

Blewbury W I

Report to the Annual Meeting of Blewbury Parish Council 15th May 2024

Blewbury W I has had a busy and successful year. We have had several new members join, some from outside the village as word of our activities spreads. Our regular monthly meetings normally incorporate a talk by different outside speakers on a variety of topics ranging from “Warrior Women of the English Civil War” to “Life as a Metropolitan Police Crime Scene Investigator”, the “Development of Penicillin in wartime Oxford” and many other and varied subjects.

As well as the monthly talks there are regular sessions of Mahjong, Scrabble and Rummikub, meetings of our own Book Club and the Craft Group. We have had trips out to the theatre in Abingdon, to Aston Pottery, the Wantage Museum (with afternoon tea) and climbed to the top of St Michael’s Church tower. We celebrated the Coronation with “Prosecco and Pearls in the garden of Orchard Dene (thanks to Alastair and Zillah) and explored the wonderful water garden at Millbrook Cottage (thanks to Anita).

We went on monthly walks exploring both locally and further afield on foot. We had a sunflower growing competition and as well as our regular monthly coffee mornings at StyleAcre we had special Easter and Christmas events at Dragonwyke (thanks to Sharon). We had a pub lunch at the Extraordinary Hare, Christmas lunch at Goring & Streatley Golf Club and a summer party in the Melland Room.

We ran a stall at the Blewbury Clubs and Societies Day and also at the Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue Day, and ran the mulled wine store at the Blewbury Bonfire.

The Didcot Group of WIs (which had lapsed during Covid) sprang back to life this year when we organised a Christmas Carol Concert here at St Michael’s for all local WIs in the area, followed by coffee (or wine) and mince pies. The next joint event is a summer social being hosted by Chilton.

Our future will be just as busy and interesting. The next meeting on 22nd May for instance will be “The Oxford of Inspector Morse”. The complete programme of talks is in our leaflets available here, but as you will have gathered the talks are only a fraction of the many and varied ways we contribute to village life (and contrary to popular belief) Blewbury WI is not just about cake!

Jill Allen
President. Blewbury WI