



ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON UNDER HILL WI DURING AUGUST 2014

The President Marjy Facer welcomed members and guests from Ashton Keynes WI – 60 people in all - to the annual “garden” meeting. Due to rain in the morning, we held the meeting at the Village Hall.

Marjy was pleased to announce that a newly installed hearing loop system was now in place and was found to be working successfully by at least five members.

A special card was given to Sylvia Mills who will soon be leaving Ashton for a new home in Pershore. Also leaving the village shortly will be Sandra Farquhar and husband Gerald who are moving to Tewkesbury. Sandra has been involved with Ashton WI for many years, as past committee member and president. She was also a VCO (now WI Advisor) with WFWI for a time. She was later presented with a lovely pashmina as a farewell gift.

The speaker for the afternoon was David Mills an experienced member of the Worcestershire Beekeepers Association. Membership is growing as a result of increasing interest and concern about bees. He explained that it takes time and patience to become an expert in this fascinating hobby. He had brought along a demonstration hive and he gave us a most informative insight into the workings and behaviour of the bee colony.

We learned that the queen lays up to 2000 eggs per day in the season between April and August. The behaviour of the colony depends upon the temperament of the queen. One hive can be aggressive and quick to attack and another calm and easy to work with. Whilst giving us the details of the hierarchy of bees David confessed that he would not like to be a male in this society. The queen kills off some of the drones when she is fertilised, as they have no further use! On a positive note 2014 has been a good year for bees and honey and David had also brought along for sale, several pots of delicious lime blossom flavoured honey which he had taken earlier in the year.



Many questions followed and Marjy gave the vote of thanks. The afternoon meeting concluded with a delicious tea provided by the catering sub-committee.

The walk this month was cancelled because so many regular walkers were away or indisposed.