



CROSTHWAITE AND LYTH WI.

(A report presented to the Parish Council AGM on 5th May 2015).

The WI is the largest women's organisation in Great Britain and this year (2015) it is celebrating its Centenary. The WI in Crosthwaite was established in 1928. We currently have 37 members and we have had two new members join this year. To celebrate the 100 years of the WI in England and Wales we have planned four events beyond our normal programme of 12 meetings.

In March we hosted the Lyth Valley Group Meeting of the seven WI's in our area, when Cllr. John Bateson, a member of Kendal Civic Society, gave a well researched talk on the subject of Women in Westmorland in the First World War. He went on to give evidence as to how women of Westmorland had a key role in improving lives of women across the land, with Kendal an important area for the fight for women's suffrage. Costumes of the era were worn and we displayed a gallery of local photographs showing residents of The Valley a hundred years ago. We sang songs from 1915 to end the very enjoyable evening.

The next event is to be the Twinning Meeting with Bingley WI on Saturday 6th June. The Yorkshire members have been invited to visit our small, traditional and rural WI to contrast with their urban, large (100 members) WI in Bingley. In the hall we will be demonstrating crafts such as cake decorating and sugar craft, knitting, crochet, embroidery, flower arranging, spinning and weaving and drum playing. Also a history of our WI with scrapbooks going back 40 years will be on display and a video of recent WI outings and photographs of our recent successes at the Westmorland County Show will be shown. A short walk round the village will be included hopefully with a visit to the mill. The WI car will be making a visit with members of the Federation trustees in Kendal.

Later in June we will be celebrating the Centenary with Afternoon Tea at Storrs Hall. Dressed in our finest, colourful outfits with hats (optional) we are going to be photographed by the shore of Lake Windermere for our special Centenary scrapbook.

In September we are holding an Outreach Event at The Exchange to advertise our WI. We plan to show the wide range of meetings we have and the opportunities there are, for members to take part in learning new skills through the WI educational programme, which is offered at both local and national level. We plan to talk to parents of children in Crosthwaite school who already support village activities in many ways.

We hold 11 meetings in the Memorial Hall each year and already this year have enjoyed talks about Climbing Kilimanjaro, Haverigg Prison and its Smokery business and Passions for Pearls by Francis Benton. The complete programme is on the C&L website.

In March we enjoyed a spring meal at the Punchbowl in Underbarrow and members and husbands and friends were given a very warm welcome, good food and very friendly hospitality.

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the NFWI is to be held in the Albert hall on June 4th and because it is the Centenary Year there is to be a live screening at the Brewery in Kendal and some of us are going to watch it there. Four of our members are going to be present in London. The Resolution for 2015, chosen by WI members, is to debate 'Failing to Care, Assessment of need in long term care.' The same week there is going to be a garden party at Buckingham Palace to which 2 of our members are going.

Our WI members have a wide range of interests and skills and these were put to good use in preparing amazing displays at the Westmorland County Shows in September last year. We came away with three trophies, winning the produce class for 'An Anniversary', the highest average points for produce and most the points for preserves. These were our best results for a long time.

In the autumn we are planning our annual theatre outing to Keswick to see Fallen Angels by Noel Coward. It is always a very enjoyable trip. Other visits include a trip to Ambleside to the Armitage Museum.

New members are assured of a warm welcome and we also hold Open Meetings during the year to which everyone is invited including men.

The WI logo includes the motto "Inspiring Women" which we endeavour to do and which we hope we are. Please come and join us for Fun and Friendship in our village.

THANK YOU