Chairman Eve Johnson welcomed everyone to our September meeting on the 19th.  Numbers were down a few but considering storm Ali was still blowing outside it was good to see the brave ones.

Eve reminded everyone of the wonderful summer events we have held.  The garden visit to Aikton in June, the coffee evening at Muriel’s house in July, the display at Dalston Church during festival week, and the window arrangement in Bowness Church in remembrance of Betty our founder member.  Although August is usually holiday month, we decided this year to have a visit to see the wonderful Church Kneelers in Bowness Church, shown by Doreen and Jenny, followed by afternoon tea at Wallsend tea room.

Eve gave out two notices firstly the MacMillan Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12 this Friday in Beaumont Village Hall, and that Burgh are having a Table Top Sale on 20th October.

Margaret Abbott was then introduced to give her demonstration entitled ‘Autumnal Inspirations’ along with her friend Sandra.  They live in Baggrow near Aspatria and had managed to avoid storm Ali.

Margaret used lovely containers including a large wicker saucer, a fancy shaped metal bowl, oasis covered in laurel leaves, large glass gold fish bowl, a round TKMaxx container on feet, two tall glass vases and black containers.

Her flowers, which she orders from Preston, included apricot carnations, roses, spray carnations, lilies, solidago, pink roses called ‘Heaven’, purple phlox, lisianthus, pink alstromeria called ‘charmelia’, white roses, electric blue delphiniums, mauvish lilac roses, outdoor bronze chrysanths and pussy willow.  Margaret loves to use lots of spray carnations in every colour possible.

Her accessories included fruit and veg, nanercot oranges, baby tomatoes, white bavardia berries, wicker balls, seed heads and candles.  Her arrangements were really lovely depicting autumn and harvest.  Her final arrangement was for Christmas, for which she apologised, including a large red candle, silver twigs, red flowers, yellow heather and fir cones.  She is a very busy lady and told us many stories about her life and work.

Margaret was thanked by President Margaret Hodgson, all the arrangements were raffled and tea, coffee and biscuits followed.

Next meeting on October 17th is our AGM when subs are due and will be followed by a craft session.  We need to bring scissors, stapler and sellotape, and Eve asked people to bring a magazine, all will be revealed next month.

Eve also publicised a Uganda project for which lightweight colourful summer scarfs and glasses are requested for us to bring to the next meeting at 7.30 in Beaumont Village Hall.