

ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON WI IN AUGUST 2013

Marjory our President welcomed over 50 members and guests, which also included 15 members from our 'twin' Ashton Keynes to our special garden meeting. This was held in the lovely garden of Jane and David Williams-Thomas. We were blessed with warm sunshine and the plants and shrubs were alive with beautiful butterflies.

The speaker for the afternoon was Julia Scott of the Victorian Walled Garden at Worcester. Julia first gave an interesting account of her journey from the small cottage and herb garden she had owned at Fladbury, to a much larger overgrown and neglected walled garden build as part of a garden to a large Georgian Mansion. She and her husband have spent over fifteen years restoring it to a splendid and interesting herb garden, containing small plots of culinary and medicinal herbs, shrubs and trees. She had brought with her a selection of various plants and she impressed us with her huge knowledge of each plant and the uses to which they can be used. Some of these included Sweet Cecily which can be used to add sweetness to a dish, Lemon Verbena for a soothing bedtime tea, Marigold flowers can be made into a useful cream for healing and soothing and various mints used as a digestive aid and for warding off flies etc. The gardens are open regularly and are part of the Worcestershire NG scheme. Money for plants and visits are donated to charity. Julia was thanked by Jen Creese. We then all enjoyed a most delicious tea provided by the newly formed Catering Sub-Committee.





The walk this month was organised by Dianne, and five members enjoyed a leisurely walk from Eckington to Nafford Lock, and back to the Bell Inn for lunch.