

# Hay on WI

## Annual Report

### 2018

#### Introduction

This, the seventh Annual Report of Hay on WI, covers the period October 2017 to the end of September 2018 and contains information on:

- Membership
- Meetings
- Activities
- Conclusion



#### Membership

Our membership is now 19 full members. All meetings have been well attended and we have welcomed 10 guests to our regular meetings, as well as guests and partners to our special events.

#### Meetings

We have held a programme of monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at Cusop Village Hall. The 2 satellite groups, a Book Club and a Craft Club have continued to be well supported in 2017/2018 and we have introduced a new Gardening Club this year which has proved popular.

#### Activities

In our seventh year we have continued to extend our involvement with the local community:

- Taking an active part in the World War 1 Commemoration weekend in Hay in August
- Providing refreshments for Junior Hay Theatre Show 'Happy Gleaster' in April
- Providing cakes and serving refreshments for the Hay History Group in September with proceeds going to Luncheon Club and Hay Day Cafe
- Donating to bric-a-brac sales to raise funds for Dial a Ride and Arthritis UK
- Making crocheted/knitted/fabric poppies for Cusop Church and Remembrance events
- In June our President won the Powys Volunteer of 2018 Award for Individual Community Action
- Members also take a regular and active part in local community projects - Hay Day Cafe, a monthly social get together in both Cusop and Clyro for people with dementia and their carers, Dial a Ride, Luncheon Club, the Community



Garden, the Hay Community Theatre group and local charity shops, together with supporting local interest groups - Hay History Group, Cusop History Group, U3A, Hay Castle Trust, the Warren Club and the Riverside Conservation Group

We have continued to build a strong relationship with the Powys Brecknock Federation and WI events;

- 1 delegate attended the Annual Council Meeting in Brecon in May
- In May members attended the Wye Group Meeting at Llanigon
- Our quiz team took part in the Feb Prelims
- 2 members organised the door at the Group Coffee Morning
- In December we hosted the PBFWI Carol Concert at St Mary's Church Cusop
- In April we again entered the PBFWI Show with a very successful 3rd overall out of 23 WI groups. We had 1st place for the vegetarian pasty and the fabric rag doll, 2nd for the 5 madeleines, 3rd place for the fascinator and highly commended for the grey jumper with poppy and the Celtic Knots necklace. Well done to all those who contributed and tried a new challenge, there were lots of complimentary comments from the judges. Again we have a lot to live up to next year!
- From last year's resolutions members followed up on the plastic soup survey
- We discussed and voted on the 2018 resolution, 'Mental Health Matters' with the results forwarded to the National Conference
- We continue with our own WI Website and one member manages the PBFWI Website
- In August we had a stall in Hay Buttermarket and in September at the Hay History Group Day to promote our WI and to raise awareness of local and national events and campaigns



We have organised a full and varied programme based on suggestions from our members:

- **Oct** After the AGM and the election of officers and 2 new committee members (making a total of 9 on the committee) we enjoyed drinks and nibbles followed by Cori Cruse talking about the gorgeous natural beauty products produced by Neal's Yard. She demonstrated their benefits and members were able to sample/purchase from the range

- **Nov** 'Jewellery and Textiles' with Karen Van Hoff giving an entertaining and amusing talk about her life and design career.



She displayed her beautiful work which included knitted silver work and embroidered silk



- Also in Nov we had a very enjoyable trip to Cardiff to see the musical 'Beautiful' the Carole King story. We had time to shop and then had a lovely meal after the performance
- **Dec** Anne led a wonderful demonstration on seasonal sugar paste activities, and we had great fun and laughter making Santas and Snowmen, followed by drinks and nibbles. Also in Dec we attended a Christmas dinner at the Baskerville Arms with good food and lots of dancing and we also enjoyed Hay Day's presentation of 'The Good Old Days'



