



Wolston WI News – June 2019

Dogs for Good

A while back I mentioned that we were asked to knit “hats for smoothies” to raise funds for Age UK. We have now been able to give over 400 to the charity so well done to all our members who took part in the project.

Maureen Bates who lives in the village held a workshop at her home and helped us make a very decorative card and to make a simple packet of tissues look special as a small gift for someone.

Ann Prosser is a volunteer for the charity Dogs for Good and at our meeting told us about the work assistance dogs do. She was accompanied by another volunteer, Carolyn, who had brought with her a lovely black Labrador named Frances who is used for breeding. To begin with the charity provided dogs for people with physical disabilities but now they are often also used for people with autism, mental illness or dementia. They can be trained to do many things including opening doors or press traffic light buttons. Ann said having an assistance dog gives people confidence to communicate and join in activities that they previously would not have considered. Families stressed the calming influence a dog has with autistic children means family life is much easier and video clips showed children describing their dog as their best friend. She also told us that because they do not have the funds to provide dogs for all the people who need one, they run workshops to help people train their own pet. She said the dogs are trained not to bark unless they need to summon help and told us of one amusing instance when an owner who lived alone collapsed in the bathroom and called for his dog. A neighbour heard the dog barking and went to see if help was needed and found outside the bathroom door was a telephone, a remote control and a can of beer which the dog had fetched.

Our next meeting is 8.00 p.m., Thursday, 11 July, 2019, there is a change to our scheduled programme and there will be a talk about recycling memorabilia – sounds interesting then why not come along as a visitor. You will be very welcome.

Jean Morgan