Kirkandrews- on- Eden WI March 2019 meeting.

President Margaret McKenna welcomed members to our March meeting. A short business meeting followed when minutes were signed, apologies were noted and the County News was distributed and read. Plans were made for our summer supper and a delegate chosen for the Autumn Council meeting.

It was a pleasure to welcome back Tracey to talk this time on a completely different subject “Modern Policing”. Tracey has been a training officer with Cumbria Constabulary for 15 years and loves her job, which was very evident as she kept our interest by describing aspects of policing in Cumbria and nationally. The role of the police has changed significantly over the past 20 years and it is 100 years since women were first involved in police work and it is of note that we now have a woman as the Chief Constable in Cumbria.

After training which is the equivalent of a foundation degree course officers can develop specialist skills which include dog handling, financial investigation, chemical skills, family liaison work and several others.

Interestingly less than 40% of the response by officers would come under the heading of crime but can be related to anti-social behaviour, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse and safeguarding. She stressed that the training needed for a police officer is extremely complex.

Tracey talked of recent cases in Cumbria including the Derek Bird shootings and the Poppy Worthington case. She encouraged our participation in a “safeguarding incident” as we followed the “clues” she gave us. This was very interesting and proved that nothing is as straightforward as we think.

She was thanked by Margaret McKenna and we look forward to welcoming her back next year.

The competition for a Lapel Badge was won by Glynis Milburn and second was Alice Graham. The drawing was won by Sadie Bell.

The next meeting is on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm in Beaumont Parish Hall when the talk will be “Life in Africa”. All welcome.