

CROSTHWAITE & LYTH WI ANNUAL REPORT to the PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2016

The President for 2015, Jean Sceal, ensured that our WI truly celebrated the centenary with enthusiasm. Highlights from the year included one of our members attending a Buckingham Palace garden party, the national broadcast of the WI AGM held at the Albert Hall and numerous other celebrations. Our outstanding celebration was afternoon tea at Storrs Hall. At this event we wore our posh frocks and hats and had a wonderful chamber orchestra accompaniment. A number of Japanese tourists in the hotel were very impressed and after taking photos said that it was just like Downton Abbey!

Jean Sherratt took over as President for 2016 and has continued to welcome new members and to encourage us to take part in the many activities offered. Our talks and demonstrations so far this year have addressed many different aspects of life and interests, ranging from *Nepal in Need* to *Mental Health*.

The Westmorland Show in September was as usual a great success for many of our members. Through their hard work and co-operation their produce, flower arrangements, art work and baking achieved thirty eight gold awards and twenty four silvers. Five members received cups for their excellence in the best lattice tart, the best floral arrangement and for the best basket of vegetables.

Last September we had an outreach event at the Crosthwaite Exchange where a number of members met with women from the village and outlying areas to show the enduring attraction of the WI and to encourage them to join us for fun and friendship. We even have a Facebook page now in order to communicate more widely.

We are proud to be WI members and to contribute to the good health of the parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth.