



## ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON W.I. APRIL – JUNE 2018

**APRIL** was a particularly busy month with lots of outings and events. After a late cancellation by a speaker we were pleased to welcome Jenny Newbury who leads the local choir “Mums Aloud”. The group all give their time voluntarily and the money they raise is given to local charities and causes from around the Hill. This year they are raising funds for St. Richard’s bereavement charity and the highlight of the year is the Christmas concert held annually in Elmley Castle church. We enjoyed a varied programme, which included songs such as “Climb Every Mountain” and “Amazing Grace”. Also included were some amusing poems written by Pam Ayres. Marjy thanked Jenny and her singers, especially as they came at such short notice. Colin and Jen took us on a brilliant but cold and windy walk around Westmancote fields and back to the Crown for a snack.



A windy walk!

Maggie Watts kindly offered her home for our newly formed **Craft Club** where members can enjoy making various items and/or learn new skills. They generally meet every third Thursday at 2.30pm.

**Ashton W.I Book Club** has now been formed and five members have met at the home of Penny Scotland. This will hopefully continue and meeting last Friday evenings in the month. Ring Penny on 881594 for further information.

Other outings have included a visit to a fashion show held at Pebworth and to Cheltenham Waitrose for a cookery demonstration.

Worcestershire Federation are this year celebrating 100 years and centenary souvenirs include a specially printed book – “Opening Doors” – which include a page depicting each W.I, in Worcestershire, and a centenary mug. Also lots of special events are planned including a Festival of Music and Light to be held at Bromsgrove in August.

Finally the Federation Spring Meeting was held at No.8 Pershore on 30<sup>th</sup> April. We thoroughly enjoyed the speaker, Graham Walton, Father of the Walton Sextuplets. From the first amazing news on hearing of his wife’s multiple pregnancy to all that followed up to present day when the girls are all adult and some mums themselves, it was an incredible story.

## **MAY EVENTS**

We held the Annual Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May when we welcomed Karen Warboys our WI Advisor for the evening.

She spoke of the resolution “Mental Health Matters” which had the support of 40% of WIs in the County and was a clear winner nationally from the other motions put forward.

This to be voted on at the AGM to be held In Cardiff in June.

We then held the formal part of the meeting with reports from our Treasurer, Christine Powell and an account of all the past years activities and events from Secretary Judith Hunter. Marjy Facer thanked them, the rest of Committee and all the members for their support and work throughout the year. Two Committee members sadly had to stand down – Maggie Watts and Ruth Clarkson – but have promised their continued support, The rest of the Committee were re-elected and Marjy was overwhelmingly re-elected as our President.

We were then encouraged to take part, sitting or standing, in a exercise routine presented by Marion Nelson, who has been a teacher of keep fit for many years. This was great fun, and was finished with a rousing “Hokey Pokey”!



Exercises with Marion

Unfortunately, the visit to Bath by train had to be postponed due to a very miserable rainy start to the morning.

Several members attended the 'Lucy Hingley' lecture, which was held at Worcester Royal Hospital. The title was "Prevention or Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer". A very informative and useful lecture.

The Book Club and Craft sessions are going strong and our sewing and knitting ladies are busy making items for the competitive entries for the Council Meeting in October, and the Christmas fair.

Our May walk was sunny and bright and was organised by Vicky and Judy. We drove to Broughton Hackett and visited the village church and also the interesting little church, nearby at White Ladies Aston, which is being maintained and preserved by the Churches Conservation Trust.

## **JUNE**

The new programme for May-April next has been distributed to members and Jane Wilson has put together another exciting list of speakers for the forthcoming year.

A card had been distributed to members to sign wishing Alex Dodge who is about to leave the village, our very best wishes. She and husband John will be sorely missed as they have played a great part in the community, particularly the Church. We shall miss Alex's baking and needlework skills at WI.

Last minute calls for cakes and help were given by Marjy for the forthcoming Open Gardens this month.

The speaker for the evening was a charming Philippino lady called Analisa Jones. She had been a primary school teacher in the Philippines and with her talk included some slides showing how beautiful this country is with nearly 7000 islands – some only rocky outlets. Despite it scenic lagoons, beaches and mountains, it remains a poor country. She had brought along a wonderful selection of hand woven purses and bags made by the poorer inhabitants. The whole process happens entirely by hand from the cutting of the banana like leaves – manila hemp – which is stripped, pulped, then dried to a very strong fibre.

Members were quick to make purchases of these lovely colourful and durable bags.



Analisa with her colourful bags

The rest of June was devoted to the Open Gardens weekend and keeping cool!

Fortunately, we had superb weather for the annual weekend when Ashton hosted over 1,200 visitors. We were very pleased that our busy weekend at the village hall providing teas and cakes etc., made a handsome profit of £1104 and Ruth's delicious ploughmans lunches made £236.

Many thanks to all who contributed with help serving, washing up or making cakes. Much appreciated, as this included our members, husbands, Guides and other ladies of the village.



Christine and Linda "ready to go"!



The W.I. wildflower area at Ashton's War Memorial



The WI kitchen team in action for Open Gardens