



ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON W.I. DURING MARCH 2015

President Marjory, welcomed 27 members and guests to the March meeting.

The cycling weekend in Devon has been arranged and together with our monthly walks it has been decided to take part in the healthy living program – Moon Mission – organised by the University of Worcester.

Last months walk to Kemerton lakes was organised by Brian and Dianne Stephens. Many birds are now successfully breeding here and include a wide range of species including mallards and tufted ducks, reed warblers, ringed plover, many grebes, moorhens, geese and cormorants. This was a very interesting visit for bird watchers. The Walk this month was organised by Vicky Waring and was a circular walk over Cleeve Hill. Though misty and chilly with the lovely views obscured, it was an exhilarating walk and much enjoyed, especially the lunch at the Rising Sun afterwards!





Reached the summit at last!

The speaker for the evening was Merlene Watson, a volunteer for the charity, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf". She had brought along "Grace" her trained cocker spaniel that was the real star of the evening. Marlene, demonstrated the various commands with Grace who performed them well, but the slippy floor caught her out a few times! "Hearing Dogs" has a much lower profile than "Guide Dogs for the Blind". As Merlene pointed out, deafness is a hidden disability but it can leave people quite isolated, depressed and suffering from social exclusion.

The charity was started in 1982 by Bruce Fogle (father of Ben), and has grown quite considerably since then, relying entirely on public support. To train a dog cost many thousands of pounds so all agreed a very worthwhile cause to support. After questions, members eagerly collected envelopes and donation boxes as obviously inspired by such an eloquent speaker.

Merlene can be contacted by email: lunarc.mw@gmail.com She was thanked by Linda Richardson.

On Tuesday, 17th March members and friends enjoyed a viewing of the film the "Ya Ya Sisterhood". It included a glass of wine/juice and savoury nibbles, provided by Christine Shaw of Ashtons Store. We hope this will be a successful venture and will be repeated every month.

JEN CREESE