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The newly formed Rummikub Group continues to flourish and meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons of the month in members’ homes. This has proved to be very popular and lots of fun (with tea and cake).

**This Month’s Meeting**

8 November 2023 -Our AGM. Wine & Nibbles

President’s Message

*Dear Members*

*It is November and time for the all important AGM of Bledlow WI and the last time I will be welcoming you as President. It is up to the members to vote in the Committee and from them vote in a new President. Heather Veness, Helen Wright and Jacqui Foster have put their names forward to be on the committee. Thank you very much to them. If there is anyone else PLEASE let me know as we still need more. We do actually have fun on the Committee!*

*To run our WI the office holders ie President, Secretary and Treasurer are essential. Next year we propose having lots of ‘Vices’ to spread the load as the Committee, like all of you, are very busy people.*

*I have had a really enjoyable 3 years as President and thank you all for making the job easy as you are so good at rising to any occasion and in true WI tradition get on with the job.*

*As proof, the Millionaire evening was hugely successful and made over £1000 to share between us and the Village Hall. A big thank you to all who made this possible!!!*

Best wishes Sally

*Sally Manning, Bledlow WI President*

**Bledlow WI Newsletter- October/November 2023**

**Gardening Group’s visit to Horatios’ Garden**

We were met by the Head Gardener who explained Horatio’s history and escorted us around the garden which is adjacent to the Spinal Injury ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. A peaceful area with fountain and small seating alcoves, the Garden is tended by volunteers who make sure there is of some interest

through-out the seasons.

Horatio’s Garden was the inspiration of Horatio Chapple, who as a teenager helped in Salisbury Hospital’s Spinal Injury ward and realised that the patients would benefit from an adjacent garden.   He wanted to follow in his parents’ footsteps and become a doctor but tragically this was not to be as he was killed aged 17 by a polar bear whilst on science trip to Svalbard. But in his name gardens are being specially landscaped in hospitals nationwide, where there is a Spinal Injury unit

**Millionaires’ Evening**

On a rainy October evening, Bledlow Village was the venue for 10 tables of 6 people who took part in the “Who wants to be a Millionaire” Evening as a fund-raising event for both Bledlow Village Hall & Bledlow WI.

A 2 course meal of lasagne and fruit crumble was provided, thanks to willing cooks form the Village and WI. The quiz was based on the TV show, with Marlene’s husband, Stuart acting as quizmaster “Chris Tarrant”. Karen’s table won Millionaire goodies as the team with the most points during the evening.

Thanks go to everyone who helped from the WI and Village Hall Committee to make it a successful and enjoyable evening.

**WI Book Group (evening)**

In the last meeting the evening book group discussed The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett, an interesting story of mixed race twins who choose different lives in a white and a black community. Next time we have a choice of reading, either On Green Dolphin Street by Sebastian Faulks or The Postmistress by Sarah Blake.

**Walking Group**

Jenny led the October walk, starting from Lewknor. crossing over the Ridgeway, climbing up the steep hill to reach  Cowlease car park. Then a turn right into the fields managed by BBOWT with views over the Oxfordshire vale. A descent back over the Ridgeway retraced our steps back to The Leathern Bottle for lunch.

The plan for the November walk is to be based around Bledlow Ridge and Radnage.

New members are welcome to join our small group.

**Supper Club**

A small group enjoyed a lovely evening on Tuesday 19 September at The Leather Bottle, Lewknor.

The next Supper Club will be at lunchtime meeting at 1pm at La Caravella in Thame.

**Mini Bridge/Bridge Groups**

Mini Bridge Group meets on the 1st Monday of the month at The Peacock, Henton for lunch, mini bridge and afternoon tea. Then we meet in member’s houses 2 weeks later. The next meeting at The Peacock is on Monday 6 November at 1pm.

Bridge Group meets in members’ houses on 1st & 3rd Thursday afternoons.



Katrina, Tinker, Mary A, Lesley B, Rosemary and Heather for their November birthdays.

Belated Birthday wishes to Judy, Jenny Madden, Jenny Makepeace, Mary U, Sally Morris and Louise for their October birthdays.

Belated Birthday wishes to Jenny madden

**Theatre Group**

18 people enjoyed a meal and “It’s Her Turn Now”-a farce about a female MP behaving badly at the Mill at Sonning on 25 October.

21 people have booked to see High Society at Sonning on 12 December.

2 spaces are available to see Calendar Girls at Sonning on Wednesday 17 April. Tickets £63.75 each to include a 2 course meal.

**WI Reading Group (afternoon)**

October's book was Mr Mac and Me by Esther Freud, detailing the friendship between a young boy and Charles Rennie Mackintosh in a Suffolk village in 1914. November's book is An American Marriage by Tayari Jones.

**Dates for your Dairy**

Next Coffee Mornings on Friday 24 November at Sally Morris’s and Friday 8 December at Alexis’s.

Christmas Lunch at The Peacock at Henton on Friday 19 January 2024. 2 courses £28.50, 3 courses £34.50, deposit of £10 payable now with balance due at January meeting. WI is looking to subsidy the cost.

**Interested in Joining a Group?**

Please contact Katrina.

**Welcome to Carol**

A warm welcome to our newest WI member- Carol.