

WI News 2019

10th December

WI President, Rosemarie Johnson, welcomed members to the December meeting in the village hall. Members were reminded that this evening the village shop was staying open for late night Christmas shopping. Following the singing of Jerusalem, members were brought up to date with recent events, including a very successful village Christmas Fayre and the Drinks and Nibbles event, both having just taken place the previous weekend.

Following the business part of the meeting, members were then treated to a very interesting and informative demonstration of cake decorating by Sarah Forward, followed by the members then having a go at decorating their own individual cakes in Christmas style. This was not as easy as it looked and there was a great deal of hilarity amongst the members. The top three best decorated cakes were picked by Sarah. After a vote of thanks by WI Member, Wendy Whiting, refreshments were served.

12th November

At November's meeting St Michael WI it was agreed that members would hold a cake stall at December 7th's Christmas Fayre in the village hall, and on December 8th we will hold the annual drinks and nibbles event for villagers of retirement age. This year we will also be supporting the local food bank and donations are to be taken along to December's meeting.

Susan and Jim Rivett, of the Casualties Union, gave an amusing talk and demonstration; this organisation provides "casualties" for the emergency services to practice on, who can be called on to act as victims of a car crash, industrial accident or fire or a domestic incident.

A successful sheep drive twinning event with Bromham WI was held last month, and it is hoped to continue with the twinning in the future.

8th October

President, Rosemarie Johnson, welcomed members to the October meeting in the village hall. Members were reminded of up and coming events, including the Annual Council meeting in Salisbury on 29 October and the forthcoming walk on 18th October.

Following the business part of the evening, members then enjoyed a musical performance by The Village Choir. This very popular and well known choir not only performed their unique style of music which is based on classical principles but with flavours of world and ethnic music, but explained how they had come to be invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York, early in 2019 with Karl Jenkins, the famous composer in attendance. To perform at such a prestigious venue accompanied by the New York Philharmonic orchestra led by Jonathan Griffin, had been a wonderful experience for the choir and not one they would forget. Members of the WI thoroughly enjoyed hearing about this and listening to the wonderful music and percussion accompaniment that followed.

After a vote of thanks by Barbara Fenner, refreshments were served. There were two entries for the competition to compose a limerick, which was won by Louise Williams who produced an amusing limerick based on the first line 'She wanted to sing in the choir'.

September Walk

Wide open skies, attractive varied woodland, the River Cam and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, with beautiful swans showing their brilliant white plumage, were just some of the sights for this rural and relaxing walk. This flat five mile walk was enjoyed by 11 walkers on a warm autumnal day, and eventually brought us to The George at Cambridge for our lunch.

August Walk

On a beautiful summer morning six walkers left Avoncliff and headed over fields, following the River Avon towards Freshford, through the village and over the railway line towards Limpley Stoke. Here they joined the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath and enjoyed a peaceful walk, passing moored and moving boats back to Avoncliff, over the Avoncliff Aqueduct, which carries the Kennet and Avon Canal over the River Avon and Wessex Mainline Railway. Lunch was enjoyed at the Cross Guns.

August:



Kington St Michael Flower, Produce and Craft Show was held on August 3rd. Classes covered a wide variety of skills, from "Explosion of Red" in the floral art section, longest runner bean, savoury scones, peppermint creams, an original piece of woodwork, draught excluder dogs, to a dinosaur, decorated cakes, and a model made from Lego in the children's section.

It was a very successful show on a beautiful summer's day. Many visitors enjoyed the entries on display, refreshments, raffle and fun auction. Thanks go to those who contributed in anyway.

The winners were:

Overall winner - Pat Woodward

WI Trophy for men - Bruce Low

Vaughan Cup (top lady apart from overall winner) - Dot Ings

IK Alderman Shield (homemaking & preserves) - Dot Ings

WI Vase (floral art) - Claire Broomsgrove

Hughes Cup (top WI lady) - Jenny Hayne

Woodward Cup (photography) - Andrew Fussell

Novice Cup (first time cup winner) - Anita Morrin

Singer Cup (5 to 10 year old) - Harry Fussell

The show has been held since 1974, so long may it last!



