

It was with great sadness that Wolston WI learnt of the passing of one of their long standing members, Molly Batchelor. Molly was a much loved member always cheerful and a pleasure to talk to, so proud of her family. Though in the last few years she was unable to attend due to ill health, Molly had been a very supportive member who will be much missed. Condolences have been sent to her family.

We welcomed Barbara Lawson-Reay to our zoom meeting who gave an interesting and informative talk on how the WI first began and on the women of the first WI in the UK at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch, (Llanfairpwll).

Barbara gave us a brief history of how the WI was begun in Canada by Adelaide Hoodless who after losing a child from drinking contaminated milk, campaigned to have Domestic Science taught in schools.

Also with the support of the Farmers Institution Adelaide invited farmers wives to meet and learn of better hygienic practices. Thus the WI was born in 1897.

In 1913 Mrs Watt, who had worked at the WI headquarters in Canada came over to work in London. She then joined the Agricultural Organisation Society, which was set up to advise the Government on food production during the First World War. She was invited by Bangor University College to address the North Wales branch of the society.

There she met Colonel Cotton, Chairman of the Agricultural Organisation Society. He lived in Llanfairpwll and worked tirelessly to benefit the local community. The Colonel invited a group of ladies from the village to meet Mrs. Watt and to consider starting a WI in the village. Following on from this meeting the first WI opened in 1915 with great support from Colonel Cotton. The movement soon spread across the UK.

Wolston WI began in 1918, and celebrated their centenary with many activities from a skittles night to walks, outings, a summer garden party, and supporting village events too.



One project is still ongoing - have you noticed the snowdrops, daffodils and crocus round the trees near the river bridge? Wolston WI wanted to give something back to the village and began their bulb planting project in the Autumn of 2018. Hopefully come this Autumn more bulbs will be added to this display and will be enjoyed by the many people who pass by.

A zoom 'knit and natter' is always a good way to have a 'catch up', and lend a helping hand on any problems or queries members might have. Though the conversation at this month's get together seemed to revolve round THE vaccine!! Let's hope the time is getting nearer and nearer to when we can physically meet again.

April's meeting will be on Thursday 8th when David Fry from the Marton Museum will be showing us round and discussing exhibits - by zoom of course!

If you would like to know more about the WI please contact:

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