

# Annual Report 2019

**HAY on WI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

## Introduction

This, the eighth Annual Report of Hay on WI, covers the period October 2018 to the end of September 2019 and contains information on:

- Membership
- Meetings
- Activities
- Conclusion

## Membership

Our membership is now 22 full members. All meetings have been well attended and we have welcomed 6 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 2018/2019 with 2 extra meetings showing films. We have also enjoyed some successful practical Gardening Club meetings.

## Activities

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

- Leading and taking an active part in the Cusop History Group "War and Pieces" WWI centenary performance at Cusop Church in December.
  - Providing entertainment and refreshments with Hay Community Theatre for Friends of Cusop Church in August
  - Judging the cookery and preserve classes at the July Hay Show
  - 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, Arthritis UK and PBFWI
  - Making crocheted/knitted/fabric and paper poppies for decoration of a tree for Abbeydore. Christmas Tree Festival.
  - Supporting and donating food items to the Brecon Food Bank
  - 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 groups - Hay History Group, Cusop History Group, U3A, Hay Castle Trust, the Warren Club, Hay Library, Cartref, Hay and Clyro schools and the Riverside Conservation Group
- We have continued to build a strong relationship with the Powys Brecknock Federation and WI events:
- We took on the Treasurer role for the Wye Group for 2019 following the closure of Talgarth
  - A delegate attended the Annual Council Meeting in Brecon in May
  - In June one delegate attended the National WI AGM in Bournemouth
  - Our quiz team took part in the Feb Prelims and came a close second
  - We organised the refreshments and cake stall at the Wye Group Coffee Morning



- In April we again entered the PBFWI Show with a very successful 4th place overall in the face of politely fierce competition. Hay on WI were worthy winners of the Rosebowl Competition on our group entry with the theme 'Bees and Trees'. We achieved joint first in the art competition, 3rd place in photography; and Highly Commended for the beaded necklace.

- In July our Rosebowl entry in the Royal Welsh Show came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 WI entries.

- Our Secretary came first in Powys Bechnock in the Lady Denman Cup Short Story and has been forwarded to the National competition.

- The Wye Group Annual Meeting "Plays, Puddings and Pimms" was successfully hosted by us in September at Larchwood Studio, Racquety Farm with guest speaker Dr Kerrie Reading.

- We have a nominated Campaigns champion and have included campaign updates at each meeting

- We had a quiz and discussed and voted on the 2019 resolutions, *A Call against the Decline in Local Bus Services* 'and *'Don't Fear The Smear'* with the results forwarded to the National Conference via our delegate.

- We continue with our own WI Website and one member manages the PBFWI Website



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

- **October** After the AGM and the election of officers and 1 new committee member (making a total of 7 on the committee) we enjoyed drinks and nibbles followed by an evening of 'Musical Memories' when everyone chose a piece of music that had a special memory for them and told us all a little about why.



- **November** In honour of the centenary, we heard about Women's Poetry and Verse of the First World War read by Trish Richardson. We then enjoyed an introductory talk and practical Pottery demonstration from Jo Lord, with an opportunity to buy some of her work. We all made thumb pots which Jo took away and fired for us.

- **December** Tracy Davies introduced us to Cup Cake Decorating and we all had a chance to make a fun snowman and/or robin. This was then followed by drinks and a delicious shared supper. **Also** in December we attended a Christmas dinner at the Baskerville Arms (memorable for the wrong reasons!).

- **Jan** Judi Bunn shared her story of 'A Life Behind the Movies' and the work that she had done in Hollywood with famous directors and actors.

- **Feb** We enjoyed Ellie Versaky's "South African Story" when she entertained us with a short lesson in Afrikaans, a sketch on a family in the Boer War and explained the many hardships experienced by the rural people during that period.

- **March** Michelle Blackmore from Madley Plants told us about how she came from Australia to a remote part of Herefordshire (via London) with her husband to set up the Garden Centre. She also brought along some of her lovely plants and products for us to buy.

**Also** in March we went to Theatr Brycheiniog to an inspirational event "Extraordinary Women Talking" as part of the Brecon Women's Festival and enjoyed a meal beforehand.

- **April** "Tai Chi with Maz". We heard how Maz got into martial arts so that he didn't get bullied at school and about his time training in China. We then had the chance to copy some of the moves and understand the breathing.



- **May** We had a return visit from Alan Badmington, who has overcome his serious stammer through visualization techniques. He gave us a speech that he has developed based around his tongue in cheek look at old age, with the use of a few props, entitled "You're Never Too Old".

**Also** on May 9<sup>th</sup> we went to see the musical "Calendar Girls" in Cardiff and had a lovely day out, including a post-show meal.

- **June** We gathered on The Begwyns at 5.30pm for an evening walk and talked about things of interest at the Festival, pairing up and then swapping who we talked with while walking. We then adjourned at 7pm just before the rain, to The Roast Ox for our meeting and a meal.

**Also** We attended an OU talk from Dr Stephen Peake on Climate Change, privately arranged for us at the Hay Literary Festival site.

- **July** Members enjoyed shared food and drink at our annual Garden Party kindly hosted by Jane Blayney in her lovely garden. We also had fun with Guess the Baby photographs and enjoyed entertainment from Nick and Keith with a special appearance by Elvis singing Jerusalem.

- **August** We heard about "The Story of Books" from Graeme Hobbs who brought along some fascinating books and a hand operated letterpress for us to have a try.

- **September** Ange Grunsell spoke about "Fairtrade – what difference does it make". Our knowledge was challenged and we were made more aware of the range of Fairtrade products and what it means to the communities involved.

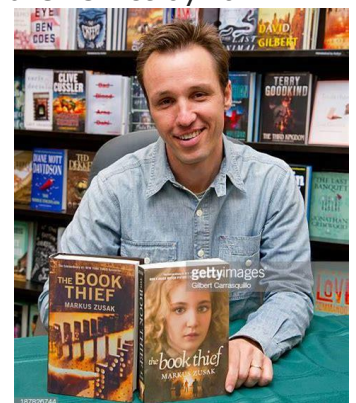


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In 2019 our 3 groups - a book club, a craft club and a gardening club were open to all and proved popular.

**The Book Club** has discussed a wide variety of genre, including Legacy of Spies by John Le Carre, Wuthering Heights by Charlotte Bronte, Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman, Diary of an Ordinary Woman by Margaret Forster, The Children's Act by Ian McEwan, The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (and we saw him talk about it at the Festival), Life after Life by Kate Atkinson, Thinking on My Feet: The small joy of putting one foot in front of another by Kate Humble, I know why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou and Becoming by Michelle Obama.

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. We also watched the films Rebecca and The Book Thief and whilst we enjoyed them, we all agreed that the books were better.





**The Craft Club** continued in October with us making fabulous needle felted Christmas decorations led by Anne Nicholls and Sue Hagan, which was very therapeutic. In November Jane showed us how to make a metal coat hanger and pieces of fabric into a beautiful Christmas wreath. After the Christmas break in January the group enjoyed making a lovely craft/tote bag which Sue Hagan showed us.



Alison Brown visited us in February to demonstrate how to make origami flowers. In March Julia Bont showed us wet felting techniques and how to make a felt bead. After the summer break in September we loved the Silk scarf making with Frances which resulted in some unique and amazing designs.

**The Gardening Club** began in March with a talk at a local Garden Centre. In May we had a very popular session again led by Lynne on how to put together wonderful hanging baskets and pots.

## Conclusion

We have had a very successful 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 Hodgetts  
Hon Secretary Oct 2019