Kirkandrews- on- Eden WI March meeting.

President Margaret McKenna welcomed members and a guest to our March meeting in Beaumont Parish Hall. Apologies for absence were received and the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Jean Wharton, approved and signed. The County News was read and Kathleen gave details of our summer outing which will be to Holme Cultram Abbey.

Margaret then introduced Judith Swinsco. The title of her talk was “Paupers and Princes” and we were given a fascinating insight into her family tree. Twenty five years ago when they lived in St Albans a family mystery of who was her grandfather prompted her and her husband to start researching this subject. They spent many hours in the Family Records Centre in London searching for a William John Glover for whom they had a Marriage Certificate when he married her grandmother when he was aged 20 but no other information. Their quest revealed a motley assortment of characters including bigamists, rag and bone men, a criminal who was hanged and a 92 year old American belly dancer. A lot were very poor – the Paupers in the title. There were wealthy landowners and one married a Norwegian prince giving us the rest of the title. Judith had brought along a number of old photographs, documents and copies of old newspapers for us to examine and stressed that with old photographs we should write the names of the people on the back. During this research they became very good at deciphering the language used and carried on this interest at the Archive Centre when they moved to Kirkandrews. Although they traced family back to 1480 there is still no trace of William John Glover and so the search continues.

Judith was thanked by Stella Hodgson.

The competition for “A photo of a previous generation” was won by Margaret Parkinson and second was Sadie Bell. The drawing was won by Margaret McKenna.

The next meeting is on Friday 14th April in Beaumont Parish Hall.