

## Recycling with a Difference

Happy New Year to everyone. We may have only just put the Christmas decorations away but are already looking forward to events in the coming year. We are planning to go to the cinema to see Lady in a Van this month and are arranging a theatre trip in March. We also have a German short row knitting workshop at the end of January so there is a lot to look forward to and not forgetting our annual pancake race in February. At our meeting Marian told us that the Salvation Army had written to say thank you for the blankets made from knitted squares which had been knitted by members and co-ordinated by Jill Moore.



Our speaker this month was Susan Drage who gave us a talk about recycling with a difference. She had on display three tables filled with items she had made from recycling materials and had been made using a number of craft skills including knitting, sewing, crocheting, weaving, paper mache, and origami. She had also used a variety of materials such as plastic bags which were cut into strips and either knitted or woven into shopping bags, place mats and other items. She used c.d.'s, drink cans, ring pulls, newspapers, magazines, strips of

material sandwich bags, all to make a variety of things from useful items such as dog leads, toilet roll holders or decorative items, jewellery or wall art. Susan suggested that sleeping bags or blankets made of knitted plastic would provide a warm and waterproof aid for homeless people. She said she had taken part in a "Knitathon" and as a result was asked if she would knit a space suit for a chicken made of plastic bags. At first she thought it was a joke but found that NASA intended to launch a rubber chicken into space to study solar radiation. She said she had always liked a challenge so agreed to do it



although it took three attempts. Camilla, the chicken, had a number of outfits but Susan's was used and was the only one from England.



W.I members also like a challenge and are organising a photographic exhibition so look for details in a separate article.

Next month on 11<sup>th</sup> February, our speaker will be Marie Rowe whose subject will be "From Coventry to Hollywood".