

Women's Homelessness Resolution and Crafting Fancy Boxes

On Wednesday 20th May our WI monthly meeting started with the business meeting. On this occasion this also included a brief but informative presentation by our branch secretary, Yung, on one of the options currently being discussed, all over the country, as a possible final candidate for the national WI resolution for 2027. The resolution topic discussed at our April meeting concerned working towards improved provision of 'Accessible public toilet facilities for all'. At our May meeting an alternative resolution topic 'Action on women's homelessness' was presented.

We were given a thought-provoking summary on Women's homelessness. This problem is to a great degree hidden and hard to define numerically compared to male homelessness but the number of women involved is definitely rising distressingly fast. Women often sleep in more hidden places such as hospitals, food outlets etc and move between different venues. They are frequently single but may be accompanied by their children and they are very often survivors of abuse, especially rough sleeping women. There are many risk factors putting women at risk of homelessness such as insecure or poorly paid jobs, being from an ethnic minority etc. Many women are housed in temporary housing which is often inadequate and unsuitable and which may be a long way from their work or children's schools and they are unable to pay to travel long distances to the places where they or their children need to be.

The WI has an impressive history of taking effective action, locally and nationally, on issues they have considered of great importance to the future welfare of this country. Our WI has been around since 1918 and we campaigned even in the first few years for improved local housing among other things!

It will be a while before we hear which resolution, of the many we were initially presented with, has been voted nationally to be the 2027 resolution.

After the business of the meeting was concluded we were very lucky to have a hands-on craft workshop organised by Marlene Frisby. She was ably assisted by Do Berry, from the Quorn WI, and Angie Stirling and Gwen Bowler who, like Marlene, are dual members of the Woodhouse Eaves and Quorn branches.



After instructions on how to get started we were let loose on a wonderful array of materials from which to make a little gift box. We first chose a piece of marked up card and then decorations ranging from wooden shapes to tissue flowers and butterflies, ready made flowers, sparkling beads, ribbons etc! A lovely relaxed and engaged time ensued while everyone cut out card, glued, hole-punched and threaded ribbon etc. One member was heard to remark that they had not felt "as relaxed as this all day". The resulting boxes could not have been more varied from very simple but effective designs to much more intricate ones they all looked wonderful. One person, having seen the colours she especially needed for a card she wished to make, requested to be allowed to do so and she too left the evening very satisfied having produced a unique and very special card.



Next month, on the 17th June, we will be enjoying 'Seated Tap' making rhythms and music while getting some gentle exercise! If you wish to join us, we welcome guests and would love to see you, come and try out our lovely friendly and welcoming group.

Sue Young