



ACTIVITIES OF ASHTON WI FOR MAY 2013

This May meeting was unusual in that we were holding the Annual General Meeting instead of November. The Worcestershire Federation having changed their Annual Meeting to May it was recommended that all WIs change likewise, though this was not obligatory. Marjory welcomed 36 members and before election business she introduced Roger Workman of Cotteswold Dairies who had kindly come along to present the present position of British dairy farmers. Although, he explained, this was not his remit, he had researched the problems facing dairy farmers at this difficult time and the problems were not always the prices they were being paid by the supermarkets and wholesalers. The present high prices of feed due to the dreadful past weather conditions, the size of the herd and whether they diversify their income with other aspects, such as raising beef stock, cereals etc., were all reducing their profits. We should all be prepared to pay a higher price for such an important food product, to ensure that we will be able to obtain British dairy products in the future. He was thanked by Gail Cook.

The National resolution 'Decline of our High Streets' was discussed and Maggie Dunsby gave arguments for the resolution and Jen Creese gave opposing views. Members voted unanimously in favour of the resolution going forward to the National A.G.M. In June.

The business continued with reports from the Treasurer, Christine Powell, who presented a very healthy statement of accounts and the Secretary Dianne Stephens, who sadly was standing down as Secretary and Committee member after four years' valuable work. She reminded us of the very active and busy eighteen months we have enjoyed, with many outings, visits and interesting speakers. Marjory, our President, thanked profusely each member of the Committee and especially Dianne who has worked so hard as Secretary for the past two and a half years. Sylvia Kennedy and Nadine Simpkin are also taking a rest from Committee and were thanked in their absence by Marjory. Judith

Hunter was welcomed as a new Committee member, and Marjory was re-elected as our President for another year.

The skittles team, headed by Maggie Dunsby were congratulated for their success in winning the Evesham Group skittles tournament, and the very posh trophy has now been engraved with Ashton WI's name!

Five members had the privilege of arranging flowers at Worcester Cathedral on 10th May. Namely, Joan Richmond, Judith Hunter (arrangers in chief!), Henrietta Cooke, Sylvia Kennedy and Jennifer Creese (willing 'gofers'), all enjoyed the experience and the end results were applauded in the July WFWI newsletter.



Joan`s arrangement

The walk this month was through Grafton Wood to see the bluebells and also took us through brilliant fields of rape blossom. A lovely sunny walk finishing with lunch at the Star Inn



Grafton Wood



Old granary and cart shed near Tythe Court



Happy sheep on Bredon

A visit to Packwood House was made on 31st May and a report by Molly will give us details in the June report.

Jen Creese