

## Tetbury Advertiser – April 2026

I came home from our March meeting wanting a nice cup of Horlick's. It's something that I don't indulge in very often – not that I think there's anything intrinsically wrong in a little indulgence from time to time, but because I have a feeling that all that wealth of vitamins A, C and D and calcium comes with a high calorific content.

So what prompted this? The fascinating information provided by our March speaker's 'A Blue Plaque Tour of Gloucestershire'. Andrew Mellor took us on a tour starting in Gloucester, through Newent, the Forest of Dean, where the Horlicks brothers were born, Dursley, Stroud, Cirencester, Winchcombe, Cheltenham, and finishing once again in Gloucester. His talk included such diverse figures as the 'Miser of Gloucester', thought to be the inspiration for Charles Dickens's Ebenezer Scrooge, and the poet who wrote the poem 'Invictus', who it is believed was the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's Long John Silver. Among the 'firsts' to be celebrated in Gloucestershire were the men who invented the first vacuum cleaner and the first lawn mower and the man who was the first person to put fizz in wine, pre-dating Dom Perignon by a good fifteen years! Dursley provided us with an Evangelist who was co-founder of the Methodist church with the Wesley brothers and Newent was the birthplace of the record producer and lover of experimental music that gave the world the tune 'Telstar', the best selling single of 1962.

He apologised for the fact that the list was greatly weighted towards men, but explained that it was the social attitudes prevailing in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries that ignored or disguised women's contributions, nevertheless he was able to include two influential women, whose histories were of great interest to our members. The first was a pioneer of women's education and who, at the young age of 27, became Head Mistress of Cheltenham Ladies College, a post she held from 1858-1906 and the second, another Suffragist and educationalist, the first Vice President of the WI, responsible for making 'Jerusalem' the anthem of the movement.

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Our 'Bingo, Beats and Bubbles' evening at The Goods Shed was a resounding success and thanks must go to the sub-committee that proposed, created and realised such a fun evening. Greeted with a glass of bubbly, entertained with successive games of 'Bingo' and 'Beats', a musical equivalent that had many of us singing along with the likes of Neil Diamond and Abba as we played, fed with great food and rewarded – well some of us – with great raffle prizes it was an evening to remember.

Just a reminder, our next coffee morning at The Snooty Fox will be at 10.30 on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of April and our next meeting will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.30pm at The Goods Shed, when we're planning a taster session of some different foods and drinks to see which our members prefer – budget, 'middle of the road' or luxury.

I know I always say it, but we do welcome women from both Tetbury and the surrounding villages, it would be good to meet you.

Happy Easter.

Rowena Palser

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

