federation holidays abroad. Marion has a lot to 'squeeze' into an A5 paper!

Our celebratory meeting on 2nd February began with a toast to mark the occasion and Marjy welcomed 37 members and guests, including choir members from Elmley Castle and the Combertons. We displayed the famous mural wall hanging of Ashton life, produced by members for the 1991 Golden Jubilee. Old scrapbooks and photo albums were also on display.





The entertainment began with a lively and amusing poem written by Mollie Groom and read by Marjy. Next Margaret Satchell and Doreen Cope performed a sketch entitled 'You Never Know'. This was on the lines of BBC TV's Antiques Roadshow and the two characters were well drawn and brilliantly acted out by the pair. The 'Mums Aloud' choir from Comberton followed this performing a selection of tuneful and well-known songs for us. Conductor Jenny Newbury handled the Hall piano with great skill whilst getting the very best out of her singers.

Joan Richmond had brought along a CD recording featuring "The Calendar Girls". This was a performance by Ashton WI members dressed in very daring nightwear during a concert where Kemerton WI were celebrating their 80th birthday. A number of those present had been in the line-up 14 years ago, although sadly there were some faces no longer with us. It was a hilarious moment and thanks to Joan for bringing it along and to Malcolm for helping to set it all up.



Lighting the candles!

The evening ended with a piece of celebration cake, which Ruth Clarkson had kindly made. This was cut by Norma Shead our oldest member and our youngest member Linda Richardson.



Norma Shead and Linda Richardson cut our 75th Birthday cake

To conclude the February meeting it was reported that Dianne Stephens and her husband Brian were leaving the Village to live nearer their daughter in Macclesfield. Dianne has been a hard working member of Ashton WI., and she was presented with a lovely rose called “Champagne Moments” with a card signed by all the members. She and Brian were given our best wishes for the future in their new home.

MARCH 2016 MEETING

On March 1st Marjy welcomed 27 members to the meeting. Our talk was given by John Darby on “The Evesham Street Pastors”. The ladies of Ashton were amazed to hear about the night life of Evesham, of which we had little idea. We really thought it was a quiet town after the rest of us had gone to bed! We were impressed by the work of the Pastors who go out in the small hours with the primary aim of offering a safe hand to youngsters who may find themselves in a vulnerable situation. The Police welcome their presence which helps diffuse potentially difficult situations. It`s hard to get into a violent argument with a lollipop in your mouth, and kindness and humour seem to work wonders. John and the

teams patrol in two hour shifts and he admitted it can be extremely tiring but very worthwhile. Alex Dodge gave a vote of thanks and spoke for everyone in our admiration for the commitment of the Pastors.

For further information re the Pastors see website: www.evesham.streetpastors.org.uk

Future trips were announced by Andrea, including a visit to Slimbridge in May. It was also announced that a special celebratory lunch will be held in the Village Hall for members and friends in September.

The Walk this month was organised by Jane, Judy and Vicky and began in Elmley Castle. The muddy conditions had dried up and we were blessed with sunshine also. A pleasant circular walk, finishing back at the Queens for lunch.

Jen Creese