



Ashton WI Activities April to September 2010

The Ashton WI have enjoyed a very active Spring and Summer and the Committee are busy drawing up an exciting programme for 2011.

In **APRIL** seven members attended a digital camera course at WI House at Hallow where a very accomplished tutor went through the complexity of a typical digital camera and how to understand the “jargon”. How to index and transfer, store and index photographs for easy retrieval.



Doreen Cope enjoyed her first visit to Denman College and did a weekend Easter cookery course. Christine and Yvonne enjoyed a relaxing course which included aromatherapy, exercise and walking and Jen tackled her first tuition in painting using water soluble oil paints.

Members enjoyed a “Dabble Evening” where several ladies brought along their craft work – stitching, embroidery, painting, card making and flower arranging. Everyone had a “dabble” at the craft of their choice.



In **MAY** four members attended a guided Town Walk of Malvern organized by the Federation, Our speaker for the main meeting was Mrs. Margie Schutte who for 3 years was a curate at Ashton Church and who now is a chaplain at Hewell Prison Her talk was most interesting and she explained how hard but rewarding her work was and how much the prisoners appreciated the volunteer visitors.

JUNE was intended to be the garden meeting – we changed the month which is usually August, hoping that we would have lots of lovely sun. No way! It rained so once again we met in the Village Hall. This was well attended and as usual members from our Twin WI, Ashton Keynes brought 13 members. The speaker was Mr. Brian Partridge, a retired linesman who gave us an insight into life on the tennis court and the title of his talk was “You Cannot be Serious!”. This was much enjoyed and afterwards we all tucked into an amazing tea with sandwiches, cream scones and cakes provided by members, washed down with a glass of Pimms

As our local delegate Gilly Aspey attended the National A.G.M held in Cardiff. She presented the four group WIs with a comprehensive report on the day where the National Resolution was put forward. This was “The mandatory clear labelling on all meats, poultry and fish products sold in this country with the true country of origin”. The resolution was unanimously agreed and all WIs are being encouraged to campaign and lobby local MPs and MEPs to push this forward for legislation within Brussels.

JULY – Molly, the Vice- Chairman in Christine`s absence welcomed members and also thanked each and everyone who had contributed cakes and helped out at the Village Hall at the Open Gardens event held on 12/13th June. The teas had contributed over £717.

The speaker this month was Mr. Roger Horsefield who gave a talk entitled “The Story of a World War 2 Evacuee”. From his family who lived in Dorset he was sent at the age of five to live in Lancashire, where life was very different. Adapting to new foster parents and in an industrial area which was very different from home.. At times very amusing but also poignant.

AUGUST – included a visit to Buckingham Palace on 5th August and a talk by Mrs. Verna Clifford who brought along her guide dog, “Cody”. She spoke of how she has adapted to life being partially sighted, and all the difficulties blind people have to overcome in order to live in the present world. Fortunately, there are many gadgets available which make life easier which she ably demonstrated, with “Cody” sitting patiently beside her beautifully behaved, of course.. She told us a little about the upbringing and training a guide dog has to experience before being released and bonded with their new owner.



SEPTEMBER – We held an “Open Meeting” where visitors and other WI groups are invited.. The evening was a great success with Simeon Hudson-Evans, a cheese wholesaler, supplying a huge display of delicious cheese from various countries (mainly British) for us all to taste, This was enjoyed with a glass of red wine served kindly by Jo and Gilly Aspey.

A visit to the theatre arranged by Wendy Sanger-Davies to see “Oklahoma” was also much enjoyed. Other business included final arrangements for providing teas at the Village Fete and also the possibility of setting up a WI Drama Group, where a group of members could entertain us and maybe other WIs in the area.

Jen Creese