- **Jan** 'Ramblings of a Nonagenarian' where Lynn Trowbridge gave an entertaining, amusing and inspirational talk about her long and very interesting life made even more fun with her use of different accents
- **Feb** 'The Bra Fitting Experience' with George and Carrie from Harts of Monmouth presenting a talk about the history of the bra and the range of bras and swimsuits available. They bravely and amusingly displayed the importance of correct fitting and tempted us all to visit their store
- **March** 'Behind the Scenes - Cavalry of Heroes' with Catherine Lovett giving a talk about her local company who supply horses and riders for films, TV and events. Together with her partner, stuntman and coachman Marc Lovatt, they painstakingly train horses for films, shows and medieval jousting taking pride in their care, particularly on set. She also displayed one of the many beautiful and detailed costumes she designs and makes
- **April** 'Resolutions Evening' with members discussing and voting on the 2018 resolutions. Our result on 'Mental Health Matters' went forward to the WI Annual Conference. This was followed by the screening of the film 'Suffragette' with popcorn and drinks enjoyed by all
- **May** Our monthly meeting was replaced by the Wye Group Meeting at Llanigon where everyone enjoyed Penny Platts interesting illustrated travel talk



- Also at the end of May as part of the Hay Literary Festival members were able to attend the premiere of Owen Sheers play 'Unicorns Almost' about the life and work of World War II poet Keith Douglas
- **June** 'Silver Jewellery from Vintage Cutlery' with Jenny Shutler giving an entertaining talk about her history and how she became involved in making her attractive items and how she sourced her materials. She bought a wide selection to view and purchase



- **July** Once again another wonderful annual Garden Party at George House with everyone enjoying a delightful supper and Pimms supplied by members. We appreciated Shirley's hospitality and catching up with friends. We also attended the Dial-A-Ride Fashion Show at the Swan to support the good cause



- **Aug** 'Old School Days' with Sue Hodgetts talking about Cusop School House, her former home, and the school as it used to be. She had gone to such a lot of effort dressing up as village schoolmistress Annie White and acquiring props from Brecon Museum. A great deal was learnt about late Victorian life and times which sparked a lot of discussion about methods, pay, and the narrow focus of education at that time
- **Sept** 'Foraging Fun' with Adele Nozedar taking us on a fascinating walk around the hall and field foraging for edible plants. Adele was very knowledgeable and we were amazed by the range of things we found and ideas for their use



In 2018 our 3 groups - a book club, a craft club and the new gardening club were open to all and proved popular

**The Book Club** has discussed a wide variety of genre, including 'The Rice Paper Diaries' by Francesca Rhyddyrch, 'Skylarking' by Kate Mildenhall, 'The Girl Who Fell From The Sky' by Simon Mawer, 'Big little Lies' by Liane Moriarty, 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' by Mohsin Hamid, 'The Outcast' by Sadie Jones, 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' by Annie Barrows and Mary Anne Shaffer, 'The Last Weekend' by Blake Morrison, 'The Colour' by Rose Tremain, the classic 'Rebecca' by Daphne Du Maurier and 'My Own Story' by Emmaline Pankhurst which was very appropriate for WI this year. We voted on 'a good book' and 'would I recommend it' and all led to a lot of discussion and a variety of likes and dislikes. Our monthly subs continue to contribute to 'Bag Books' a UK charity making multi-sensory books for children and adults with learning disabilities

**The Craft Club** continued in October with us making quilted advent calendars and in November another popular beading workshop, which included repairs of beloved items. After the Christmas break in January the group enjoyed making decoupage boxes. We then worked on items for the WI Show. After the summer break in September the group met to discuss future sessions and to work on a variety of poppies for brooches and displays at commemoration events



**The Gardening Club** began in March with a talk at a local Garden Centre on 'Pruning', followed by one on 'Edible Gardening'. In May we had a very popular session led by Lynne on how to put together wonderful hanging baskets



## Conclusion

We have had a very successful seventh year, again enjoying a diverse programme of meetings and a variety of activities at our additional clubs. There have been many varied opportunities to support the local community and an increasing number of social events to enjoy with fellow members and friends.

Sue Hagan  
Hon Secretary Oct 2018