

ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON WI IN DECEMBER 2011

We began December with a visit to Coughton Court. Nr. Alcester. Nadine drove the mini-bus and 14 members attended. The Court, based round a Tudor gatehouse, has many interesting stories and history to tell and the same family – the Throckmortons - has been living there over 600 years since its beginning. It is now owned by the National Trust and is beautifully maintained and so are the gardens which are open to the public for most of the year.

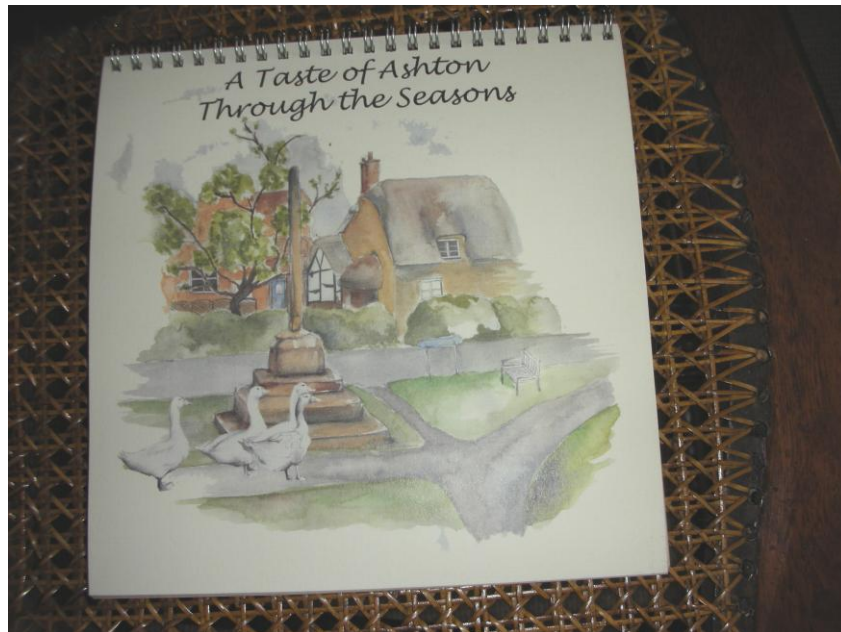
We began with a brief history given by one of the local NT members (the Guy Fawkes plot had taken place there), then we all entered the Court where it had been decorated Victorian style throughout. At the end of the afternoon we were enthralled by children from the local school who sang carols for the visitors in the huge hall looking very festive with traditional Christmas tree, chandeliers and roaring log fire. A very interesting day.



Our Christmas supper was held this year at the local Star Inn where we enjoyed excellent festive food. After the meal, we were entertained by Mr. Tony Maidment who confused and surprised us with illusions and magic tricks. He was thanked by Jen Creese.

A brief business meeting was held and the President Marjorie Facer welcomed Mrs. Maggie Dunsby to the committee.

She was also pleased to announce that the new Ashton Recipe Book – *A Taste of Ashton through the Seasons* - had now been printed and orders were taken at the meeting. Rosemary Halliday and the sub-committee were thanked for all the hard work that had gone into its production. Over 100 copies have already been sold. Nadine Simpkin and Marjory have been planning another year of outings and visits and Ashton WI look forward to another successful year in 2012



THE NEW WI ASHTON RECIPE BOOK 2011