

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November we held what was our last fundraiser of the year, when eight teams took part in our Quiz and Chips evening. The quizmaster was not a WI member but he did an excellent job of confusing us all with the picture round (a little embarrassing as it was WI related, however, in our defence not many of us know the names of the actors in Calendar Girls off by heart). Everyone enjoyed themselves, even the team who came last and some think that may have been planned seeing as they named themselves 'Give Us the Chocolate' (the prize for coming last was wooden spoons and chocolate). It wasn't - they just couldn't think of a name.

The week before Remembrance Sunday a small team of volunteers put up our three poppy displays in the town. We started with one display two years ago at the local Baptist church, and increased the number to three last year, taking in one of the town signs and the Anglican Church. Every year the members groan when the announcement for more poppies is made, but the number of poppies has increased year on year (the secretary has promised there will not be a request next year as apparently we have enough now, or maybe it's because there is no more storage space). The displays were stunning and the local population on the whole appreciated our efforts.

If members were a bit thin on the ground at the meeting this month it was to be expected. It was after all the second Annual Meeting of the year. With the President being absent (a pre-planned holiday) on the day, our Vice President took control, not a challenge seeing as she had been the last President. The monthly business was completed in record time (for a change the Secretary didn't waffle on) so it was straight on to the Annual Meeting. Our efficient Treasurer took the members through the year's finances explaining how much was raised and how it was spent. Never the most entertaining element of any annual meeting but it is important to know. Then with the members eyes starting to glaze over, it was the turn of the Secretary to finish the job, with the Institute's review of the period. Members have been very busy since February not just locally but regionally and even nationally (several members travelled to London to attend the National AGM at the Albert Hall). so there was a lot to cram into the report. Normally the report would be followed by the President, but in her absence her thanks was read out by the Vice President. The reports are important naturally but the main element of the annual meeting is the selection of the committee and election of the President for the forthcoming year. With no changes to the committee, and with Irene willing to continue as President, the election process took only a few minutes. With the 'elections' over the secretary announced that she would be standing down from the secretary's role at the next annual meetin. The annual meeting was then closed and refreshments offered.

As this year the meeting fell on Armistice Day at 11am the hall fell silent as we held two minutes silence to reflect and show respect to those from across the world who have lost their lives as a result of conflict. We were silent but it was just a shame others outside carried on as normal.

With the serious elements out of the way it was time to move on to the morning activity. Members had been asked to bring a glass to decorate using paint pens, it was a free for all activity and allowed members to socialise with each other in a relaxed environment. The results were all unique - some were, simple others were minor works of art, the secretary however, had to decorate her glass at home as she was too busy making sure all the paperwork was in order and supervising the activity.

Next month we do not hold a monthly meeting but instead are celebrating the festive season with a meal locally which is always proves to be well attended, fun, and the added bonus for the committee of a chance to relax and of course our resident naughty elf will be providing a surprise for attendees. Something which she has been planning for the last twelve months!