Kirkandrews- on- Eden WI September meeting.

President Margaret McKenna welcomed members to our September meeting.

There was a business meeting with apologies for absence given, minutes of the previous meeting and the County News read.

Margaret then introduced Jules Wooding who is the Learning and Access Officer at the Cumbria Museum of Military Life which is based in Carlisle Castle.

They have an exhibition there called “Voices from the Somme 1916~2016” which is about the involvement of the Border Regiment and soldiers from Cumberland and Westmorland. Jules gave us a brief history of the events leading up to the Somme offensive and detailed the events of the 141 days that it lasted to help us understand why it happened. She stressed that the exhibition is all about people and that every local community was involved

She talked about the Somme Community Project which has been supported by WI members and the British Legion. A knitted or crochet poppy will commemorate each soldier from the Border Regiment who lost their life during the Somme Campaign and will be hung on banners from the Museum windows. This will be a reminder of the families at home who knit socks, scarves and balaclavas for the soldiers. The number of poppies added each day will correspond to the number of soldiers who died each day until there will be 1700 poppies on display.

She urged everyone to go along and see this unique display.

Margaret thanked Jules for bringing this period of history to life in such a touching way and presented a box of poppies knitted by members.

The competition for a pretty ring was won by Rhoda Melvin and second was Jean Wharton. The winner of an item from WW1 was Alice Graham and second Margaret Parkinson. The drawing was won by Mary Shirvington.

The next meeting is on Friday 14th October in Beaumont Parish Hall and will be the Annual General Meeting.