**May:
WI Walk**

Stunning views in the valley of our industrial heritage were enjoyed by 13 walkers on our May walk. Starting at Keynsham, we walked along the path beside the River Avon, crossing fields on the southern end of the Dramway. We then headed up to the Bristol and Bath Railway Path, past Bitton Station, where we were delighted when a steam train chuffed past. We followed the Siston Brook to Willsbridge Mill nature reserve and wildlife garden, before joining the interesting horse tramway that served the collieries at Coalpit Heath and known as Dramway. Two fields brought us past Hanham Court, eventually reaching the River Avon and lunch at Chequers Inn. The Monarch's Way took us once more onto the banks of the Avon, past the former Cadbury Chocolate Factory and Keynsham Lock.

March:

WI Walk

Seventeen people attended March 29th's WI walk, which was around 5 miles, starting in Avebury. Beginning with a gentle climb to the top of Windmill Hill, and on a clear day, there was a fantastic 360 degree view of the Ridgeway, Silbury Hill, and Cherhill. The walkers returned to Avebury via Winterbourne Monkton, following the river, then headed to the Red Lion to satisfy their appetites.

Great British Spring Clean



On March 30th, members of Kington St Michael WI, husbands and villagers set out on their annual litter pick. It was, as expected, a very successful two hours work and one member of the team returned again to collect more the following day; approximately 64 bags of rubbish were collected in all. Much needed refreshment was kindly provided by Barbara Fenner, and thanks go to all who helped.

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November:



(Jenny Hayne on one of the Freewheelers' motorbikes)

At November 13th's meeting, following business, Jenny Hayne introduced our speakers for the evening, Peter, Patrick and Steve from Freewheelers (Blood Bikers); they gave a very interesting talk on their work as volunteers. Freewheelers provide a free "out of hours " service to the NHS, funded entirely by public donation and sponsorship. They transport blood, pathology and microbiology specimens, patients' notes, breast milk and other medical supplies. This is a motorcycle courier service to and from hospitals and doctors' surgeries in the South West of England. Following questions from members, they were thanked by Louise Williams.

October:

On a glorious autumnal morning in October, eight walkers set off from Corsley Heath.

Following country lanes and footpaths, we came to the foot of Cley Hill, an ancient fortress. We enjoyed walking part of the circle around the foot of the hill, spotting several groups of deer on the way; the views over Wiltshire and Somerset were incredible. We then dropped down onto an ancient sunken track, over a field, giving us different views of the shape of the hill. Passing farms, we eventually returned to the Royal Oak at Corsley Heath for lunch.

March:



Great British spring clean: Members of Kington St Michael's WIs and villagers, along with Tommy and Henry, participated in this event on a cold snowy morning. Litter was picked up from around the village, stretching from the M4 motorway bridge to The Plough. In all 24 bags of litter, plus various car parts, were collected. On returning to the village participants were invited to Barbara Fenners' home for coffee and refreshments. If you would like to help with future village litter picks, please contact Jenny Hayne on (01249) 750443.

February:

On a bright, crisp February morning, 14 walkers set off from Kilmersdon, a village in East Mendip, past Jack and Jill's Hill (no one ventured up it, just in case!). We followed the line of the old railway, eventually reaching majestic beech trees, which led us to the mellow Bath stone, Georgian, Babington House. With the Ammerdown Tower rising on our right, we entered woodland, which took us down to a footbridge over a stream. After crossing two fields we arrived back in Kilmersdon and had lunch at the Jolliffe Arms, named after the Lord of the Manor.

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July:

There were some amazing entries at the Flower & Produce show, which was very well supported, with the array of entries making a colourful exhibition. A lively auction completed the afternoon with happy bidders going home clutching fresh vegetables,

delicious cakes and beautiful bouquets of flowers. A tremendous amount of work went into the entries and this year's well deserved cup winners are:

Overall Winner - Pat Woodward

WI Trophy for Men - Bruce Low

Vaughan Cup - Claire Broomsgrove

IK Alderman Shield - Jenny Hayne

WI Vase - Claire Broomsgrove

Hughes Cup - Claire Broomsgrove

Woodward Cup - equal winners: Andrew Fussell, John Woodward, Claire Broomsgrove

Novice Cup - Nina Beese

John Gilbert Cup - Harry Fussell

Singer Cup - Olivia Fussell



March: At the annual meeting Nina Beese was re-elected as President.

February: At February's meeting Margaret Hiscocks, from Wiltshire Scrapstore, visited and taught us how to make Iris folding cards, which she then judges.