



Litton & Hinton Blewett Women's Institute

President: Chris Arnold



WI Report for the Parish Council - Hinton Blewett

April 2015

Our thriving WI now has some 49 members. At our AGM, in May 2014, Chris Arnold was voted in once more as president and Hilary Howells as secretary, both of whom live in Hinton Blewett. We now have 8 members from our village, the most for several years.

In June, we had our annual outing, this time to Oakham Treasures where there is a unique collection of memorabilia from days gone by. This was followed, in July, by a garden meeting at a member's house where we were blessed with a lovely sunny evening, enabling 40 members to enjoy the attractive garden and watch the sun set and the spectacular views. In August, around twenty members and friends visited the stunning garden at Camerton Court and followed it up with a meal in a local pub. At the beginning of September, more of us gathered for a game of croquet in a member's garden, sitting in the sunshine together to have lunch. Our speaker for our September meeting was Nigel Crocker, talking about birds from all over the world and their strange behaviour. A good crowd gathered for the October meeting – tempted no doubt by the subject of the speaker – chocolate! It was a pleasure to listen to Annette Wills talk so enthusiastically and amusingly about this much-loved topic! Graham Wills was our speaker for November, speaking about sailing the southern oceans and he brought many slides of his travels, mostly taken by him on a round the world sail. We finished the year in December when 21 of our members attended the WI Festival of Carols in Wells Cathedral where one of our members sang with the choir. That evening, our Christmas celebration meal was held at Cameley Lodge where 25 members enjoyed a lovely meal a quiz and a Christmas reading.

2015 dawned and at our January meeting Steve Price enlightened us on the mysteries of the banjo, where his presentation was both amusing and enjoyable. Our February speaker was nothing if not controversial! Bill Bailey came to talk to us about climate change and we were all expecting to be lectured about saving energy and having a minimum carbon footprint. To our surprise, Bill is a climate change sceptic and spent the time showing graphs and statistics to try to back up his beliefs. A lively debate ensued and not everyone was convinced. At our March meeting, we were transported to the Galapagos Islands, by courtesy of the brilliant slides of Mike Spencer.

Our Wine Club and Diners' Club, which visits local restaurants on a monthly basis, continue to be well supported. During the past year, we have set up a sewing group making heart shaped cushions for the oncology department at the RUH.

We have many lovely events to look forward to; a Lasagne Supper, a visit to Wraxall Vineyard, a day trip to Cothelstone Manor, a visit to the theatre and to the Bishop's Palace in Wells plus another croquet day.

Recently, we are saddened to have lost two long standing members with the deaths of Peggy Hill and Elizabeth Croxford. They are sadly missed, may they rest in peace.

A poster is displayed advertising the WI meetings on the noticeboard outside the pub. Our village events are promoted at our meetings e.g. the History Society. Through continued close communication, we hope many more residents of Hinton Blewett will be enticed to join our ranks in the future!

Chris Arnold
President
Litton and Hinton Blewett WI