

Tetbury Advertiser – June 2024

It will be bluebirds* (and bluebells) for Tetbury WI in this edition of the Advertiser as we get out our Marguerite Patten cookbooks, roll our hair into a Victory Roll, struggle into our dungarees and prepare to help the town celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6 June. Plans for our stall in the market place include a reminder of exactly how much food was included in an individual's ration, recipes to make the most of the small amounts of butter and sugar people were allowed plus some cakes and other baked goods made from the wartime recipes – come and join us and try them.

No budding Vera Lynns* revealed themselves at our May meeting when we asked members to reveal something about themselves that others were unlikely to know. However, among the revelations were memories of playing girls' rugby long before the sport became popular (or accepted) as it is now; how one member met her future husband when the boys' school next door – usually carefully segregated – invaded the girls' school grounds when it snowed to start a snowball fight; how one member had to wash a famous football manager's false teeth twice while working as a dental assistant and how another was involved in a situation where 'I love you' cost billions of £s (to remove, it was a world-wide virus).

This year seemed particularly good for wild bluebells and cowslips and several members used the opportunity last month to visit Westonbirt to see the stunning spectacle. As a regular dog-walker at the arboretum, I look forward every year to the succession of primroses, bluebells and the wild garlic, but, despite (or possibly because of) the winter we've just experienced, this year has been better than ever. Westonbirt is always popular and it looks as if another small group is forming to walk there as well as the regular walks along the railway path.

In June we have two meetings. The first is our regular meeting on the 2nd Monday in the month, when we have invited Nick King, who recently appeared on The Dragon's Den, to present his talk 'Goats of the Gorge' about his transition from police officer to entrepreneur after he was advised to drink goats' milk for his bone health.

The second is our annual group meeting with Avening and Kemble WIs, which Tetbury is hosting this year. Our speaker will be John Volanthen, who was a member of the international cave diving team that rescued a junior football team from the Tham Luang caves in northern Thailand in 2018. Many may remember that the boys were aged between 11 and 16, when they and their young coach entered the caves after a practice session.

Our next coffee morning will be at The Snooty Fox on Monday 24 June at 10.30am and "we'll meet again" for our regular June meeting at 7.30pm at The Goods Shed on Monday 10 June, we welcome members from Tetbury and the surrounding villages.

Rowena Palsler, Tetbury WI

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

