

Report of February Meeting

We were pleased to welcome a new member and a visitor to our February meeting, and hope they both enjoyed our meeting. Two representatives from the Axminster Care Service spoke to us about the sterling work of the service and showed a video to illustrate some of their activities. Rita Curryer started off by explaining that in 1987, it was the brainchild of the Locality Planning Team, who wished to coordinate the volunteers in the Axminster area, to fill the gaps in the NHS and Social Services, and to support local communities in times of need. A car service is available to take those unable to use public transport, to appointments not just in Axminster, but also as far as Bristol, or Great Ormond Street. A Lunch Club is held for senior citizens, and other housebound folk, and food vouchers are available for those in need. Help is provided to help with the costs of school transport from outlying villages.

Some activities have changed over the years, for example the playgroups and literacy support are now funded by central government. Local charities have supported the service, and generous bequests have been much appreciated. However, much of the funding for the service comes from 'Charity Togs', which has expanded and moved from its original home in Lyme Street to its current location in South Street. The shop is well supported – probably the largest donation having been 16 chairs! More volunteers are always welcome to help in the shop and also potential car drivers (who will have a CRB check).

During the business part of the meeting, there was news of the usual host of county events to tempt all interests. A number of our members will be going to hear Lesley Garratt, the main speaker at this year's Spring Council to be held in Torquay in April.

Plans are already afoot at Kilmington to prepare our entry for the W.I. competition at the Axe Vale Festival in the summer, with the theme of Nursery Rhymes. This month's Flower of the Month was won by Julie Jobson, and the competition for a decorated glass was won by Barbara Woodsford. Joy Churchill presented awards to Carole Bolton, who was the overall winner of the competitions in 2009 (runner-up was Christine East), and to Margaret Dare, overall winner of the Flower of the Month.

Joan Cudmore