

Lancaster Roses – Committee Report 2015-16, AGM May 2016

In our fourth year, the WI's Centenary, Lancaster Roses has continued to attract new members. Our President last year, Becky, attended the Centenary AGM of the NFWI and the Queen's garden party. We also had our own Centenary event in September, sing-along-Mama Mia, and we hope to be able to do more social events like this in the future. This is perhaps something we could introduce as a new sub-group. The one existing sub-group we have, Craft Club, continues to go from strength to strength with a waiting list for new members to join. The committee have also discussed the introduction of a new sub-group to discuss and implement WI resolutions – we'd really appreciate your thoughts and feedback on this. As last year's resolution was not passed, we potentially have two this year to put into action!

We continue to have a varied programme of speakers, with topics in the last year including Ripley School, First Aid, Decoupage, Yoga Dance, Painting with a Feather and a fabulous talk from one of our own: thank you Juliann for educating us in registering Births, Deaths and Marriages. Most recently, Bob Rushworth introduced us to his beautiful owls Kinder and Bounty and we were able to invite ladies from Forton, Scorton, Thurnham and Overton WIs. It was a lovely atmosphere and we raised over £120 last month which will help fund next year's programme. Other fund-raising initiatives such as the increased raffle prizes and table-top sales have also been a great success. We have a list of suggested talks for next year's programme which we'd like your feedback on, and any suggestions of your own. Whilst we won't be able to put all of them on next year, it will help us with planning in future years.

Members have continued to sign up to LFWI events: Sharon made a cushion and lamp shade; we had a team in January's LFWI quiz; Sarah Mason attended the decorated pots workshop; and Amanda, Margaret and Andrea attended the LFWI's Spring Council Meeting.

We have seen a number of changes this year with the addition of Amanda, Fiona, Emma, Di and Andrea to our committee – thank you all for your input and hard work. Following Becky standing down as President, Carolyn deftly stepped into the breach and has proved to be a natural leader and helped us move our WI forward in a positive and exciting new direction. We'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank Becky for her dedication and we hope to see her again in the future. We have also moved to our new, larger venue here at Bowerham Primary School, which we hope you'll all agree has been very successful so far. It also gives us scope to accommodate more members and to continue to invite ladies from other WIs.

To wrap up, we'd like to thank all of you for coming to the meetings, getting involved in running them, and we hope that you continue to do so: the more we all put in, the more we all benefit. We look forward to building on the continued enthusiasm of our members over the coming years.