

Tetbury Advertiser – June 2026

At our May meeting it was a great pleasure to welcome back Sophia Ashe, a local farmer, who spoke to us some months ago about the current challenges of farming in the UK. This time she delighted us with a description of the three months she spent in Argentina working on a cattle ranch and 'riding like a gaucho'. Opting to take a break after finishing her agricultural degree, she worked initially on a cattle ranch in Queensland, Australia, then on an ostrich farm in Victoria before flying to Buenos Aires in February 2020. She had planned to spend six weeks working with the hands on the San Eduardo ranch – some 52,930 hectares – but Covid had other ideas and she ended up staying three months for what she described as the most wonderful experience of her life.

She formed close ties with all the people she worked with and keeps in regular touch with them all. When she returned to the UK, travelling on a repatriation flight with strict Covid protocols in place, she started jotting down her memories of the experience, which was then transformed into a book – 'Ride like a Gaucho' – a copy of which she generously donated as a raffle prize. The lucky winner also got a bottle of Argentinian wine!

The May meeting always sees us taking a second vote on a short list of the current year's Resolutions. This year 'Accessible toilets for all' and 'Tackling homelessness for women' will be taken forward to the AGM and our delegate will place the branch's vote in June. The first of these was the one that Tetbury WI voted to take forward at our January meeting, which will be recognised by our delegate. We also take a collection for ACWW – the Associated Country Women of the World initiative. ACWW has been campaigning for almost 100 years for rural women's rights around the world, supporting them in building stronger communities.

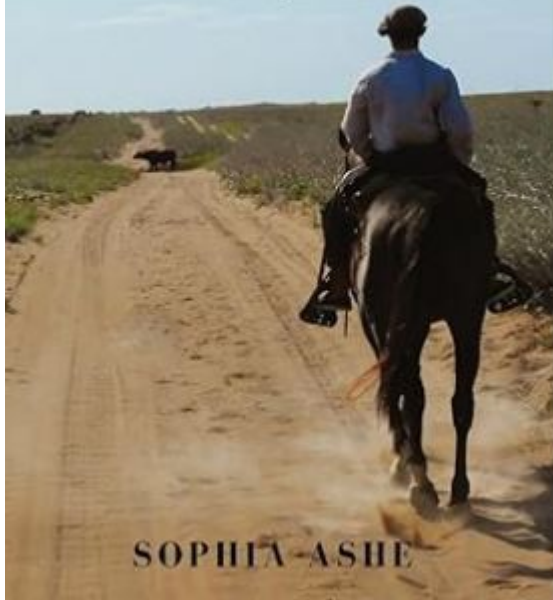
During the business part of the evening after a coffee break, the committee reported on the various activities and outings that are planned for the next few months. There is so much going on in Tetbury through the various groups like U3A, the Lions and other more specifically targeted groups like the Theatre Group, the Footpath Group, etc., that we have 'an embarrassment of riches' in our community. As a women's group, we are at a disadvantage if couples are looking for opportunities that they can share, but we do have a lot to offer in the variety of interests that we can cover, usually in small groups and we endeavour to meet any new activities or needs that the group has as quickly as we can.

We also like to get our members on their feet from time to time, so we'll be 'strutting our stuff' on June 8, when we challenge our two left feet with a little line dancing, but if that's too strenuous our next coffee morning at The Snooty Fox is on Monday 22 June at 10.30am. Non-members are welcome as a guest, but we hope you'll join us permanently.

Rowena Palser

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

RIDE LIKE A GAUCHO



SOPHIA ASHE

