



## **JULY 2014 ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON UNDER HILL WI**

Marjy welcomed 29 members and visitors and proceeded with matters arising from previous weeks. After thanking everyone who had been involved with Open Gardens, she read out the report of the A.G.M held at Leeds in June, by Joy Gammon from Lickey WI, who had acted as the delegate for our area. The resolution for 'Increasing organ donation' was passed by a 98% majority. This had been an interesting and enjoyable day.

The speaker this month was Graham Sutherland whose talk entitled 'Wicked Women' took us into the murky world of crime. Graham, a former policeman, had become fascinated by crimes of previous centuries and he entertained everyone with four notorious cases from the past, inviting us to decide at the end whether the women in question were 'sinners or sinned against'. With the progression of forensic science and DNA testing, crime solving has changed dramatically so in many cases of murder, suspects were hanged on questionable evidence. A most fascinating talk we all enjoyed. Wendy Sanger-Davies thanked Graham.

The outing this month was to the restored herb garden in Worcester, belonging to Will and Julia Scott. With Luigi as our driver and a full mini-bus we began the journey in the morning with wet and windy weather. On arrival at Worcester we were greeted by Julia in glorious sunshine! The Victorian garden had once belonged to a large Georgian house called Rose House at the top of Fort Royal Hill. Julia and her husband acquired the garden together with the 'Gardener's House' some eighteen years ago when it was an overgrown jungle. They soon realized the potential of this tranquil site, set in the centre of a busy city. The garden has been developed on similar lines as the original where several small plots have been planted with mainly culinary and medicinal herbs and shrubs. Some original fruit trees have been preserved. Julia gave us

a guided tour of the garden explaining the various properties and uses of the plants. Afterwards, with the sun still shining Will and a helpful friend served us tea and cakes and the visit concluded with members able to purchase a few plants to take home.







Another croquet session was organised by Pam and Frank on 10<sup>th</sup> July and the walk was Broadway to Buckland, ending with lunch at the Crown and Trumpet, so again a busy and interesting month for Ashton WI

JEN CREESE