



# Ashton WI Activities October 2010 to February 2011

## **OCTOBER**

At the October meeting arrangements were made for the two theatre visits namely, "Evita" and "Lark Rise to Candleford" at the Malvern Theatre. Eleven members had attended the Autumn Group meeting at Hanley Swan on 26<sup>th</sup> October where the speaker, the Worcestershire County Archivist, gave a detailed insight into the new Worcestershire Library and History Centre presently being constructed in Worcester. Christine, our President was pleased to announce that Marion Nelson had kindly agreed to form a small drama group and was looking up some short sketches where members could perform at some future date.

The speaker for the evening was Rachael Berry who as a qualified clinical hypnotherapist and hypno-analyst gave an interesting insight into how this intriguing therapy works. She also destroyed some of the myths often associated with this natural healing of body and mind.

## **NOVEMBER**

The Annual General Meeting was conducted by WI Advisor Wendy Booth and to everyone's pleasure Christine was re-elected President again for another year. She insisted that this was to be her ninth and final year as President and it would be very special as Ashton will be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Sadly three of the Committee members stood down – namely, Wendy Sanger-Davies, Barbara Moore and Molly Groom. They were thanked for their loyal and hard work by Christine and three new members were elected to take their place – Marjory Facer, Sylvia Kennedy and Nadine Simpkin. Dianne Stephens is now our new Secretary and Jenny Creese will support her as publicity secretary. Rosemary Hammond continues as Treasurer.

After the AGM members enjoyed a talk given by Mrs. Sarah Hudson-Evans, where she related her experiences as a caterer. After beginning her career as a cake maker, she followed on to full-time catering. She now enjoys organizing the catering for really 'posh' weddings and celebratory occasions where she explained how meticulous organizing skills have to be observed and how one has to be "one step ahead" and avoid the likely pitfalls often encountered. Several amusing and interesting anecdotes were then followed with tasty canapés she had prepared beforehand and much enjoyed by members.

## **DECEMBER**



The December Christmas supper was again held at the Dumbleton cricket pavilion and enjoyed by all. The caterers were Hancock Catering of Winchcombe, who provided a delicious three course meal. Members were then entertained by the barbershop choir of Prince Henrys School.

## **JANUARY**

The first meeting of 2011 was well attended and after business members divided into groups of four and then took part in a quiz organized by Wynne Smith. The questions were wide ranging, taking in history, geography, entertainment and spelling. A light hearted exercise to test our memory skills and keep our brains active during a cold winter month!.

## **FEBRUARY – 70 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**

A very large attendance at this our very special Birthday meeting. A short business meeting was conducted by our President, Christine and was followed by a reading by one of our ex-members, Mrs. Margaret Cotton. She read her notes taken after a

memorable visit to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in 1965. She gave a very amusing account of the day where she jostled through the crowds to make sure she could get a good view of the Royals and was lucky to have her photograph taken very close to the Duke of Edinburgh.



*Members of Ashton WI at the 70th Anniversary celebrations in the Village Hall*

Then proceedings moved on to three short sketches, two of which written by Victoria Wood and very professionally directed by Marion Nelson and assisted with backing music and lighting by her husband, Malcolm. The first sketch entitled “The Practice Room” depicted a rather stuffy music student (Mollie Groom) trying to practice a piece of classical music, whilst at the same time an inquisitive garrulous cleaner (Gilly Aspey), persisted in passing various comments, observations and opinions all guaranteed to annoy (and eventually infuriate) the student – to give maximum amusement to the audience! The second took us to a mythical supermarket checkout (before the days of “health and safety”) , where a lady customer (Yvonne Langridge) is having her shopping checked by an employee (Judith Templeton) whose excruciating slowness is matched by the effects of her snuffly head cold! Eventually, after hilarious exchanges by the long suffering customer and the inept check out girl, the customer is finally “liberated” and leaves with the philosophical observation “Well, it is cheap and it is easy to park”!

The final sketch produced and directed by Marion was conducted entirely in mime and showed a middle aged lady customer (Christine Powell), trying to get suited with a pair of jeans and a top. It was so well acted that the audience was left in no doubt regarding the customer’s difficulties, as with the many contortions she tries on pair after pair, much to the frustration of the initially hopeful but increasingly despairing sales assistant (Jenny Creese), who, after the customer sneaks out, is left

with broken zips, buttonless tops and a stack of clothes to sort out!

Everyone appreciated the relaxation and amusement and Marion and Malcolm were presented with flowers and wine in appreciation of their patience and time. Members then enjoyed a delicious buffet supper and the special birthday cake was cut by Margaret Nicklin.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening, with grateful thanks to all who had worked hard to make it such a happy occasion.

