

27 February 2020– second meeting of the year.

President June Leach welcomed the 24 members along with two visitors who had attended for the first time.

The President agreed the minutes from the last meeting and took time to thank Rowina Topham, who was retiring from her position as programme planner, for all her hard work. She then welcomed the new programme team; Frances Campbell, Adrienne Howell and Jill Whyatt, thanking them for volunteering for taking over this role.

June confirmed that the 2020 AGM and Christmas dinner would be at Wilmslow Golf Club again. Thoughts were turning to the August social meal and several options were being considered; Colshaw Hall, Bells of Peover, Three Greyhounds to name a few.

The 2020 calendar continued to fill up and numerous events were being planned:

Group News – Ingrid Phillips reminded members that the Spring Group meeting would be at Chelford Village Hall on April 21. The Speaker will be Tricia Stewart, one of the original calendar girls, tickets cost £5.00 each. This is an open meeting and as such members can bring family and friends. OP will be hosting the event.

The Cheshire group is organising a talk by Carrie de Silva about women titled 'How we got here, where are we going' during May at the Methodist Church Mobberley.

The Autumn group meeting would be 28th Sept at Plumley Village Hall and the speaker will be a chef who had appeared on Masterchef.

Julie Houghton, social secretary explained that OP members had attended the Cheshire Federation Centenary concert earlier in the week and had really enjoyed the day. Ann Brooks was congratulated on her winning piece that was read out on the day.

Future Events included

- WI Walks - dates have been set for each month of the year, next one Tues 17th March
- Spring Flower arranging classes on March 24 and April 7 in the Village Hall.
- The Cheshire Show, June 16 and 17, members were encouraged to enter. Ann Brooks asked for volunteers for the Refreshment Area and Exhibition Stewards.
- Afternoon tea fund raiser for the new Christie Cancer Care Unit at Macclesfield Hospital Sat 5th September at the Village Hall
- A Fizz & Fashion show 3rd November
- The Embroidery classes and the Reading group (next meeting 17th March) continue to meet regularly.
- Other ideas on the list were Trips to Gresgarth Gardens (nr Lancaster) and Trentham Gardens along with possible lessons in Willow Weaving.

Barbara Fraser then gave a talk on the "The Jewish way of Life", which was a fascinating insight into the traditions and customs of everyday life as a Jew. Delivered with humour, she explained the basic theology, the diet including separating dairy and meat, the meaning of Kosher. She highlighted the healing powers of chicken soup and outlined the Friday night rituals and the importance of the Sabbath. Barbara went on to detail the milestones in a Jewish person's life (for baby boys circumcision is at 8 days old, Bar mitzvah at 13

years old, for girls Bat mitzvah at 12 years old), the marriage traditions and the funeral rituals including the need to be buried within 24 hours and the role the Synagogue plays in all of this.

The talk was entertaining and informative, packed with lots of facts, and Barbara shared her personal experiences throughout the talk.

The evening concluded with a cup of tea and delicious refreshments – extra cakes had been made so they could be sold to raise funds for the Christie Cancer Care Unit being built at Macclesfield hospital. Suffice to say there was not a crumb left!

If you are interested in joining us, look out for the notices and come along to the Village Hall. It's a wonderful way to meet local ladies. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Contact our president June Leach, june_leach48@yahoo.co.uk or **07500 250969** for further details.