

On an early April evening, when much of the northern hemisphere was hoping to see a total eclipse of the sun, the chances of experiencing even a partial eclipse in Tetbury was foiled by an overcast sky and light rain, nevertheless, it didn't prevent a large number of our membership taking part in an introduction to the discipline of Tai Chi, led by local instructor Jaki Hood. It was good to get out of our seats and attempt to follow the graceful movements, even if, as a group, we probably lacked synchronicity. A few of our members had already attended classes, but it was a new experience for most of us and might well lead to increased attendance at local classes - or a new Tetbury WI group?

In March, fourteen of our members met at The Close Hotel for the first meal of the Spring season – an excellent two-course lunch, which gave us an ideal opportunity to chat to a couple of new members and catch up with friends. The relaxed atmosphere was well supported by the pleasant surroundings and the excellent service provided by the hotel, for which 'thank you' to the team at The Close.

Plans are already in hand for the next lunch in May, when we hope to take our appetites to The Trouble House, which was the venue for the first meeting of the Sunday Lunch Group in late March, when a small group of six met to enjoy a roast lunch. The plan is to meet every two months for Sunday lunch, although the next date is likely to be at midsummer so that we don't clash with the May lunch or the Bank Holiday. We're planning on travelling a little further afield and hoping to be able to have a table in a pub garden somewhere in the Cotswolds in the sunshine.

Of course, that will depend wholly on the weather: too many of the walking group's outings have been limited to the stroll from our cars to our coffee venue as the conditions along the railway path have been quite difficult and the weather generally has not been conducive to a gentle stroll and good conversation.

The Book Club doesn't have the same challenges with inclement weather, although some members of the group ventured further afield to attend the 'Tea with Kim Fleet', the author of 'Paternoster', which has been organised by the Gloucestershire Federation. 'Paternoster' is their most recent 'read'. And neither does the craft group, whose latest creations with a Japanese theme were hand-painted Kokeshi dolls, which are supposed to bring good fortune and protect households from fire.

Due to the date coinciding with the late Spring Bank Holiday and the Woolsack races, there won't be a coffee morning in May, but we are hoping to have a cake stall at the races.

Our May meeting at The Goods Shed is on Monday 13 May at 7.30pm, when we will know which of our annual Resolutions will be taken forward nationally. We welcome members from Tetbury and surrounding villages, we would love to meet you.

Rowena Palsler, Tetbury WI

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

