

News of Branch and District Activities

(Liverpool continued) This year we were pleased to welcome Mrs Sheilah Stott to start our day with a service. We keep our business meetings short. This time we have a new District Treasurer, Mrs Jaki Giff, and we also said 'Goodbye' to Rev Lynne Readett, who retired as a District Minister. Ullet Rd kindly put on a traditional meal of scouse with pickled red cabbage & beetroot, followed by apple pie with custard or cream - a big treat - we normally bring our own butty bag. After lunch we heard a talk by Mrs Ruby Porter MBE on Shishu Polli Plus, Streepur Village, Bangladesh, of which she is a Trustee. A village where young women/girls cast out by their communities can be cared for & taught skills to help them become self-sufficient. She brought a selection of hand-crafted items made in Streepur from which over £150 was raised towards their work. Perhaps some of you saw examples at GA as both Sheilah and I brought something to put on the League stall. Ruby is willing to travel to talk about Streepur Village and can be contacted at [email: rubina44@btinternet.com]

For our Summer meeting we decided on a visit to Port Sunlight where we ebbed & flowed & joined together for a meal. If the Secretary remembers we will report on the other half in our next letter.

At the weekend we heard the sad news that a stalwart of West Kirby Church and WL, Mrs Jocë Lewis, had died at the age of 95. As many Leaguers nationally will remember, Jocë represented Liverpool District on Central Committee for many years. Over the last few years, as her health & memory failed, she moved into the love and care of her sister Joan's home. We think of them both.

Pantydefaid WL Branch

Mary Williams

The members of the Women's League of Pantydefaid Chapel, Prengwyn, Llandysul spent an enjoyable and informative afternoon on Saturday, 20th June visiting the newly-restored castle at Cardigan, Ceredigion.

The ladies were given a guided tour around Castle Green House as well as the grounds which surround it. Castle Green House was built in 1808 and extended in 1827. A castle was first built at the present site around 1100 and it was captured in 1165 by the Welsh. Rhys ap Gruffydd rebuilt the castle in stone and, to celebrate the castle's completion, he hosted what is now regarded as the first Eisteddfod in the castle grounds in 1176.

Cardigan Castle was the site of many bloody battles over the centuries between the armies of the Welsh and the English, as well as hosting visits from prominent historical figures, such as King Edward I and Henry Tudor en route to Bosworth. The control of the castle changed hands many times over the years.

Castle Green House was used as a family home until 1984, when its state was such that it was deemed unfit for habitation. The House and the castle grounds were bought by Ceredigion County Council in 2003 and, in 2011, the Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust received grants to restore the castle. The restored House and grounds were opened to the public in 2015.

The members later enjoyed afternoon tea at the Castle café followed by a few hours relaxing in Cardigan town. The day finished with an evening meal at the Ffostrasol Arms -- a feast to remember, to follow the cultural and historical feast experienced earlier in the day.



Aberdare WL Branch

Dilys Evans

In July we enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea in aid of the Motor Neurone charity. It raised £220 and was supported by the Cardiff and Cefn Coed branches.

The Rev Carrie Johnsen of Augusta, Maine, paid a second visit. Having previously shared information about her congregations, her wish was to get to know us.

Our final official meetings before the August break consisted of a baking and sugarcraft talk and display by Vikki, the daughter-in-law of Anne and Eric Jones, and a musical afternoon of quizzes and song.

Members decided that a whole month without meeting up could not be countenanced. Consequently everyone met for the annual coffee morning held by Anne Jones. Anne's event raised £350 for the NSPCC and WaterAid.

Some members also set out for an afternoon visit to the grand home and grounds of Crowshay, a very important iron master of Merthyr Tydfil. Despite torrential rain, a good time was had in the tea room and museum.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for a trip to the location of "Gavin and Stacy", i.e Barry Island. The forecast downpour will not keep us from our chips and sticks of rock!!!