

Wittenham WI Annual Report 2022/23

Well I have been your President from a year it has gone by so quickly, and I have learnt a lot and believe it or not I have enjoyed the challenge.

First I would like to welcome our four new members. We did sadly lose two very valued members, they will be missed.

Having asked the members what sort of things they would like to do or see in the forthcoming programme the most outstanding consensus was to keep things local.

Therefore we started this years programme with "Dance with Debs " (my daughter) where we were taught a musical theatre dance to The Adams Family. People aged between 41 and 90 took part. What fun and laughter was had.

Of course the big celebrate of the year was the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we celebrated this over several meetings. In May we had "A Right Royal Knees-Up "where we shared our own recollections of Royal event with personal items, photos, magazines. One member shared her experience of massaging the Queen's hands and brought in the pillow the Queen rested her hands on. This experience made it into the NFWI Life magazine

Wittenham WI offered to decorated the village Bus Shelter for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village celebrations. It was a great success.

The Wittenham WI bought two fruit trees (one apple, one pear) they were planted in The Pound, as the Queen wanted to create a Queen's Canopy of which we have been registered onto. A plaque was made to dedicate this event and was unveiled by one of our long standing members. We then had strawberries and Fizz in a members garden.

The President's Summer Barbecue was a great opportunity to chat, eat and drink with Wittenham WI members, former members and possible future members. (husbands as well). The weather was glorious and the food was wonderful.

A taste of cheese and wine was a fantastic evening where we learnt about local cheese, had a demonstration on how to make a simple soft cheese, followed by tasting local cheeses with wines. This presentation given by a local resident.

However we have had some excellent speakers as well, "A Writer's life in Paris" from a resident of the village, and another on "Oxford Politician and Peace Campaigner Olive Gibb". Which both attracted visitors.

We have had two trips to the Playhouse Oxford to see "Calendar Girls" in the Summer and "Evita" in the Winter. A village resident as in both performances.

Other things we have done is an outing to see the Alpacas at Bishop Court Farm for lunch/tea supporting a new local business. Also we has a Charity Shop Challenge Fashion show.

Unfortunately we had to cancel the Macrame Workshop as the price greatly increased, also the Christmas meeting because of very cold and icy conditions, (safety first).

However the mulled wine did not go to wasted. At our January meeting we discussed the 4 nominated resolutions for this year then had the mulled wine while enjoying a Greek Tragedy comedy staged by the committee members with the help of a couple of volunteers!

During the winter months we supported the OFWI. We had two teams in the Simultaneous Quiz, Wittenham Bats and Batets! neither team won but neither team came last. A few of us attended the Christmas Show. The Springline Choir were excellent.

Finally we have just had a wonderful Saturday afternoon with a presentation on the Treasures from the Royal collection followed by an afternoon tea. This was made possible because of a Bursary we won from OFWI. We also invited other local WI's to join us it was lovely to meet up with old and new WI members.

I hope you have enjoyed this programme and I look forward to seeing you all for the next exciting years programme.