

In common, I'm sure, with other WI County Federations, Gloucestershire arranges a 'taster' morning every two months to present speakers hoping to appeal to our various branches. These are invaluable as a way to bring potential speakers on a wide spectrum of topics to the attention of those local committee members looking to address the interests of all of the members of their branch, not that anyone can hope to "please all of the people.....", you can only try.

So, as an organiser it can be risky choosing activities that might be out of many people's comfort zone, but, by the laughter and fun our members had at our September Harvest supper, spinning plates, twirling diabolos, balancing feathers and making patterns with coloured scarves appealed to us all. We were introduced to these circus skills by Andy Fowler from Stroud, who instructed us brilliantly in the techniques needed and encouraged our efforts as plates were dropped (or not, as several of our members showed distinct ability), feathers drooped and diabolos escaped. He is a great presenter and maybe we'll consider asking him to return in the future to instruct us in African drumming skills!

After our efforts, everyone was refreshed with a bowl of seasonal butternut squash soup (made by members of the committee – once again, thank you to them for their culinary efforts) and a roll and butter, before concluding the evening with WI business.

In contrast, our meeting on Monday the 14th of October at 7.30pm will be far more serious as we will be welcoming a speaker from the Police to talk about the latest scams and fraudulent practices they're seeing and, hopefully, how to avoid putting yourself at risk.

In August, members from our own branch and Kemble and Ewen WI were treated to a guided tour of the house and gardens and a sandwich lunch at Rodmarton Manor, managing to pick one of the nicer days weather-wise this summer. Our guide, Judith, was very informative about the history of the house, the family, and the craft work displayed in the furniture, wall-hangings and furnishings throughout the house. We don't meet formally in August, instead choosing to arrange an outing to somewhere that addresses the various interests of members.

The Garden group too had an outing in late August, when they visited Bourton House garden at Bourton on the Hill, and a second outing to the gardens at Malmesbury Abbey at the beginning of September. We are very keen to ensure that outings are open to everybody so we car-share wherever possible, not only does this serve to keep the cost of transport down, but ensures that members who don't drive are included.

Our next coffee morning at the Snooty Fox is on Monday 28th October at 10.30am

Members of Tetbury WI come from the town and surrounding villages, but we are happy to see people come as a visitor initially to see if the organisation is for them. We hope they will like what they see and join us.

Rowena Palsler, Tetbury WI

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

