

November 2023

Avening WI hosts GFWI County Walks on the 18 October 2023

As AWI members and visiting walkers from around the county gathered in the Social Club for a short briefing about the three walks on offer, our catering team provided them with tea, coffee and biscuits; very welcome on the wet, grey day.

The following accounts offer a snapshot of how the day played out...

I planned the two mile walk mainly around the village. We had a very small group of 8 walkers. Everyone was well equipped for the rain that fell throughout the walk. We took it very slowly as one of the visiting walkers had mobility problems. We headed up the High Street turning into Mays Lane and down past Avening Court, stopping to admire the river, little bridges and lovely garden visible through the hole in the wall. We then turned into Nags Head Lane back towards Avening crossing the main road and then along Rectory Lane. We went into the recreation ground to check on the plum tree that we planted there in the community orchard. From there we headed to the Church which luckily was unlocked and I explained about the church's connection to Queen Matilda back in the 11th century. I had planned to go back to the Social Club via the meadow behind the church but our infirm walker would have found this too difficult, so we went straight back to the Social Club to a welcome mug of soup and bread.

Gwyneth



The four mile trek for the County walk started on Woodstock Lane. 26 people joined myself, Sue S & Cas on our ramble around Avening. After climbing out of the village on the bridlepath towards Hazel Wood we veered across to Brandhouse farm. Luckily we were all dressed for the wet and windy conditions. The view across to the village was not what I had envisaged! It was marred by the rain! Everyone was in good spirits as we walked along Westend Lane into the village and although I gave our visitors the opportunity for a short-cut back to the Social Club, it was unanimous that we walk along the High Street and up around to the playing field, before making our way back to the Club for refreshments. Eight of our group were keen to view the church, which they admired before returning to the start of the walk. The soup and cakes were much appreciated.

Wendy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 15th Nov 2.30 Book Club
'Hamnet' by Maggie O'Farrell
Blue Diamond

Fri 17th Nov 7 for 7.30 Quiz
Social Club Tables of 4 £5 to
include Ploughman's supper.

Thurs 23rd Nov Walk & lunch
Besbury Common approx. 3mls
Meet 10.30 Memorial Hall or
10.45 Reservoir car park on
Minchinhampton Common
Lunch 12.30 The Old Lodge
(non walkers welcome to join)

Wed 29th Nov 7pm
Skittles final v Kilcot & Gorsley
Wotton Hall Social Club Glos

Fri 1st Dec Trip to Worcester
Victorian Christmas Market
9.15 bus stop opposite Mem. Hall.
Leave Worcester 3.30/4pm
£15 members £20 non-members

Mon 4th Dec 10am Gill Thomas'
Star Making Celebration.
Cherington Village Hall. Bring
scissors & Bring'n share lunch

Wed 6th Dec 12.30
AWI Christmas Lunch
The Crown Minchinhampton

Mon 11th Dec 10-2pm
Wreath making workshop
Social Club Bring'n share lunch

2024

Tues 16th Jan Community Cafe
Tues 30th Jan Incinerator Tour
Wed 24 April Walking tour Bath
Sat 25th May Westminster Abbey

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GIRLS
Sandra Gale **Shirley Hand**

Avening WI President:

Liz Knowles

Treasurer:

Wendy Jennings

Secretary:

Helen Haiselden

Website:

http://

aveningwi.wordpress.com



Avening WI

meets in the Memorial Hall
on the
second Thursday of every month

Visitors are always welcome!

Wreath making workshop

Please bring your own wreath base to the workshop. Alternative suggestions to oasis for a base are woven willow or hazel, evergreen material, wire bases etc Wendy showed us bases she bought at Hobbycraft for £5.50 which would be suitable. (Can be ordered online) As usual please bring lots of greenery that we can all share, together with wire, decorations and any tools you will need.

Charity Collections

Soo is still collecting used stamps for Pied Piper Used Christmas/greetings cards for Cobalt will be collected in January Pill foil packs can be recycled at Superdrug...we can no longer take in large quantities

County walks (continued)

I set off as back marker on the six mile walk led by Pat and climbed very swiftly up Steppes Lane. I quickly realised my walking skills were being challenged. I was certainly a back marker and the group had to wait for me at the top of the hill! After getting my breath back the walk became much easier. I can't tell you exactly where we went but Minchinhamton Golf club (new) Nags Head and Cherington flashed by. Our leader Pat made the walk so enjoyable and frequently stopped to point out interesting points for our guests who did not know our area at all and were amazed how beautiful it is even in the rain, which was off and on for most of the 6 miles! Slowly we got wetter and wetter but it didn't dampen our enjoyment. As finally wet, but happy we arrived back at the Social Club, I realised the rain had even reached my knickers! But with the sight and smell of hot mugs of soup with warm rolls as we entered the room, our discomfort was soon forgotten. Even the delicious cakes thwarted my hasty return home for a hot shower and dry clothes. It was a really good walk, one I would love to do again especially on a dry day and if Avening WI caterers were at the end of it.

Alison

The catering team began their contribution to the County Walk by providing tea, coffee and biscuits and were proud to be complimented on the selection offered and on the care taken to make sure that all possible dietary requirements were considered. Phew, no complaints!

After the stalwart AWI walk leaders and guest walkers had left the hall, the catering team downed a quick cuppa and set about preparing for the return of the hungry walkers.

The AWI team of soup, cake and baguette preppers, table setters, knife, spoon and napkin assemblers and our star washer upper, did a fantastic job of getting everything ready in time for the return of the, by now, very wet walkers who were most impressed by the delicious, warming feast on offer and the excellent table service.

It was a hectic and exhausting day and the catering team at the Social Club probably walked as far as the visitors! All the AWI helpers did a wonderful job and their efforts were very much appreciated by our visitors.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the Avening WI County Walk so successful.

Soo



Cobalt donations

Sue O collected **£271** in Oct/Nov from card sales and donations. Our yearly total for 2023 is **£777.17** From 28 Nov to 5th Dec all donations will be **doubled** by 'The Big Give Christmas Challenge' so this means money raised in card sales or donations at **tonight's meeting will also be doubled.**

Payments due now to Wendy

Please pay by BACS if you can to :

Avening Womens Institute
30-98-29 01740384

Ref. Worcester £15 members
£20 non-mem

Ref. The Crown £30 2 course
£40 3 course

Wendy will accept cash or cheque **tonight** please

NEXT MEETING Dec 14th

Christmas Party
Bring and share nibbles
Secret Santa (£7.50)
Flower of the month
Raffle