

WI News 2016

September: At September's meeting members enjoyed a talk about shoes and feet from Ellie Dickens, illustrated with a selection of shoes. A group of some members meet in the village hall to sing for fun, led by a member who is a music teacher. Members and partners were pitted against each other for a game of skittles in Kington St Michael Club.

~ The Autumn Equinox began the day before the WI walking group enjoyed a delightful autumnal walk in warm sunshine, exploring a beautiful circle close to Bristol and Bath, starting at Saltford. The river Avon, colourful boats, great views, interesting history and the countryside on the southern lip of the Cotswold scarp. Lunch was enjoyed at the Old Crown Kelston, followed by a short walk on the Bristol and Bath Railway Path over the river Avon back to Saltford.



August: Malmesbury Market Cross was the beginning of our August walk. on a glorious morning with clear blue skies. Descending steps down to Burnivale, then over Daniel's Well, through meadows to the old Silk Mills and St John's Street, with its ancient almshouses and the old Courthouse, we followed the river to Wynyard Mill and on through fields, along an old railway track and across a meadow to Crab Mill. We then joined the main road at Lea, heading past the church and onto the Rose and Crown for lunch. Two more fields brought us back to Crab Mill then onto Milbourne, across the Malmesbury bypass, down Blicks Hill and back to the River Avon. We followed the river on the left passing through the Conygre Nature Reserve to the Old Station Yard car park.

~ August 6's flower and produce show, now in its 43rd year, was very successful, with displays of handicrafts, flowers, home-baking and preserves, fruit and vegetables, photographs, children's exhibits and more.

Pat Woodward was in top form and was presented with the Overall Winner's Cup, the IKE Alderman Shield, the WI Vase and the Woodward Cup. Jenny Hayne won the Vaughan Trophy and the Hughes Cup; John Woodward, as top-scoring man, won the WI Trophy, and Chris Shackell was presented with the Novice Cup. There

were delightful entries from children, with Charlotte Clark winning the Singer Cup and Libby Clark, Emilia and Isabella Jago all sharing the John Gilbert Cup.

Refreshments were followed by an auction of donated produce at the end of the afternoon. Money raised by this event helps to finance the Christmas drinks and nibbles which KSM WI serve to retired people in December.

July: With buzzards soaring above on a glorious summer day, seven walkers started their walk through the lavender fields at Faulkland in East Mendip, the home of the Somerset Lavender Farm. Fields and quiet lanes with great views over Wiltshire brought us to the hamlet of Hardington. We then followed the Hardington Brook, through the valley and woodland reaching another pretty village, Hemington, with its Norman church. A quiet lane and gradual climb brought us back to the lavender farm, to relax and enjoy lunch in a beautiful lavender garden.

~ Our annual buffet lunch was held on July 10th; this was enjoyed by all and raised £800 for Denman College.

At July's meeting Stephen Wells gave an interesting talk to members about the murders in late 1880s, and the many investigations into who Jack the Ripper was.

June: On arrival at Downland Car Park, Portishead, overlooking the Severn Estuary to start our June walk, dark clouds gathered and we experienced heavy rain. However, the sun eventually appeared and we set off along the coast path south of Portishead, past a small lighthouse and the old Nautical School and then over Portishead Down, with good views over Portbury Docks and coast. After walking through several residential estates we joined the road to Port Marine, which has been built next to the harbour and on industrial wasteland. We continued past the new RNLI station and arrived at The Royal Inn for lunch. Woodland eventually brought us to Battery Point, passing Marine Lake and then back to the car park.

~ At June's meeting members enjoyed listening to Roz Chandler giving tips and information on healthy eating, with things we needed reminding about and new ideas. This was followed by everyone trying some simple movement to music, which was great fun.

Once a month some members join together with a fellow-member music teacher for an enjoyable hour of Singing for Fun.

May: At May's meeting members heard two resolutions explained; they then discussed them, asked questions and took a vote. This was followed by a quiz and a ploughman's supper and punch.

April: ~ With North Stoke village high above us, 12 walkers set off from Swineford picnic area on a rather dull and damp April morning but the panoramic views made the climb worthwhile. We joined the Cotswold Way, continuing on a grassy path along the side of the hill, and gradually climbed to the topograph at Prospect Stile, with the Bath Racecourse on our right. We continued on the Cotswold Way, through the centre of Little Down Hillfort looking across the Avon Valley. Passing close to the golf course we ascended, passing beautiful spring flowers on the way, into the

handsome Cotswold village of Upton Cheney and a delicious lunch at the Upton Inn. A short walk on a stony track brought us back to the picnic area.

~ At April's meeting members were treated to a cookery demonstration by Camilla Jackson from Baraka Catering, who showed ways to make summer canapes including filo tarts with tasty fillings, bruschetta with a variety of dips, chicken on sticks, and a sweet lemon cream tart with fruits. Members were invited to sample all the food, which was delicious, and the evening was enjoyed by all.

March: Nine of our members attended a lunch at Denman College on March 23rd and enjoyed a talk by three of the original WI Calendar Girls, which was enjoyed by all.

~ At the Annual Meeting Kay Sambell finished her year as President. A committee was elected with Nina Rack as new President; the treasurer gave the financial report, followed by reports from the secretary and President. On March 5th over 25e members and friends took part in a litter pick as part of the Clean for the Queen event, in and around the village, with high viz tabards and litter pickers sponsored by MJ Church. This was a very successful event. A new programme of speakers and events has been planned for the coming year.

~ Members of both our WI and All Angels WI took part in the litter pick-up around the village on Saturday 5th March, as part of the national Clean for the Queen initiative. You can see from the photos below, just some of what was collected on the day.



February: Old working concrete barges, deliberately beached into the banks of the River Severn at Purton, and the remaining pillar of the original Severn Railway Bridge near Sharpness, were just two of the interesting features of February's walk. After passing a small boatyard and crossing the Sharpness Canal, we continued along the Severn Way back to Purton, then we drove to The Tudor Arms at Slimbridge for our lunch.

~ Members enjoyed a short talk by Karen Johnson about the history of Venetian masks; we then all had a go at making some wonderful masks ourselves.

January: On a mild, dry January morning eight walkers left Blaise Castle car park and followed the River Trym through a gorge. The vale broadened and went through Combe Dingle, woodland, a long grassy drive, then under the road bridge of the Bristol Portway. Over a railway crossing, we viewed the River Avon from the old harbour at Sea Mills then walked along the Portway, over Shirehampton Park golf course, then up to the top of Kings Weston Hill. We headed along a broad grassy way, down through woodland and eventually ascending up through woodland to Blaise Castle Folly, with spectacular views over suburban Bristol to Dundry Hill. Steep steps down through woodland brought us back to the car park, followed by lunch at Blaise Inn.

~ January's meeting comment with President Kay Sambell welcoming new member, Wendy.

Kirsty Gray, MD of one of the UK's leading heir hunting companies, gave an amusing and enlightening talk on the challenges and pitfalls of family history research. Kirsty then judged the competition of old family photographs, for which a record number of entries were received; the winner was Louise Williams.