

## Thornton Dale WI Annual Report: November 2020

**Committee 2020:** Margaret Smith, Sue Shuttleworth, Wendy Scoble, Shirley Pitt, Pauline Closier, Margaret Brough, Catherine Hanch, Julie Stroughair

Our current membership is 35; although our average attendance at monthly meetings remains around 30. Sadly, two of our long-standing members passed away this year.

We have welcomed several visitors to our meetings and hope they will choose to join us in the future for the friendship that our WI offers. We were delighted to receive a thank you letter from a member working her way back from a serious illness and hope to see her back to our meetings in the future.

It has been an unusual and difficult year, but the enthusiasm and determination of the ladies of Thornton le Dale WI has shone through:

- Margaret Smith and Sue Shuttleworth attended the WI centenary event at St Michael Le Belfry, where a poem composed (some years ago) by one of our very own Thornton le Dale ladies was read.
- Mary Mortonson, Wendy Scoble and Margaret Smith expanded their culinary knowledge at a Thai Cookery Course in York.
- Members took part in monthly local walks, usually accompanied by refreshment.
- A group of ladies spent an interesting afternoon at a Calligraphy Workshop and are now able to produce beautifully handwritten Christmas cards.
- We helped with the decoration of the re-vamped village hall, and on a very wet December evening we helped the local Lions with their Santa Sleigh Collection for local charities. The WI's chosen charities this past year were the Rainbow Centre, Scarborough
- Christmas also saw us entertain other local WI groups at our Area Christmas Party where refreshments and communal singing, and games, were enjoyed by all.
- Charity work featured again with our members knitting over 70 trauma teddies, during 'lockdown', for the local Emergency Services
- When we were struck by the Covid-19 lockdown, we persevered, managing to move our Book Group to Zoom, which we then expanded to include discussion around topical Podcasts as well as books.
- To help us all keep in touch during lockdown, we set up a Thornton Dale WI WhatsApp group and posted a limerick a day to keep people connected and having a bit of fun. We managed to get through the alphabet, not once, but three times. In addition, a monthly 'Newsletter' was circulated to members keeping them up to date with any activities and offers of assistance with shopping etc.
- In September we held our first meeting under Covid-19 restrictions. Our speaker was Pauline Closier, who gave a very interesting and illuminating talk on her adventures with her husband and dogs on their Coast to Coast walk.
- As we move on, with the prospect of further restrictions, we are planning to make a quilt in memory of a much-loved member who recently passed away. Members are encouraged to add their own squares. We are planning quizzes and YouTube tutorials for various craft projects.
- Members have also been given information about the online courses being offered by Denman at Home.

**Wendy Scoble - Secretary**

**10 November 2020**

## President's Report November 2020

There is no doubt that 2020 will be remembered for a long time. I would like to thank all the WI Committee for their support throughout the year; and for being a 'sounding board' for some of the initiatives we have put in place for our members. Working within the restrictions we have encountered, has not been easy, particularly when changes are made at short notice. Pauline and Wendy worked hard to produce our COVID-19 Risk Assessment and it was hoped that, following a successful meeting in September, that we would have been able to meet as a WI. However, guidance from National did not permit this. Sue has kept our finances in check - and the accounts have been approved by the Independent Financial Examiner.

In addition, my thanks also go to our members who have supported the things we have put in place to keep our WI 'alive' during this difficult time. I think we may be trying to think creatively for some months to come!

I am pleased to report that the current committee have agreed to remain in place for 2021, with their current responsibilities. Under normal circumstances we would ask members for their agreement on this and to propose and vote for the role of President. However, for this year we are asking for members approval on the above in lieu of the normal proposal and voting procedure. If you are happy with the proposals outlined below **you do not need to do anything** - but, if you disagree, please email or telephone either Wendy Scoble, or myself by Tuesday 10 November.

### Listed below are the current Committee and their roles:

President	Margaret Smith
Vice President	Pauline Closier
Secretary	Wendy Scoble
Treasurer	Sue Shuttleworth
Minute secretaries	Shirley Pitt, Florence Elgar, Margaret Brough
Events	Wendy Scoble, Catherine Hanch
Workshops	Pauline Closier

Non- Committee Roles (I have assumed that these members are happy to continue but, if not, we can rearrange in 2021).

Posters	Florence Elgar
Press Secretary	Lesley Gray
Refreshments	Wendy Hutchinson
Village Hall Rep	Carolyn McMahon
Birthdays	Bridget Eldrige
Programme Secretaries	Jo Bonham? and????

**Margaret Smith - President**

**10 November 2020**