

When you mention WI to most people, there seem to be a few standout images they conjure up – Jam and Jerusalem; Calendar girls; Slow hand-clapping Tony Blair; Behatted and Twinsetted martinet judges at county shows who rule the produce tent with an iron rod. I don't think all of those are necessarily true, but between them they show the width and breath of what WI can mean, from the old to the new and everything in between.

I think Lancaster Roses is a good representative of that. Not only do we have a wide span of age ranges, but we also share a wide range of interests. The committee report has mentioned our thriving craft club, who have worked not only on projects for themselves, but also on those to benefit the wider community. Amanda also mentioned that several people are now interested in setting up another sub-group to look at WI campaigns as well as past and future resolutions. This is something I've personally wanted to see since I joined the WI, and it is good to have the possibility opening up. That isn't to say the social or monthly meeting side of things will be neglected. Mama Mia last year was excellent and most people seem keen to follow up with other events. I've no doubt that soon there will be requests for volunteers to help organise things, such as the walk mentioned in this month's newsletter, which could end with a picnic or at a local pub.

Which brings me to the main thing I want to say. I said it last year as well in the committee report. WI is what we make it, and that 'we' includes all of us. I want to give my thanks to Amanda and Ros who have worked tirelessly as secretaries, the hardest job on the committee as it is the secretaries who have all the mail, phone calls, paperwork, emails, minutes, agendas, newsletters and all the rest. Amanda and Ros plough through it and keep us all up to scratch. Margaret has done a great job in taking over completely as treasurer and making sure all the accounts and books are up to date and that money is handled correctly. It isn't glamorous, but it is responsible. Lynn and Emma have worked well together keeping the membership details correct, ensuring that new members, visitors and indeed everyone else are greeted and that the database for the national WI is kept up to date. Fiona has charge of lots of the practical arrangements for our meetings, ensuring that we have refreshments, raffle prizes and that the room is set up in the way we need. Without Fiona we would be in hungry and thirsty chaos. Lastly, Andrea and Di who are stepping down after a year on the committee as our WI guru's. Having been in other WI's they have been able to pass on lots of useful advice to the current committee and build our confidence as we have become more established.

Thanks is also due to lots of other people, and if I try to name everyone then I know I will hurt someone's feeling by unintentionally leaving them out. I must mention a couple though. Sharon, who is joining the committee has helped out a lot this year with practicalities as we have been getting ready for meetings and in passing on ideas to us. I don't know who nominated her for committee, but I can see that she will be an excellent addition to the team. Ros W. had the idea of making badges for all our members and was willing to implement it herself. I love ideas when the person making them is happy to do the work. Then there are the people who have donated to the sales, volunteered to help with refreshments, baked cake, run the craft club, put away chairs and above all welcomed people. Last month while chatting to one group of visitors I glanced around and every group of visitors was talking with a Lancaster Roses member, not necessarily committee, but

someone, and apart from the cake the most commented on thing from the visitors was how welcome they felt. For me, that was what made the evening successful.

So, with all that in mind; with new ideas building on what we have been doing in all directions and with a diverse and welcoming membership, I would like to propose that we accept the committee report.