**The November meeting of the Solway Flower Club was held on Wednesday 25th November in Beaumont Village Hall.**

Chairman Eve Johnson welcomed members and many visitors, as this was the Christmas Open Night.

A few notices of forth coming events were read out including a Coffee morning 11th Dec in Beaumont Hall 10 – 12, also in the hall on the 20th will be a Carol Service and gifts for the Food Bank.

Carols in the Drovers 14th Dec at 7 pm with mulled wine and mince pies.  Wordsworth talk in Burgh Church Friday 4th Dec at 7.30 and the Christmas Tree Festival in Kirkbampton Church with teas in the Hall for The Eden Valley Hospice as well as the Church.

Eve reminded everyone for the lunch on the 9th December, names and menus need to be chosen before then.

As Elsie has decided to retire from Committee, Eve had a card and present to give her for all her work.

Jean, from the charity Headway had been nominated for ‘Woman of the Year’.  Even though she did not get chosen, she was credited for all her hard work for the charity and had a fabulous day at the event.

Eve then welcomed Patti Dawson to give her demonstration entitled ‘Christmas Stocking’.  She began with a large urn which she added in all green and red.  Using berries, bright red gerbera, carnations and stunning red Naomi roses and lovely greenery and she hung a green and red Stocking to the urn.  And as if that was not stunning enough Patti produced a smaller arrangement which she had prepared earlier.

All the designs tonight are reminders of Christmases long ago with the smell of real trees and oranges, mince pies and all the sparkle.

Next Patti used a tall metal container which she had covered in green hessian and added two circles also covered in hessian.  With lovely big leaves of fatsia, laurel and viburnum she added lime green chrysanths, bright cerise gerbera and sweetheart Columbian roses and sparkly pink baubles, and brought through a smaller design to match.

Thirdly was a large tall piece of wood to which Patti fixed a pew-end paddle to make a hanging design.  Long phormium leaves, heucera and ivy and then the most fabulous large orchids in shades of pink and then gold sparkly pieces and gold coins on sticks to finish, and of course a smaller one to compliment.

Next a tall rusty metal container with large bowl resting on top.  Patti had prepared three oranges with cloves containing tea lights to start the design, then added ferns, fatsia, ivy and garrialyptica then yellowy harvest moon carnations, unusual variegated bergenia leaves, large Tom Pears chrysanths and bright orange gerbera.  And a smaller design to match.

Lastly a round bowl with large star, then using silver sticks and silvered allium seed heads, blue spruce, large ivy leaves, larch cones sprayed, sparkly leaves and large white chrysanths to depict snowflakes, then white roses and white orchids to depict a snowdrift cascading down the front. And of course Patti produced a second silver arrangement to compliment.

The whole stage was a beautiful array of Christmas colour.  Margaret Hodgson thanked Patti for the wonderful display and for taking us all back to Christmases Past.

The raffle took place with visitors as well as members being lucky.

Tea. coffee, mince pies and shortbread were served by the Committee to conclude the evening.