

Thornton Dale WI  
Annual Report: November 2019

**Committee 2019** : Margaret Smith, Sue Shuttleworth, Wendy Scoble, Jane Holmes, Edith Shepherd, Shirley Pitt, Lesley Mitchell, Ann Naylor

Our current membership is 37; although the average attendance at monthly meetings remains at around thirty. We have welcomed two new members this year. Sadly, two of our long standing and loyal members passed away during the year; their contribution to our WI will be missed. Also, one of our newer members suffered a potentially life changing health incident, but we hope to see her at one of our meetings in the future. We have welcomed some visitors to our meetings and hope they will choose to join us, in the future, for the friendship and enjoyment that our WI offers.

Our WI was represented at the Spring Council Meeting, by Margaret Smith where we collected our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday certificate, but unfortunately, no members were available to attend the Autumn Council Meeting. We also entered a team in the WI Quiz, who came 1<sup>st</sup>; an enjoyable and fun evening for all. Members will be attending the Federation Carol Service in York in December

We continue to maintain a bursary which is also able to help fund a trip to Denman, if any of our members wish to participate in one of the courses on offer. We have used the fund to help with several craft workshops for our members; including making a Christmas wreath, paper boxes and a Christmas tree fairy. We are planning another Christmas flower themed workshop for December. Three of our members: Pauline Closier, Mary Richardson and Carol Rynehart followed their magnificent efforts with poppies, to hold sessions to make recycled flowers for the village Flower Festival which were very much admired. The flowers were made from plastics and metal and were on display for the Village in Bloom judging, which was also held in July.

Our fund-raising events through the year have been successful. We held a tombola stall at the Scarecrow Festival in August, assisted with the centenary Rural Ball following the Village Show and held a Harvest Supper and Auction in October. Several local WI's were invited to the Harvest Auction, which made the evening very enjoyable. We are aiming to provide gift boxes for women and children who are supported by the Rainbow Centre in Scarborough. Many of these women have been victims of abuse. Members will be asked to nominate another local charity which they wish to support. We have continued to support the Ryedale Food Bank, in Malton, with members bringing items each month, and providing items for the Food Bank Christmas parcels in 2018/19.

Our members showed their craft and cooking skills at both Ryedale and Thornton Dale Show. In addition to other items, we made baby hats, which were given to Scarborough Maternity Unit who provide a baby hat for every baby born in the hospital.

Our programme in 2019 has been varied, and thanks go to the programme committee members, led by Karen Hyatt, who have arranged our speakers. Highlights have included talks from a representative from Yorwaste, Malton Museum and a hands-on First Aid session. Our outing was a visit to Fairfax House in York, where we enjoyed a guided tour. Members attended a Christmas meal and a Spring lunch. We have also continued to arrange informal walks in the local area - Thornton le Dale, Goathland, Welburn and Brompton. We made a visit to Pickering Church, to follow up a talk given by Dr Kate Giles last year about the medieval wall paintings.

Other local WI's were invited to our Harvest Auction and Supper. Our members attended events at other local WI's including the group Christmas Party, held at Pickering and a charity fund raising evening at Appleton le Moors. It is our turn to host the Christmas Party in December this year, and the participating WI's have been invited. Several of our members are involved with the 'Village Hub', which has gathered local people together to make a difference in the community with various projects including litter picking, weeding, painting, bulb planting, Village in Bloom and looking after the pond area. Some of our members will be assisting with the decoration of the Village Hall and the Lions charity Santa Sleigh, when it visits our village in December.

The book group, organised by Florence Elgar, has met monthly to discuss a wide range of books. The book choices have been wide ranging, from classics to more recent literature.

Our WI members continue to ensure the smooth running of our WI by taking on some of the administrative tasks. Thanks to Bridget Eldridge for the birthday cards, to Florence Elgar for producing the posters, Barbara Claxton for running the raffle, Lesley Gray for being our press secretary, Wendy Hutchinson for organising the refreshments, Shirley Pitt and Florence Elgar for being meeting minute secretaries and Arline Midgley for representing us on the Village Hall committee.

Several members of our WI have been busy preparing the programme for 2020, and we look forward to further interesting evenings to come. We invited members to attend a recent committee meeting, which has resulted in some of our newer members being willing to serve on the committee and we feel sure this will ensure new ideas being generated.

*Wendy Scoble*      **Secretary**

*Margaret Smith*      **President**

12 November 2019