



## **Wolston WI News – July 2017**

**Mary Quant**

What a difference the weather can make to our activities. We held our annual Ascot Day and so different from last year as we could have our lunch outside and appreciate Madeleine's garden. However, because it was so hot, we were glad to find some shade and to discard our posh hats and jackets.

The weather certainly made a difference to the Garden Walkabout as the village buzzed with all the stalls and activities. People were certainly glad to find somewhere to have some refreshments. Our cake stall was busy and Village Voices gave two performances with a varied programme from the classical Fanfare to hits from the 60's.

The speaker at our July meeting was Ruth Lowe who gave us a talk about Mary Quant. She had brought with her many original Mary Quant items and we were surprised about the value of some of them. A coat she said was valued at £1,000! She often asked did you wear this type of item or do you remember a certain thing which evoked a lot of memories for those ladies who were around in the 60's. Mary's parents were schoolteachers and wanted her to be one. How different fashion might have been if she had done so. She opened her first shop in partnership with Alexander Plunket Green (who she would later marry) and Archie McNair but was selling mainly accessories. She decided to start making clothes herself instead of buying them in but then employed a handful of seamstresses before needing to use manufacturers to meet the increased demand. One of her main aims was to create clothing for young people in which their movement was not restricted. She also made a lot of bisexual items and many famous names wore them. She showed us a jacket the same style worn by John Lennon. The mini skirt and hot pants were accredited to her and she designed patterned tights to wear with them.

Although we do not have a meeting in August we will be holding an afternoon tea at Eileen Yates' home so again we are hoping the weather is kind to us.

The meeting in September (Thursday, 14th) will be a talk by Alan Rogers about a Policeman's Lot so why not come along. You will be very welcome.

*Jean Morgan*