



## **Wolston WI News – February, 2017**

### **British Blind Sport**

Ian Carr who came to talk to us at our February meeting is the fundraiser for British Blind Sport. He told us there were two million people in the U.K. who are blind or partially sighted and it is forecast this number will double by 2050. Some of the reasons for this are people are living longer but also because of the increased number of people who are either obese or are diabetic. Ian told us about some of the sports that can be played by visually impaired people and how this is achieved. For ball games a bell is in the ball and when playing football somebody stands behind the goal and shouts so that the player knows where the goal is. Some sports need a partner, i.e. cycling, running and golf. With golf, the partner is there to guide the golfer to the right position and to estimate distances. Ian asked for two volunteers for them to see what it was like and Jane was blindfolded and unsuccessfully tried to hit a golf ball into a bucket with Linda guiding her. They both said neither role was easy. Ian said how isolated this disability can make people feel. In 60% of main stream schools visually impaired children have to sit at the side during sports activities to “watch”. He said it makes his job worthwhile when he meets people who have taken up sport and said it has changed their lives as they are now part of a group with similar problems.

Our knitting skills have been put to good use as we have been knitting squares to be made up into blankets which is being organised by Jill Moore. Our craft group which meets at the Stock Pot, Ryton, have been knitting tea cosies which they are selling for charity.

We have received the sad news that Brenda Montford has died. Brenda had been a member for twelve years and was involved in the delivery of our newsletters. Our sympathy goes to her family.

At our meeting on 9 March Alan Keech will be showing us interesting ways to wrap presents. We start at 8.00 p.m. and the meeting is held in the Village Hall, Wolston so why don't you come along as a visitor