



## **ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON W.I. FOR FEBRUARY 2015**

President Marjory welcomed 32 members, plus one new member and visitor to our February meeting. She then gave us the latest update on the proposed venture of a monthly film night. After a few technical problems, she was able to announce that a likely date for a first showing will be Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.

The centenary wild flower planting will take place in April and the Committee have chosen a suitable site near the War Memorial. This is first to be confirmed with the Parish Council.

The outing secretary Andrea Garland reported an enjoyable visit to the Everyman Theatre to see Agatha Christie's "And then there were none" and plans are being made for a visit to Highgrove Gardens in the Summer and a visit to Evesham's Almonry Museum to include a riverboat trip and cream tea.

Ruth Clarkson gave details of the weekend visit to Bideford in Devon where members can cycle or walk the "Tarka Trail". Hotel reservations to be made and members to make a deposit towards this exciting adventure.

After all the WFWI business we were introduced to Frances Benton whose talk was entitled "Tears of the Dragon; A Passion for Pearls". Frances amazed us first with the amazing collection of pearls she had displayed before us. She spoke of the variations in colour, the romance of pearls and the science behind them, all with such enthusiasm and a fund of hilarious tales. She encouraged us to wear our pearls and even sleep in them as our skin oils helped to protect and cleanse them. Several myths exist regarding how each pearl is formed and we were all very much enlightened as to the formation of these exotic stones and how rare and precious a naturally accuring pearl is. Most pearls are

cultivated now and are more affordable to buy. Frances kindly examined several necklaces some of the members had brought along and was able to determine whether they were real pearls or not. She emphasised that it is important to re-string your necklace every 5/6 years – and recommended using silk thread. An extremely enjoyable talk given by a very able and interesting speaker. Frances was thanked by Judy Templeton.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the speaker Merleen Watson will talk about “Hearing Dogs”.

JEN CREESE