

Secretary's Report, 9th Feb 2016

Membership has remained steady throughout the year, and any vacancies have quickly been filled by ladies wanting to join. Welcome to all of our new members, and thank you to all our continuing members for all your support and involvement in our activities and doings!

Again, 2015 has not been an easy year for some members. Sadly, we lost Dorothy Robinson, a steadfast member and Chairwoman for many years. Dorothy worked very hard for the Club, and will be sadly missed.

For others, major illnesses have had to be faced. It was good to see how well some are managing to fight back, and our thoughts are with those who are still facing difficult times.

Throughout the year, our members once again have had the opportunity to take part in some amazing trips, social events and listen to interesting speakers.

March started with a fantastic presentation – Afghanistan – A Soldier's View. Ex- military Ian Chapman had us all engrossed in his account of life in the very beginning of Camp Bastion, before it was the fortress it became.

April, and we all remember Emma Burden, Penguin Keeper at The Deep, and her passion for her little charges.

Dr. Asquith Cohen shared his extensive knowledge of the history of 'Ye Olde White Harte' the historic pub in Silver Street, Hull, in May.

On a beautiful day in June, we went on an outing to Skipton Market and then Knaresborough. Possibly the sunniest day of the summer!

Janet Jowett, singer and reader of prose and poetry, kept us entertained at our Summer Social in July, and members did themselves proud, as usual, with the lovely spread everyone contributed to.

August, and a cookery demonstration by Sheila Medley. Some members will remember taking home the prepared meals that Sheila very kindly donated to raffle off!

Which brings us to September. Janet Smart was invited back, to update us on her work with the orphanage/school, Thuso, in Lesotho.

October didn't disappoint, either, when Rita Barton gave us a very insightful talk, 'A year in the life of a Bee-Keeper'.

November, and Barry Cundill, from Keyingham, shared with us the extensive research he had made into the life and times of Charles Dickens, in his talk, 'Hidden Dickens'.

Our Social Evening in December once again saw us rocking the rafters when the Elderley Brothers very ably entertained us once more! What a night! Hope we can get them again for next year!

Which brings us to the end of the Ladies Club year, which culminated in a lovely evening at the Burstwick Golf Club. Lovely food, and amazing entertainment from a young woman called Holly, whose eclectic mix of music was an absolute delight!

In addition to all this, we have enjoyed some great Bring and Buy sales, an Auction, Quizzes, Bingo, Beetle Drive, Irish Bingo, good conversation and happy memories! How do we fit it all in?

Thank you everyone, Chairwoman, Committee members, and everyone else who works so hard to make the Thorngumbald Ladies Club such a success!