

## **NEWTON FERRERS AND NOSS MAYO WI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014**

This financial year has once again been a very busy and enjoyable one. We started with thoughts of continuing our fundraising efforts which have been fruitful, so that this April we look forward to the Refurbishment of our much loved but sadly dated hall. Thank you to all who have contributed so much of their time and effort to make this possible.

In April 10 members attended the Torquay Spring Council Meeting where the speaker was Ann Widdecombe. The AGM in May was well attended. The existing Committee members were joined by Susan Hall and Rosemary Watts. Four Denman Bursaries were drawn. Penny Wheatley gave a talk on the state of the Hall fundraising and we finished with entertainment by the Choir. The 14<sup>th</sup> May we held a Sewing Bee to make dresses and shorts for Operation Sunshine. Thanks to many hands we produced an amazing array of items. By the end of the month work was well under way for the Revue and talk was once again about costumes, dance routines and learning lines.

June saw the Flower Festival, with 3 ladies producing a wonderful display on behalf of the WI with a theme of Jerusalem, which was much admired. The Committee finally got round to having their Christmas Lunch! On the 24<sup>th</sup> two groups of members went for a tour of the Plymouth Records Office which was fascinating. We highly recommend this trip. The Craft Group held a Wire and Bead Workshop on 11<sup>th</sup> June which was enjoyed by many. Some lovely necklaces were produced, all of which were different. Thank you to all who sponsored Carrie Dixon in The Race for Life who competed in the names of our two Judies, so sadly missed.

A trip to the Synagogue in Plymouth followed in July. We could not have wished for a warmer welcome. We have since recommended this trip to other groups. Our thanks go to Caroline Parsons for arranging such a full series of visits for us. We ended July with the Craft Tea Party on the Green. The sun shone on us and we enjoyed lovely treats along with our usual friendship.

The Presidents Evening in August was great fun with entertainment by The Pilgrimages, who kept us laughing and singing all evening. The Choir sang at the Gilles Ball later in the month.

September brought a wonderful fundraiser thanks to the hard work of Rosemary, Ron and Mike in the form of a Postcard Exhibition. This was a wonderful day which involved all sectors of the community coming to see our shared past and having the opportunity to learn about days gone by. We were joined by some of our friends from Erme WI with whom we are forging bonds. Another Sewing Bee was held for Operation Sunshine as we learned of the forthcoming closure at the end of the year. The Choir sang at Harewood House and was so well received that they invited us back next spring!

In October we hosted the Autumn Group Meeting. Our theme was Animals and Jenny Paton from Paignton Zoo was our speaker. This event was a sell out! The Skittles Team, organised by Pam, won through the first round of the tournament. Well done Ladies. We also took part in a Quiz and Pasty evening, finishing a creditable 4<sup>th</sup>. The Autumn Council Meeting was attended by 12 members. The Devon Federation trip to Denman was attended by 5 members on courses for Thai Cooking, Calligraphy and Water Colours.

November brought 2 fundraisers. The first was a Bridge Day including lunch and tea, then the Revue. All the hard work came together to create Around the World in 80 minutes. We performed over 4 nights with 2 performances being seated only and 2 bring your supper nights. As these performances go from strength to strength we wonder what our Thespians can come up with for this year.

In December we had to cancel our planned trip to Truro due to lack of numbers. The Choir enjoyed singing in the Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral. Our Christmas Party was well attended, with an evening of festive fun, games and food. The Group Carol Service was held at Wembury Church with many from our WI attending. The last collection for Operation Sunshine was made.

After a very windy start to the New Year, the community pulled together to mourn the loss of Harry Martin. Several of our members attended the service in Tavistock celebrating the work of Operation Sunshine. February saw a Barn Dance and Chilli Supper fundraiser which was great fun, helping to boost our total.

March has seen frenzied activity as the contents of our Hall have been distributed around the village for storage in preparation for the building work to commence. The Choir sang again at Harewood House and despite the Drama Groups offering to perform at the Theatre Day, this was cancelled due to lack of acts and audience. They missed out on the chance to see our Penguins from the Revue!

These are just a few of the activities in which we have participated over the past year. In addition to these our Craft Group has met twice a month sharing skills, holding workshops for card making, thanks to Carol. The Choir has met once a week to sing for pleasure and participate in community activities. All this is in addition to our monthly meetings with our programme of interesting speakers, kindly arranged by Pat Middleton. Our WI is growing with new members joining us. We enjoy outings to places of interest, Theatre trips, War Horse being particularly enjoyed this year. Mostly we enjoy the friendship that we have within our WI, our chance to enjoy a chat with friends, relax and even gain a new interest. We value and support each other. As this year moves on we hope to be meeting in the autumn in our Refurbished Hall but until then we shall meet in the Church in the same spirit of friendship.