Kirkandrews- on- Eden WI February meeting.

President Margaret McKenna welcomed members and a guest to our February meeting in Beaumont Parish Hall. Apologies for absence were received and the minutes of the meetings of November and December were read by Jean Wharton, approved and signed. Our Christmas meal was held at the Castlegate Coffee House in December and before the meal we had a short silence in memory of Cathie Stephenson who had died. The meal was lovely and Edwin and his staff were thanked before we all left with our Secret Santa presents The County News was read. The delegates for the Annual Council Meeting are Kathleen Bowron and Margaret Parkinson. The annual subscriptions were collected and the 2017 programmes distributed.

Margaret then welcomed Pam Jago our speaker. “What’s it all about” referred to her life with the WI from her early involvement driving her mother to meetings in 1963 when the annual subscription was three shillings and sixpence to the present day. She joined a group in Shropshire when she started working as a Home Economics teacher and then in Staffordshire when she married a farmer and was made to feel welcome and a part of village life. In 1973 they moved to Cumbria and she again joined a WI and was involved in all the committee roles of president, secretary, treasurer and press officer. From involvement at ground level she went on to Federation and National level and described some of her roles as fascinating and interesting but at times frustrating. She closed by reminding us that the W.I. is what you want it to be but that as a member there is a friend wherever you go. Margaret Parkinson thanked Pam and said that it was good to be reminded that there is a bigger W.I. which can be very powerful.

After tea we had a social gathering and members were invited to recount facts about themselves which no one knew. This proved to be very interesting and entertaining.

The competition for “A sign of Spring” was won by Margaret McKenna and second was Kathleen Bowron. The drawing was won by Jean Wharton.

The next meeting is on Friday 10th March in Beaumont Parish Hall.