

## REPORT OF JUNE 2014 ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON UNDER HILL WI

Marjy, President welcomed 36 members and visitors to the June meeting. She then confirmed the new committee members and their various duties. Linda Richardson was thanked for her hard work in printing the 2014/15 programme which is now available to members.

The speaker for the evening was Emma Heathcote-James from the “Little Soap Company”. Emma is a highly successful businesswoman who set up her company in 2008 in the North Cotswolds. Originally from Bretforton, and when coming across a stall at a local fete selling home made soap, fell in love with the idea and decided to buy the company.

Her products are pure and natural combined with intense fragrances using English essential oils when she can. She runs “soap days” for people who want to have fun and learn how to make soap in a simple way.

Emma has won awards and much acclaim including Worcestershire Woman of the Year. From a small cottage industry she now supplies many retail outlets - from local Budgens she moved on to Waitrose and recently Tesco and Sainsburys. Achieved in just six years Emma`s success is a tribute to her skill and determination.



*Open Gardens team ready for customers!*

The Open Gardens weekend at Ashton on 6/7<sup>th</sup> was the usual success – though storms threatened the Saturday at first, the afternoon and following day stayed dry and sunny. The ladies from the village and members provided the usual array of delicious cakes in the village hall and served up teas non-stop from 1.0pm to 5.30pm each day.

We also entertained the Pump Room WI from Worcester with a superb lunch organised by Ruth and Dianne. They afterwards went on to enjoy the Open Gardens. Thanks were given to the Girl Guides who also did a sterling job with the serving and clearing the tables.



On 17<sup>th</sup> June the walking group led by Joan began from the Church to Beckford Reserve and from there to Conderton where we sat in the garden at the Yew Tree for a delicious lunch. The more energetic ones walked back to Ashton over the Hill and the “wimps” caught the local bus back home!



*Well-earned lunch at The Yew Tree*

The visit to the Cotswold Farm Park on 24<sup>th</sup> June was a resounding success. With Luigi as our driver in a full mini-bus we arrived on a warm sunny morning at 'Adam's Farm'. After coffee in the café we all split into groups and explored the various aspects of the park which included large barns where baby goats could be bottle fed, sheep shearing demonstrations "safari" tractor- trailer rides and walking round the various enclosures where a huge range of farm animals of ancient breeds and many threatened with extinction are preserved.

At lunch time we were lucky enough to discover that Adam Henson was visiting the park. He was very kind and allowed a group of us to be photographed with him!



A very busy and active June!

JEN CREESE