

ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON W.I. DURING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

To carry on with celebrating our 70th Birthday, the Committee organized a grand afternoon at the cricket pavilion where a wonderful buffet lunch was organized. Our 'twin' WI from Ashton Keynes joined us and the weather was warm and sunny. After several years of rainy meetings this was a rare treat! Lunch was followed by a very entertaining and informative talk given by Mr. Frank Hardy on flowers for colour, fragrance and foliage. He gave us useful tips regarding suitable planting positions and identification. He was thanked by our President Christine. On display were many photographs of past WI outings and events and a beautifully stitched mural members had completed in 1991 – (suitable home for which we are still seeking!)

Ashton Keynes ladies thanked Ashton for the lovely afternoon and presented us with a hand-made 70th birthday card and new album to continue our collection of photos throughout the years ahead. The day was concluded with tea and home made cakes and Doreen Cope thanked the Committee for arranging and preparing the luncheon.



Garden Meeting August 2011

The Ashton Recipe book sub-committee has been working hard to produce the best cook book yet and a 'taster' evening was held at the home of Nadine Simpkin on 16th August. Thirty-six members attended and a wonderful array of savoury and sweet dishes was tasted. Beginning with starters, and then main courses and of course the puddings. Very delicious, and I am sure all of the

recipes kindly cooked and donated by members will be added to the book. Donations were collected on the night and a total of £100 was given to the African famine appeal.

The walk in July had been to the weir at Hinton on the Green – and a picnic in the sun was managed but a drenching in a storm on the way back. This did not dampen the spirits of our intrepid walkers however! A walk for August was not arranged because of the dates clashing with the Taster evening.



SEPTEMBER`S main meeting began with a talk by Wendy Hill, a volunteer at the Elgar Birthplace Museum at Lower Broadheath, Worcester. Her talk was entitled “Edward Elgar – Life and Music”. Wendy proved to be a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic speaker. She enthralled each and every member and visitor with stories, anecdotes about his struggle for recognition and his subsequent rise to fame; stories of his childhood and musical family, and meeting with his wife Alice and later the birth of his daughter Clarice, who, following her father`s wishes, set up the museum after his death in 1934.

Business followed the talk which included a brief report by Jen Creese on the Worcestershire weekend at Denman College, attended by five members – Christine, Dianne, Nadine, Penny and Jen. Nadine did the ‘super’ picnic at the cookery school, Dianne the ramble and boat trip and Christine, Penny and Jen the ‘London Square Mile’ which included a coach trip on the Saturday to London where a square mile surrounding St. Paul’s where the tutor captivated the party with historical facts dating back to Roman times through to the Great Fire and also pointed out the wonderful engineering feats carried out during the Victorian era, such as the Holborne Viaduct.

A scrap book has been started by our Secretary Dianne and reports from outings, visits and items of interest are to be recorded.

An enjoyable visit to the Jinney Ring Centre near Bromsgrove was made where members browsed the various outlets from pottery, glass blowing, violin repair workshop to natural ointment making. The journey home proved a little disturbing when Nadine our mini-bus driver met a huge lorry on a country lane and veered into a pothole where the detractable step on the bus was banged and the inside alarm went off! Unable to push it back we listened to the din most of the way home until we reached Evesham and were able to commandeer a friendly chap at the Bates garage who managed to push it back in and stop the alarm! No real harm done and hopefully this will not put Nadine off driving the bus. We would be lost without a driver and always grateful for this service.

Margaret Darby kindly held sugarcraft classed during September for interested members. Four members, Penny Scotland, Judith Hunter, Christine Powell and Jen Creese attended a "Faith" visit organized by the Worcs. Federation. They first visited a Buddhist Temple – Birmingham Buddhist Vihara – based in Osler Street, Ladywood. After a very interesting talk given by the resident caretaker they then they went on to Summer Hill to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This building composed of brick and terracotta was originally completed in 1873 for the Catholic Apostolic Church after Edward Irving whose ideas they followed. It is now fitting that it should now belong to the Orthodox Church, which has preserved the catholic and apostolic teaching.

Father Nicodernos Anagnanostou, the first permanent priest gave the party a very detailed (though needed an interpreter most of the time!) history of the orthodox teachings.

The walk this month was over the Hill to Conderton. A slightly wet and windy experience but we enjoyed a warming lunch at the Yew Tree which gave us the energy for the muddy walk back.

