

## WI News 2015

November: At November's meeting Frances Benton gave a fantastic and very informative talk on her passion for pearls.

September: At September's meeting the ladies enjoyed a wonderful and very informative talk with cheese tasting from Ceri Cryer of Brinkworth Dairy.

July: Our July walk was a passage back in time between the two Severn crossings and started in the pretty village of Aust. We crossed fields to Northwick and on towards the Severn estuary, arriving at New Passage, which was ideal for ferry crossings as the estuary is narrow at this point. We then joined the Severn Way on a raised bank, until we reached the small settlement of Old Passage, where, between 1931 and 1966, a ferry service was operated by the Old Passage Severn Ferry Co. The hill ahead eventually brought us back to The Boars Head at Aust and a delicious lunch.

June: WI walk - The walkers came to a standstill, when a roe deer and her fawn slowly crossed the path. We walked along a ride at Cirencester Park and after about three miles dropped down into the contrasting landscape of the Frome valley with beech woods. Just below Sapperton village we passed the opening portal of the Sapperton Tunnel. Following the canal and crossing the canal bridge we followed the path through the Siccaridge Wood Nature Reserve, admiring yellow irises on the way and passing several old locks. After crossing a bridge we climbed up through woods to reach the Ash Hill car park.

~ Dr Francis Burroughes, from the famous Bristol Blue Glass Company, gave us an interesting lecture entitled "The Wonderful World of Glass". He traced the history of glass from its earliest times and illustrated his talk by showing us pieces of glass from his huge collection. Blue glass itself is made by adding cobalt to the process and fine crystal is achieved by adding lead. We were amazed at the different shapes and sizes achieved by the skilled glass blowers, and not a little worried whilst passing these delicate pieces around the room for everyone to see. Dr. Burroughes concluded the evening by answering members' questions.

May: At May's meeting the resolutions were read to the group and a vote was taken. The ladies enjoyed taking part in two quizzes, followed by a ploughman's supper and punch.

April: At April's meeting around 40 ladies joined in and enjoyed a wonderful flower arranging workshop by Margaret Bayliss. There were some beautiful arrangements and fun was had by all.

March: The Annual Meeting of the Kington St. Michael WI was held in March. The Betty Wiggins Rose Bowl was awarded to Mary Humphreys for the most competition points over the past year and the Denman Bursary was won by Jane Burns. There was also a special draw for a place at the Buckingham Palace WI Centenary Garden Party and this was won by Mary Humphreys. The various bylaws were adopted and a new committee was elected. Those standing down were thanked for their hard work and new members were introduced to the meeting

The Treasurer, Viv Penny, went through the accounts for 2014 and the Secretary, Nina Rack, gave the Committee's Annual Report. Both the accounts and Annual Report were adopted by the meeting. Jenny Hayne, the retiring President, gave her address in which she highlighted the fact that 2015 is the centenary of the WI. She thanked everyone who had helped her during her three year tenure and was pleased to report another very successful year, with the sewing group, walking group, book club and skittles team all continuing to thrive. Finally, Kay Sambell was elected as President for the forthcoming year.

~ An amazing £1,437.43 was raised at the progressive supper, which will be divided between All Angels and KSM WIs. A big "thank you" to everyone who supported this event.



February: ~ On a glorious early spring morning 13 walkers strode out to the Heavens Gate ridge, with an unrivalled view over Longleat House and estate. Following the hill along and then dropping down, we walked through the estate to the entrance drive, flanked by glorious trees. We travelled along country lanes and through the forest to the Bath Arms at Crockerton, where we had a delicious lunch. Then we walked along the edge of Shearwater and into dappled pine woods, which brought us back to Nockett Coppice car park.



*WI walk at Longleat, February 2015*

~ The February meeting entitled “Sugar Craft” was a practical one. Lesley Bastone demonstrated the best way to ice a cake and then proceeded to show us how to make sugar roses for decoration. Then it was our turn; we were each given a quantity of chocolate fondant icing and shown how to make a centre and eleven petals which we had to put together to form a beautiful rose. Needless to say there were various degrees of success but by the time we had attempted our third rose, some had become quite proficient. Lesley proved to be a very helpful and informative teacher and we all enjoyed a thoroughly relaxing and fun evening. Finally two lucky winners of the raffle won the cake and muffins Lesley had decorated during the demonstration.



January: Uncertain of the distance, but later to discovering it was 10.6 miles, 17 walkers set off along the towpath from Bath on a glorious January morning, passing the lock at Locksbridge. After crossing the river Avon on an iron span bridge, we came to a main road and later joined the old Somerset & Dorset railway in the Midford direction, taking us through and above South Twerton and Oldfield Park, with views across Bath. At Bloomfield we entered the Devonshire tunnel, a quarter of a mile long, and at Lyncombe we walked through the mile long Combe Down tunnel, which is well lit with music playing in a few portholes. Back in the sunlight we came out at Tucking Mill, passing over a viaduct, with Midford Castle towering above us on the right. Continuing along the old railway we reached the former Midford Station and the Hope & Anchor for a delicious lunch, then headed back using the same route.