

April 2024

Even if the weather is not very Spring-like the lighter evenings give us hope for warmer, dryer days to come. Since the last meeting we have catered for a couple of Bite to Eats and have several more in the pipeline over the summer. A date for your diary is **Sunday 9th June** – Avening Village Fete – when we will be serving teas. We'll need lots of scones for our cream teas!

We have lots of exciting trips and visits arranged for the months to come – don't forget to sign up if you want to join any of them. Please let the Committee know if there is something you would like to do that would be suitable for a group visit – we always need new ideas.

Shirley's Village Quiz is tomorrow evening, 7.30 start in the Social Club, and we're looking forward to seeing as many members as possible. The money raised will go to Avening School to be used to buy much needed books. Liz



Book Group

The Book Group meeting in March was held to discuss the novel 'Klara and The Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro. This is a dystopian science fiction story set in America. Klara is an AF (artificial friend) a lifelike, solar powered robot. Klara begins her life in a department store and is seen in the window by a teenage girl, Josie, who persuades her mother to buy Klara to be her friend and companion. The story is told by Klara who observes the emotions and behaviour of the humans around her. She takes good care of Josie who becomes increasingly unwell, believing that Josie needs the sun's rays to make her well. The book highlights the importance of human connection and the damaging effects of isolation and loneliness and the need for love and friendship. Not everyone enjoyed this book but it gave us all a great deal to talk about. We also discussed how robots are used today and how they may be used in the future.

The next book chosen to read in April is 'In the Blink of an Eye' by Jo Callaghan. The book group is held monthly in the afternoon and is a lovely way to meet and chat about the books we have read. It also helps to discover books you might otherwise not read, which has been my experience. If you would like to join the group, or need more information, please contact Sue Swan.

Andrea Thomas

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 12th April 7.30pm AWI Quiz
Social Club Teams of 4
£5pp to include supper. Raffle

Wed 17th April 2.30pm Book Club
at Helen's home. 'In the Blink of an
Eye' by Jo Callaghan'

Wed 17th April 7pm GFWI Skittles
Competition 1st round v Winstone
WI. Carlton Club Stroud

Tues 23rd April am AWI running
the Community Café

Wed 24th April Walking Tour of
Bath. Leave Avening at 8.45.
£10 pp payable to Wendy now.

Board to pre-order lunch

Sat 25th May Visit to Westminster
Abbey. Leave Avening 1.30pm
Board for meal choice

Sun 9th June Avening Church Fete
AWI serving teas

Tues 11th June Guided tour of
Malmesbury. 11am Town Hall
£7pp payable on the day. Lunch
options being investigated, details to
follow.

Mon 24th June evening Group
Meeting hosted by Tetbury WI
details to follow

Wed 26th June pm Garden Visit to
Doynton House. Details to follow

NEXT MEETING MAY 9TH

Windsor Castle A short History
by Susan Parslow

Flower of the Month. Raffle

Refreshments: Cas and Sarah R

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!

Cobalt donations

Soo Rolfe has kindly taken
over donations and card
sales.

In March we raised £61.12

Our March walk was to Selsley Common where eleven of us met in one of the car parks and began our circular walk along the extensive limestone grassland towards the westward facing escarpment. The common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest partly due to the evidence of limestone quarries. Although we kept to the top part of the common the whole area is crisscrossed with ancient paths and tracks where the carts transported the limestone down to the valley. It is also a SSSI because of the calcareous grassland wildflowers which can be found in late Spring and early Summer which include many types of orchid and the very rare fly-bee hybrid orchid. We were a little too early to spot any of these but we were serenaded by the wonderful song of the skylarks which abound here. These birds are ground nesting birds so are very vulnerable to walkers and dogs disturbing them. When they are disturbed they soar out of the grass, upwards to the sky, where they can sometimes be difficult to spot despite their melodious singing. Although we could just make out May Hill on the far side of the River Severn, the Sugar Loaf and the Black Mountains were shrouded in mist which was a pity. Bridget, who led the walk, was able to point out all the local landmarks and points of interest though and we were all able to see exactly where we were. At the end of the walk three of us made our way down to Selsley Church. The church was the first ecclesiastical commission and the only church in Britain to have its windows designed by William Morris and his colleagues of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The stained glass windows are beautiful and appeared to bathe the whole inside of the church in a fascinating light. The church is a memorial to the benefactor of the church Sir Samuel Marling and his wife. We ended our walk at The Old Fleece on the Stroud Road for lunch.

Sarah Rind

Windswept on Selsley Common



PAYMENTS DUE:

WI Subscriptions £48 due now

Westminster Trip

Balance of £48.90 due early May

Bath Tour £10 due now

**Avening Women's
Institute**

30-98-29 01740384

or cash/cheque to Wendy

Nunnington's Spiced fruit loaf.we enjoyed this cake at our committee meeting

Preheat oven Gas 3 325F 160C Grease a 2lb (900g) loaf tin.

Put water, butter, sugar, mixed fruit in large heavy based saucepan and boil together for 1min then add bicarbonate of soda. Leave to cool and then stir in cold milk or water. Sift the flours and mixed spice into a mixing bowl and make a well in the centre. Pour in the beaten eggs and all the ingredients from the saucepan and mix well with a wooden spoon. Pour into the loaf tin and bake for 45mins to 1 hour till risen and brown. Cool slightly before turning out onto a wire rack to cool.

Jo adds 2 ginger balls and some of the syrup into the water and mixes the dried fruit/ apricots, cranberries, dates.

from Jo Harwood

4fl oz(120mls) water
4oz (100g) marg or butter
6oz (175g) sugar
12oz (350g) mixed dried fruit
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
4fl oz (120ml) cold milk or water
4oz (100g) self raising flour
4oz (100g) plain flour
1 rounded tsp mixed spice
2 eggs beaten

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR APRIL BIRTHDAY GIRLS

Gill Adams Wendy Jennings Liz Knowles Pam Taylor