



Wolston WI News – March 2018

A Farmer's Wife

Jane Barnes came to our March meeting to talk about being a farmer's wife. She said it was a sad fact that the number of dairy farmers in this country are getting smaller each year and one of the reasons is that as a farmer gets older his/her family do not want to carry on farming. Jane said she and her husband are pleased that their son had chosen farming as his future. Jane and her husband have a dairy farm near Melton Mowbray and have a herd of Ayrshire cows. All the milk they produce is sent to a dairy which specialises in making cheese. Most of the female calves are kept and are reared until they are old enough to have a calve and join the milking herd. Jane told us that they calve all their cows at this time of year so that they have the benefit of spending the summer in the fields. Her main task at this time is to care for the calves after they have left the mother. She said it can be quite hectic trying to persuade six calves at a time to suckle the milk from a teat on the machine holding the exact amount of milk the calf needs. She also said she has special rugs to keep them warm and during the recent very wintry weather she made a makeshift tent with lots of straw in it and it was good to see them all huddled together underneath.

We like to think we are a well organised group, but our pancake races did not exactly go to plan as when some ladies decided to practise their pancake tossing skills the pancakes disintegrated and we did not have any pancakes to race with. All was not lost as we put the kettle on and sat and chatted and exchanged ideas with our friends from Binley Woods whilst waiting for our fish and chip lunch.

This month we have also held another "gin evening" at the Rose and Crown, had a supper club meal and enjoyed a visit to the cinema to see Finding Your Feet.

At our next meeting on Thursday, 12 April, Jo Goldy will be telling us about Laura Ashley so if you are interested why not come along as a visitor. You will be made very welcome. We meet at 8.00 p.m.

Jean Morgan