

'We believe there may be as many as 8000 unidentified young carers in Gloucestershire' .

The speaker at our March meeting was Toni Collier from Gloucestershire Young Carers, who explained that they were in contact with 1000 young people from the age of 8 upwards, who had taken on the responsibilities of caring for other family members through illness or disability. The scope of the support the organisation is able to give these young people, often through to their early 20s if their education has had to be extended because of their caring role, is far reaching, including respite events, a Young Carers' forum, trips out, activity groups and a network of school leaders. GYC also provides an avenue to access practical support from other official bodies along with their volunteers who provide a range of skills from HR to crafts, office to outdoors.

At the same time as many of us were listening to Toni, four of our members were facing eleven other teams in Bisley Village Hall, the venue for the annual WI quiz, hosted by Bisley WI. Tetbury was represented by Lorna, Jayne, Elaine and Jan. The twelve teams took part in ten rounds of tough questions, with Avening taking the top place and Siddington second. Both teams will go forward to the next round. Oakridge took third place and became the reserve team, while our team took a very respectable fourth place, after having a really good time. According to Jan, the best question of the evening was 'what is arachibutyrophobia the fear of?' The answer – the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth! – who knew? She's not saying whether any of the teams knew either! Thank you to all four for taking part.

The Garden Group faced snow when they went to Kapunda Plants, south of Bath, which specialises in Lenten Hellebores. The Open Garden Day there was very popular and there was great disappointment when, despite arriving only 15 minutes after opening, they were unable to bring home any plants from the shop for their own gardens.

There will be meetings of the Gin Group in April, September and December and – a new initiative - four Wine Tasting events over the coming months, with the first, exploring Chardonnay, on 14 June.

The Book Club will be moving on to Thomas Hardy's 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' after they review their current book 'Paternoster' .

The next monthly coffee morning at The Snooty Fox is on Monday 22 April at 10.30am.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 8 April at The Goods Shed at 7.30pm, when we will be having a 'taster' evening of Tai Chi – loose clothing and flat shoes are vital. We welcome members from Tetbury and the surrounding villages, we would love to meet you.

Rowena Palser, Tetbury WI

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

