

MARSWORTH WI – REPORT OF PRESIDENT TO MARSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL 2024

We began another successful year on a high note with our vicar Revd. James Grainger-Smith coming to introduce himself to us and explaining about his life in Hong Kong before he came to our benefice. He was very interesting and chatty and we enjoyed talking to him very much.

Our Annual Dinner was held at The Bedford Arms in Chenies, a lovely venue, but the food and service left something to be desired unfortunately. Many of our members ordered mussels for their main course, but they were rather thin on the ground, with far more sauce and shells than mussels, and the evening was dubbed 'Musselgate'!

Once again we have had some wonderful speakers, notably Graham Laurie from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Errol Hendrix a local man, a psychotherapist who gave a talk on 'Don't Act your age – a path to mental well being'. One of our evenings was handed over to our WI members. This allows the elected committee to sit back and enjoy the members evening. Their first choice for a speaker was from Whipsnade Zoo, but unfortunately, he was unable to come because he was travelling abroad to rehome an extremely rare snail that had been reared in captivity. His replacement did not disappoint though, a lady from Mercy Ships told us all about her work on these ships and the wonderful results achieved for the many people in the world who have precious little access to medical treatment. Fred Martin came along in February and talked to us about Medical Detection Dogs accompanied by Viking a beautiful retriever type dog.

The resolutions meeting was short and sweet, since this year we did not have to debate which resolutions we wanted to support – there was only one! – Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

Aside from our monthly meetings we had our lovely annual tea party hosted by Elsie Beesley. What a brilliant afternoon we had – and amazingly, with a donation of his speaker's fees from Errol Hendrix, the entrance fee and the raffle etc etc, we managed to raise a whopping £500 which was donated to a breast cancer charity. Well done ladies! Our Book Club, Craft Club and Supper Club continue to thrive.

The Jubilee Garden in the recreation ground was getting untidy and unkempt and now we have someone to organise a regular clean up and tidy. We will see what comes up this spring and fill in the gaps if needs be.

Our Annual Meeting was in November. I had wanted to resign but no-one came forward to take my place. However, Denise Cornwall offered to be co-president and this is working well. Bren Pearson my erstwhile secretary resigned and Lynne Allen has stepped forward to take her place. Things are going well. We are in a good financial position, which has allowed us to once again subsidize the yearly subscription fees.

We have had 6 new ladies join us, but, sadly, we have lost our dear Evelyn Barber. We miss her.

Chris King and Denise Cornwall (Co-Presidents of Marsworth WI)