

I grew up in the aftermath of the second world war. The boys in my 11+ year of primary school in the late '50s were still drawing pictures of aerial dogfights between Spitfires and Messerschmitts, my primary school teacher had been a prisoner of the Japanese and daily life was still controlled to an extent by frugal wartime habits. One of my earliest memories is of queuing with my mother to collect ration coupons, I believe it was for sweets, that may well be down to my priorities at the time, but it's easy to forget that rationing and restrictions of some foods were still in place at the time of the Coronation in 1953, eight years after the end of the war.

We took our place in the Market Hall on 6 June to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day alongside the History of Tetbury's remarkable display of wartime in the town with our own display, a demonstration of exactly what a week's ration would look like and a selection of cakes made from contemporary recipes. These were surprisingly good (so thanks to Linda, Moira and Sunni for their culinary efforts) given the slender rations of fats and sugar although carrots do seem to have figured prominently in many of the recipes. Linda and Angela really got into the spirit of the occasion too by dressing up, although the former will readily admit that it took a lot of practice to get her headscarf right!

Our June meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> saw us fascinated by Nick King's presentation 'Goats of the Gorge'. In 2014 Nick, then a serving police officer, was injured in a car accident. During his treatment it was discovered that he was now osteoporotic. A small daily glass of goat's milk was recommended as it is particularly high in calcium, which led in turn to him purchasing a pair of goats. Two goats became several and an excess of goats' milk led to experimentation in making goats' milk soap. Taking a huge risk, he took early retirement and concentrated on both the soap and various other milk-based products and was then joined by his two sons in a hugely successful family business that is now international. A recent appearance on 'Dragon's Den', while not attracting any investment, further boosted their presence in the market even if the quarter of a million enquiries on the evening the programme was televised temporarily crashed their website!

At the time this issue goes to press we will still be deep in preparations for our Group Meeting with Avening and Kemble and Ewen WIs on 24 June: planning without knowing firm numbers for supper and any special dietary requirements has been challenging, at least we don't have to restrict our plans to rationing levels.

Our next coffee morning at The Snooty Fox is at 10.30am on Monday 22 July and our next full meeting will be on Monday 8 July at 7.30pm with a talk entitled 'Tales of a Midwife' – if the taster I was at some months ago is anything to go by it will be an entertaining evening.

We welcome members from Tetbury and surrounding villages.

Rowena Palsler, Tetbury WI

[www.tetbury-wi.org.uk](http://www.tetbury-wi.org.uk)

