

Wickhambrook Women's Institute Newsletter

Winter 2015 Issue 10

Keeping members and friends in touch

October After institutes business and fixing the arrangements for the annual Christmas Fayre and the member's party, President Hilary Bradfield introduced our demonstrator Leah Slater to show us how she makes her lovely hand-made and self-designed jewellery. Leah is daughter in law of member Liz Slater and took us through the techniques employed using wire, beads and crystals to give her designs style and sparkle much admired by all. She was warmly thanked by Hilary for her interesting demonstration inspiring several to have a go themselves. As we have several newer members and there were several prospective ladies visiting, we enjoyed a circle activity helping everyone to know each other following on from the noisy chatter throughout during our refreshing tea break.



November There was a good turn-out for this month's meeting featuring a demonstration of Christmas flower arrangements for the festive table by Valerie Phillips from Haverhill. Suggestions for foliage that would give the arrangements a longer life were made and tips on design and size were shared as Valerie created arrangements which were later part of the raffle for all to have a chance to win and take home. Dorothy Anderson thanked Valerie for her demonstration and finalised arrangements for the Christmas Fayre and Members festive party and reports given about recent events both local and national.

December It was a lovely way to end the year and get into the Christmas spirit joining together to enjoy a festive evening organized by our hard working committee. A welcoming drink and delicious canapés greeted our arrival. A wonderful smell from various large, slow cookers delivered hot, tasty chicken or beef casserole with baked potatoes and mixed vegetables to accompany our choices. Home-made desserts to tempt followed along with cheeses, mince pies and tea or coffee. There was entertainment too, delightfully presented by Horry Parsons and his wife Susan with the jokes, stories and acting out of their Panto experiences over the years. Horry shared with us his transformation into a Dame and explain the traditions and superstitions surrounding Pantomime. After thank you gifts were distributed, the president Hilary Bradfield thanked Horry and his wife and invited members and guests to choose a present from beside the tree as they left. A super evening, much enjoyed, well done to all involved.



January 2016 A new year and an excellent turnout to discover "How to climb your family tree" with the help of Sharmain Thompson and her technical assistant Brian, her husband from the Haverhill Family History Group. Her talk illustrated using a slideshow presentation, took us through the stages of researching a family tree. From birth, marriage and death entries, census records and archive materials she showed how to understand all the information given and how to use it to verify direct descendants and relatives and gain a peep into their past lives. A fascinating subject Sharmain was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and keen to encourage everyone to investigate their own families and to seek help if stuck or hitting a wall with seemingly no way to continue. She told of discoveries made and held all present with family detective stories, using colourfully illustrated boards to display the lives found. She believes that Family Historians provide the Genealogy tree with its leaves and fruit giving more than just bare facts but almost flesh on the bones of the past. An excellent speaker, many questions followed from interested members enjoying this brilliant opening to another busy year for the Wickhambrook Institute who will celebrate 90 years like her Majesty The Queen, since their formation towards the end of 2016.



Forthcoming Meetings

Tuesday, 9th February: English Farmhouse Cheeses with Jason Salisbury

Tuesday, 8th March: What do artists do all day? Jackie Merry, Jayne Pope & Ruth Seal

Tuesday, 12th April: "The Winch and Blatch Story" with Judith Blatch

Please come and join us at our monthly meetings, we'll be so pleased to see you again!

For more information contact Hilary Bradfield (01440 821713)

Next Newsletter June 2016

Advance Notice

W.I. Spring Sale and Easter Egg Hunt

19th March 2016 at W.I. Hall from 2pm