

July 2023

I'm sorry to miss the meeting this month but have two of my grandchildren staying with me for a week. I know it's going to be a busy meeting with lots of events planned for the coming weeks and going into Autumn, so please remember to sign up on the appropriate board if you are interested or can help.

We had a very successful Bite to Eat Wake for David Govier. He had lived in or around Avening all his life until a few years ago when he moved to Scotland where all his immediate family now live.

At our last Committee Meeting we discussed the make-up of the Committee itself. We believe, to keep it buoyant, it is important to have new input and new ideas. I personally have been President now for 4 years and am a firm believer that it is not a job for life and will therefore be standing down at the next AGM. Please think hard about joining us – we, and your WI need you. We are not intimidating; our meetings are only once a month and never too serious; we need new blood to take Avening WI into the future! Please have a serious think about it and speak to any of the committee members if you have any questions. Just because you speak to one of us doesn't mean you will be press-ganged into joining!!! Liz

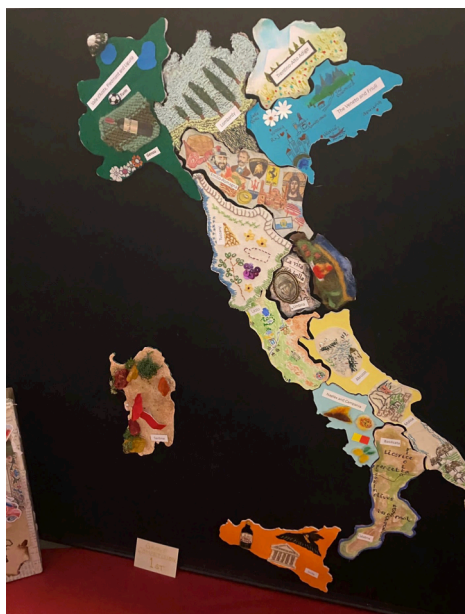
On behalf of AWI I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the splendid Group Meeting. You did us proud! The Italian food was delicious and most suitable for a hot summer evening. The competition entry was amazing. The showing of the film went smoothly due no doubt to the preparation earlier in the week. It was a very moving story and the introduction by Charles Sabine made it all the more memorable. I was fascinated with the picture of The Pope in his immaculate white robes, being embraced and hugged by the visitors to the Vatican. Shirley

### Group Meeting by Sue Swan



It was a balmy summer evening when I drove over to Avening for the Annual Group meeting. The air and light had a “continental” feel to it which fitted in perfectly with the Italian theme of the evening.

On entering the hall I was amazed by its transformation, the ladies of the committee had done a proper “Italian Job” on it and it looked amazing, with bunting, flags etc. and on each table an Italian inspired decoration, each showing how skilful and innovative our members can be. Everyone was given a very warm welcome on entering the hall, and after being handed a chilled glass of Prosecco, I sat down amongst friends from Kemble, Tetbury and Avening. Well, the Italians love their food and they would not have been at all disappointed with the clever menu that our committee had devised. I was blown away with the presentation and quality of our delicious 3 course supper, as I think we all were.



Our evening's entertainment was the film “Dancing in The Vatican”, made and presented by Charles Sabine O.B.E. Charles was there to explain why the film was made and about his campaign to bring about more awareness and understanding of Huntington's Disease. The film told the story of how there are many people in the world who suffer from the disease, especially in South America, about how they and their families struggle, how they are rejected by their local communities and society in general and how they came to meet The Pope and ended up “dancing in the Vatican”! An excellent choice, the film was extremely enlightening and I think some of us shed a few tears when Archie, a long time resident of Avening, told us of how he supports Brenda from South America, an early onset sufferer.

The evening ended with the usual hot beverages, raffle and annual reports. A Kemble member won best table decoration with her pasta inspired creation. Avening won best group entry with their interpretation of a map of Italy. All the entries were excellent but Avening's map was simply superb and if you haven't seen it yet, you must!

This was the first group meeting that I have attended since moving to The Cotswolds, very different from previous ones “oop North”, and it certainly won't be the last. A big thank you goes out to our wonderful committee ladies for all their hard work.

**(From the Committee, thanks to the members who helped in many ways)**

Avening WI President:

Liz Knowles

Treasurer:

Wendy Jennings

Secretary:

Helen Haiselden

Website:

http://

aveningwi.wordpress.com



## Avening WI

meets in the Memorial Hall  
on the  
second Thursday of every month

Visitors are always welcome!



## Visit to Brockworth Court House and Gardens

by Jennie South

Where might you expect to find a Medieval Manor house not far from Avening? Well probably not in the middle of Brockworth! But that's where a group of us were on June 7<sup>th</sup> enjoying a visit to Brockworth Court. Once a Priory Hall, and much later after the dissolution of the monasteries and other changes, eventually the 'farmhouse' of a 500-acre dairy farm. It is now the home of our welcoming hosts, Tim and Bridget Wiltshire. They have spent the last twenty-five years or so lovingly restoring the house and creating a magical, organically managed garden with a surprise round every corner. Tim said, more than once what 'a privilege and a responsibility' it is to be the custodians of a place so steeped in history and it was clearly a responsibility he took very seriously. Then to finish with tea and cake in the tithe barn – what better way to spend summer's afternoon and then to go home and see any 'repairs' on our to-do list as insignificant compared to those at Brockworth Court with its C13 wall sitting on a timber jetty from 1440!



## National Botanic Garden of Wales visit 21<sup>st</sup> June

by Pat Gardiner

Many thanks to Gwyneth for organising her fantastic 'Bucket List' trip. A group of us travelled by minibus, kindly driven by Steve Swan. The long trip soon passed and we were treated to a great day out, with lovely weather.

The garden is dedicated to the research and conservation of biodiversity, to sustainability, lifelong learning, and the enjoyment of the visitor. All of this was evident in our visit, and we certainly enjoyed our day. It's hard to believe that this was a millennial project, so is just 23 years old.

Many of us headed straight for the cafe with its outdoor shaded seating in a lovely courtyard. On the way, we walked up the Broadwalk, past the Rock of Ages, following the rill which runs down the middle of the site to a lovely fountain provided a cooling feel. The water was enjoyed by a family of sparrows too. The dome, which housed tropical and mediterranean plants, was very hot so a swift visit was all that was possible. The double walled garden was fantastic, with the roses and alstroemeria at their best. I loved the Apothecary's hall and garden, where an advert for Asthma Cigarettes made me laugh! The fairy woods were magical and great for children.

There were many walks, short and long within the site, taking in the beautiful garden lakes and meadow areas. So many walks, and so much to see, that you would need a couple of days to make the most of the site.

On the left a photo of the rill and above right of hot, but happy AWI members.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### JULY

Hilary B Margaret N  
Jo H

### AUGUST

Hilary H Margaret J

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July

Kemble & Ewen WI  
Roadshow 1 – 4pm  
Kemble House GL7 6AD

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July 7pm

Skittles v Rudford  
Plate semi - final  
Carlton Club Stroud

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Aug AWI  
will be running the  
Community Cafe

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2.30

AWI Summer Social  
in Wendy's garden

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 1.30

Rodmarton Manor  
Craft Event £12 Meet  
1.15 MemHall for lifts

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Sept

Pig Face Day

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 10 – 4

Spooly birds  
Workshop

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 10 – 2

AWI hosting GFWI  
Walks. Social Club

## NEXT MEETING

Sept 14<sup>th</sup>

My Life as a Writer

Stella Barnes  
(Stonestreet)

Refreshments:

Pam and Margaret N

COBALT DONATION  
FOR JUNE £84.15