

The October 15, 2013 meeting of the Annisquam Sewing Circle was called to order by President Carol Stearns.

Treasurer Nancy Martin is still collecting dues for this year. The balance in the Circle's checking account is \$17,233.75.

All is well in the village according to Joan Collier, Corresponding Secretary. Member Claire Norton is improving and looking forward to visits in the future.

After a proposal by Grace Murray, Donna Davis was accepted into membership by unanimous vote. A former teacher, Donna is also a knitter, sewer, cook, gardener, and crafter, bringing many interests and skills welcomed in our membership.

Germaine Fritz of Publicity will send the poster for the Holiday Fair to the printer this week. She will be going away soon but will continue to work on publicity via email and she encourages all to spread word of the Fair by email. The Circle now has a Facebook page, a good site to share news of the Fair. Good Morning Gloucester and the local newspapers will be contacted with Fair information.

We now have a good supply of pinecones for the Fair greens. Judy Junker has provided many cones from Salisbury State Park and Joan Collier from the large trees around the Fitz Henry Lane statue. The pinecones will be glued on this year, and glue pots will be purchased for this. Concern for the inconsistency in quality of the wreath decorations will be addressed by several people circulating this year to help with the designs.

Kissing balls were requested and are being considered. In response to a query about what these are, our on the spot googler, Sandy Andrew, reported that kissing balls originated in the Middle Ages as a tangle of twine and evergreens with an image of the baby Jesus in the center, hung from the ceilings in castle passageways and thought to bring good luck to those who passed below.

A signup sheet for Gift Baskets for the Fair was circulated. Providing items for a basket can be considered a craft, and participants do not need to provide a basket, as these are donated. No huge baskets will be assembled this year. Popular items in the baskets are chocolate and hostess items. A list of themes for the baskets was requested.

Several opinions were proffered concerning the pricing of baskets, with members discussing the actual price of the items versus the basket price, the idea of the baskets as donations from members, as fundraisers for the Fair, and as an attraction to bring people to the Fair.

(ASC Minutes 10/1/13, cont.)

For the Fair, Carol Stearns suggested selling notepads with old photographs as well as making the sale of these an ongoing fundraising effort. Sold in the past, these have been sought by customers of the Exchange. Photos previously used, as well as other photos, could be used on the notepads, and could also be used on note cards. Profits would be maximized if we did the work ourselves.

Judy Gustin is looking for five people to join her in bow making on Thursday, November 21st, at 4:00pm. As an enticement, she promises wine, food, and great camaraderie. Please call or email her, using seaquel31@AOL.com, as the email address in the membership book is incorrect.

Carol Stearns thanked Stevie Neal for her work on the Arts and Crafts Fair, and Stevie, in turn, thanked Martha Hooper, who staffed the event, and all the numerous people who were involved in making this a very successful Fair. She noted that the new model of more expensive items contributed to the success of the Fair, and that the Cheesecakes were tremendously popular.

Workshops for grapevine wreaths and fire starters will be held at Suzanne Brown 's house. Please contact her for dates and times.

The membership book is being revised by deleting husbands' names and adding dates and times of meetings. Sandy Andrew is checking the accuracy of information and would appreciate members notifying her of errors.

The next meeting will be held on November 5th, at 1:30pm and will feature Julie LaFontaine from the Open Door, who will speak at 2:00pm. Doors will be open early for those wishing to work on pinecones for the greens at the Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Ebeling