CROWTON WI REPORT NOVEMBER 2026

Diana, our president for the afternoon, welcomed everyone to our AGM. There was a particularly warm welcome for Kathy who has been absent recently but who over the years has done so much for the WI, both as a former president and long-standing committee member at Crowton. Kathy was also on the board of trustees for the Cheshire Federation and was part of the Cheshire News Team for many years. Her contribution and wisdom have been greatly missed by us all. It was lovely to see her.

We have had another busy and successful year. Our members did extremely well at the Cheshire Show in the summer and we celebrated another success at a recent Group meeting when we won the Hornsby Cup, first presented in 1967, for our four stunning seasonal photographs. Thanks go to the photographers, Sheila, Jenny, Elizabeth and Debbie our secretary, who also displayed them so well.

If you thought the WI was all about jam and Jerusalem you would be quite wrong. Yes there is still Jerusalem and jam too but there is also a very welcoming and supportive group of friends. Our craft club has produced knitted hats for premature babies particularly with a Christmas focus at the moment, teddies and puppets for Buddy Bags and blankets as well as completing individual projects, some led by another of our very talented members, Judi, who will also be running our wreath making workshop in a couple of weeks. Mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled wine on the menu too. There is a walking group to help you keep fit and a lunch club to make sure you eat well although lunch together whether you have walked or not figures very highly. We have regular speakers at our meetings and competitions based on the theme.

There are other activities too that you can get involved in if you wish, signposted by the Cheshire Federation. A recent visit to Jodrell Bank proved to be extremely interesting. The Group meeting at Chester Story House featured Dr Mark Williams OBE, British entrepreneur and former Paralympic swimmer who gave a moving speech about his ‘can-do’ mindset and Dame Floella Benjamin OM DBE DL, legendary television presenter and baroness who shared an animated account of her life’s journey from Trinidad to the House of Lords and overcoming adversity. The up-and-coming Green Dot Day focuses on ‘reducing your fashion footprint’ and considers repairs and fabric content. There is so much more to the WI.

At the end of our meeting Dorothy gave the vote of thanks on behalf of members and spoke of the love and friendship of the WI and the family atmosphere at meetings. Time then for refreshments.

We are always looking to welcome new members. Why not come along to a meeting? They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in Crowton Village Hall at 1.30pm during the winter. Do come along if you can. We celebrate Crowton WI’s 90th birthday in January 2027. We must be doing something right.