

Slimbridge Parish WI

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 12th November 2014
at Slimbridge Village Hall.

1. Welcome and Notices

The meeting was opened by our President Penny Smurthwaite who welcomed everybody attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of the AGM 13th November 2013

The minutes of 2013 were accepted unanimously and signed by the President as correct.

Proposed – Gill Mather Seconded – Mary Sealey

3. Treasurer's Report

Sue read her report to the members. A copy of which is attached.

Proposed – Penny Smurthwaite Seconded – Di Ceasar Accepted unanimously.

4. Annual Report

Carole read the annual report of everything the WI had done over the past 12 months and this was accepted unanimously. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

4. Nominations for Committee

Ann Lacy is standing down as a committee member. Roma Airth is willing to join the committee.

Proposed – Carol Ann Thomas Seconded – Christine Price Accepted unanimously

The other members of the committee are willing to stand for re election.

Proposed – Carol Ann Thomas Seconded – Tina Lees Accepted unanimously

An individual vote was taken to return Penny as President.

Proposed – Alison Hunt Seconded – Christine Price Accepted unanimously

President Penny Smurthwaite

Vice President Alison Hunt

Secretary Carole Jeffes

Treasurer Sue Harris

Committee Member Roma Airth

5. President's Address

A copy of the address is attached to these minutes. It was accepted unanimously.

Proposed – Roma Airth Seconded – Kim Webb

At the end of the address Di Ceasar thanked Penny for all her hard work over the past year.

Signed as a true record..... Dated.....

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SLIMBRIDGE W.I. ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 12TH 2014

This has now been our sixth year and a very busy one, especially for the committee. Apart from our monthly meetings, we've had our Quiz and Pud night – our main fundraiser - plus supplying a ploughman's lunch for 90 Americans and supper for the group Autumn Rally.

We started the year as always with some exercise to get us going after Christmas, this year in the form of Strictly Fun Fitsteps from Jayne at World Jungle. It certainly got us going – perhaps a little too much so!!

February was an introduction to Rag Rugging by Sam Osborne which was very popular and saw many guests joining us for the evening.

March was a talk from Lillian Green, a volunteer speaker with Hearing dogs For The Deaf. She was accompanied by her friend who was herself deaf and her lovely dog. It was very interesting and fun too.

April again saw something different in a Curry in a Hurry night with Anisa Patel. This was another hands on night with a lesson in how to cook a quick curry plus learning about, smelling and tasting exotic spices, some of which we hadn't even heard of.

May was a very interesting evening with Alma from Eastwood Park Prison. Alma works for the charity RECOOP, working with female prisoners over 50, using arts and crafts to help them acclimatise to prison life and feel a sense of worth. It was a real eye opener, a result of which we now put aside money raised from the sale of our books etc towards her charity.

May also saw our usual main fundraiser with our famous Quiz and Pud night. As always all tickets were sold and a good time was had by all. Unfortunately our superb organiser and quizmaster, Sarah had finally decided to step down. The committee expressed its thanks with a presentation of flowers and a garden voucher, from all the members and regular quizgoers for all her hard work over the years. She will be missed!

June was a very warm month which enabled us to have a night in Rosie's Wood with John Dowling and his birds of prey. Around 40 members and guests attended and a big Thank You was given to Di Caesar for use of the wood and also the fire and marshmallows, which added to the great atmosphere. Everyone had the opportunity to hold the birds which was very special.

In July, the committee arranged a private Tapas Taster evening at The Old Badger in Eastington. The landlady was very accommodating, doing a special menu for us at £9 per head, the members paying £5 and our funds covering the balance. A good night was had by all.

August saw Debbie from Debbie and Jilly's Lingerie giving us some tips on what to wear to make the most of our figures – whatever shape – and how to wear it. This even included our underwear! An interesting and fun night.

We also helped with the Slimbridge Horse Show, providing the judges lunches. This was our second fund raiser of the year and went off well with lots of compliments on our menu and the cakes provided by members. A donation was given by the Horse Show committee towards our expenses for 2015.

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Our September meeting saw Godsells Cheeses from Leonard Stanley give us a talk and taster session on the very different cheeses they make locally. Added to this was an open night for family and friends with wine and bread.

September also saw us take on our biggest culinary challenge yet in providing lunch for 90 Americans. The Bridger family from all over the USA descended on Slimbridge as their ancestor was pastor at Slimbridge church for 50 years in the fifteen hundreds. The church asked for our help and we supplied a ploughman's lunch along with homemade cakes made by the members, served in the hall and outside, on tables with flowers. Our guests were overwhelmed with our hospitality and we received so many compliments, we went home with heads twice their normal size. They were particularly impressed with the beautiful flower arrangements provided by Sue and many took photos to take home. Afterwards the church thanked everyone involved plus the Bridger family emailed their gratitude at such a lovely day.

October was a departure from our normal evening with a Gardening Swop-meet. We all brought plants to split and swop with the help of Sue Gibson's expertise. A messy and fun night.

October also saw Slimbridge's turn to host the Coaley Group Rally. It was decided to hold the rally at Stone as there is not enough room in Slimbridge Village Hall and a complete departure from the norm was organised by way of a Bistro night. 70 members from the 6 group W.I.'s arrived to a French cafe looking hall with supper of chilli, vegetarian casserole and chicken casserole, all organised and cooked by the committee and a member Mary Sealey. Members brought their own wine and a very good night was had by all. There was not one but three votes of thanks, Slimbridge being dubbed the mould breakers and the Slimbridge president made a particular point of thanking the five members who did all the work, without whose help and support the evening would not have happened.

November sees our AGM with jacket potato supper and 'Get to know You' game and December will see something appropriately Christmassy.

Our activities all cost money and this year has been particularly expensive so we very much appreciate the time and effort given by members with our fundraising and community events. We have also seen the introduction of 'wine and gossip' at the beginning of our meetings, which seems to be quite popular and a leaflet drop to every household in the parish, courtesy of a wonderful postman, has increased our number of guests which has led to six new members last month.

We look forward to 2015 where again we have tried to provide something new in the way of meetings, and the continued growth of our W.I.

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Treasurers Report November 2014 AGM

I am Sue and I took the position of Treasurer from Chrissy a year ago with a starting balance of £1702. And finished with a total as at 1st October of 1433.72 PC 35.85 **£1470**

Total Income £2126.14 and Exp £2576.76

We've had 22 Members during 2014 bringing a income of £329 (after fees to GFWI). There's been a large number of Guests with an income of £254, the only other form of income was the Quiz which with the raffle raised a total of £345 these being our only form of increasing funds. We took part in the horse show and we initially were given a cheque to cover expenses. But have since been advised that we are getting £150 for funds which is down on previous years and will not show up in this years accounts.

Our main form of expenses are the speakers which totals £618 and of course the next is the Hall Hire £232 which this year has increased by £2 per session. We have also bought items such as tablecloths, wine glasses and baskets and other odds and ends for when we are catering for events And with refreshments for meeting which has included wine, and with the leaflet drop printing and expenses etc. We have spent more than we have had income of about £450. As long as we keep to around £1000 at any one time then we are holding our own but we would love to see more members and guests. From our Guests that have been coming regularly we have signed up 6 of these so hopefully all existing members will rejoin again - which rings me nicely to tell you that MB is due either this month/ Dec but before end of year at a cost of £36 The Committee hope that will have a good 2015 for membership they have worked hard to make a full program for 2015 and we all hope that you all enjoy and have a great new year.

The accounts will be sent to the Auditor within the next few weeks to be signed off.