Tetbury Advertiser – November 2025

It's impossible to ignore how prices in the supermarkets are going up. My grandmother couldn't imagine a 'shilling lemon' – if only she knew! So our October speaker, Sophia Ashe, a local farmer, was fascinating as she described how this year, with its difficult weather patterns, affected the costs of providing food. While we were relishing the glorious weather, farmers were facing daily challenges.

Looking out of my window at the Rec at the lush grass, it's hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago it was a sad sight with the grass dry and brown and huge cracks in the earth. At the time, I probably did give a passing thought to the effect on our farmers, but it took Sophia's succinct description of how a dry Spring meant insufficient grass and the consequent need to buy in animal feed; how lower yields pushed prices up for fodder; how this impacted on quality and yield and how this affected prices to bring home the much larger picture of what this Summer's weather extremes did to our daily lives.

It was an evening for quizzes as she then challenged us to identify some food labelling and what it actually says about the conditions in which the food in our shops is produced. A great speaker, she finished her presentation with a lively question and answer session.

Answers were possibly not quite so forthcoming for the quiz that accompanied our harvest supper after Sophia's talk, as many of us struggled to identify youthful faces of current 'celebrities'. We are very lucky in Jan Yates, one of our members, who always manages to come up with great games and quizzes. While enjoying the homemade butternut squash soup provided by the committee, we tackled this challenge and a second series of questions to identify the connection between the one word answers (with rather more success!).

It will be our AGM in November and Linda Sheen, our current President, is stepping down after a lengthy service both on the committee and as President. Her energy and commitment is astounding – she will be a hard act to follow and will be missed. The meeting on November 10, coming as it does between Remembrance Sunday, (when we will be laying a wreath at the war memorial at St Saviours), and Remembrance Day itself, will also have a member of the MOD War Graves Detectives as our speaker.

The next coffee morning at the Snooty Fox is at 10.30am on Monday 24 November. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at The Goods Shed. We welcome guests to see if the WI is for you and we offer not only a range of speakers, activities and outings, but also access to our groups, which include crafts, a book group, a garden group and a walking group (which, on wet days, tends to be an ad hoc coffee group at The Trouble House).

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THANK YOU!
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