

2014 saw a healthy increase in membership, and the Thorngumbald Ladies Club is now at full capacity.

A lot of our members have had a difficult year in 2014, for various reasons. Sadly, we lost Pauline Lawton, a member who worked really hard for us over a number of years organising some fantastic days away and meals out. Pauline is sadly missed. We are delighted to say, however, that most have managed to re-join us, we are all very glad to see you back, and our thoughts are with those who cannot join us at our meetings.

Once again, we have had a fantastic year in terms of our speaker's programme and entertainment, days out and meals.

In March we had the opportunity to see hand-made and unique jewellery, brought in by Sophie Lazenby who trades under the name 'Twice Upon a Time'. Very apt, as her jewellery is all re-cycled and re-styled vintage cutlery! Sophie told us the origins of the 'silver spoon rings', and a good time was had by all, with some very lovely items being purchased by members.

In April came the long-awaited sequel to 'The Woman who Didn't Exist'. Clive and Kath Richardson again visited us, and told the story 'The Fate of The Eight', telling us how the poor, often abandoned children from the first tale got on. An amazing, but very true, tale!

Another couple, octogenarian Charles Cane, supported by his wife, entertained us in May with memories, both fond and frightening, of life and the steadfast community spirit, support and friendships enjoyed by those living in areas such as Courtney Street in the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's. This was followed by a sale of bags supplied by members, which was fun and again raised a good amount of money for club funds.

A lovely sunny day in June saw us enjoy a shopping trip at the Lakeside outlet mall, followed by a very enjoyable afternoon exploring the fascinating house and gardens of Brodsworth Hall.

In July, we all enjoyed a **flower arranging demonstration**, by Maria, of Sandhills Garden Centre. Maria showed us how to construct some amazing displays, making it look so easy! Some very happy people went home that night, as Sandhills allowed us to raffle off the displays and unused flowers for Club Funds.

August saw us sit back and relax for our Summer Social. After announcements were completed, there was a lovely buffet supper provided by members, and a fun costume jewellery sale, again provided by members. An hilarious game of Bingo rounded the night off nicely!

In September, Karen Wragg from the East Riding County Council gave a very informative talk about recycling, how each of us has a responsibility to ensure landfill sites are only used as a last resort for waste that really cannot be re-cycled and re-used. Tied in with this, September's challenge was Charity Shop Chic – and Karen was so impressed with the stunning outfits modelled by our members!

The darker nights of October reminded us that Christmas was not far away – and many took advantage of the Bon Marche offer brought in for us to see – and buy, as many did!

November brought us another fascinating speaker. Janet Smart is a woman who has done what many of us dream of – not only does she tirelessly fundraise to help finance an orphanage/school in Lesotho, South Africa – but she personally goes over and supervises the way the money is to be spent, so getting the best possible value for money for the children.

Early December saw us off on a jaunt to Driffield – we had a lovely lunch at the Bell, with time beforehand to browse the shops and market at Driffield, then off to Beverley for a meander round a garden centre, beautifully presented for Christmas.

Our Social Evening in December was really a smash hit – thanks to the wonderful entertainment by the very talented Elderly Brothers! A fabulous trip down memory lane had us all boogy-ing, jiving and head-banging! And again, a wonderful spread provided by our members was enjoyed by all. I believe a marriage proposal was received by one member due to the quality of her baking!

The cold dark nights of January did not deter our members from enjoying a post-Christmas evening out at the Station Hotel, Patrington. The menu was imaginative, well-cooked and beautifully presented, and a lovely relaxed evening was enjoyed by all.

As well as all this, we managed to fit in 2 Bring and Buy Sales, raffles, quizzes, and lots of relaxed, social conversation.

All in all, a very good year for Thorngumbald Ladies Club!

Very many thanks go to those members who have worked so hard to make this all happen, organising events and outings, managing sales and bring and buys, providing refreshments throughout the year, keeping us on the straight and narrow with finances and savings, and all the other very necessary tasks that keep us going as a club.