



The March meeting of Soulbury W I was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 10th March. A warm welcome was given to all members and the meeting opened with the singing of Jerusalem. A special visitor this evening was Wendy Taylor, who edits the Village Newsletter and who will be giving us some information on the planned website.

Following the reading of the Minutes, Gay gave us an update on Jean Haines, who has now had her operation and is recovering at home. We look forward to seeing her again before too long. Members were reminded that the ACM at the Waterside in Aylesbury is on May 12th with the usual excellent variety of speakers, and if they wish to attend, they should add their names to the list. Chris Bryant told us the Rock Chorus were holding a concert for the Lions on 18th April at The Venue, with tickets costing £16 00. All proceeds are going to Charity. We have had an update from the amazing Fancy Stitch (Inguava) charity in Africa who we helped by providing a water tank. They are going from strength to strength and we are very pleased to hear about their progress.

The first round of the County Quiz is on Friday 27th March at Buckingham and we have entered 2 teams, so fingers crossed! Both teams did well last year and of course would like to do even better in 2020. It was the Investigation & Discovery Day today in Aylesbury and 3 members attended. As usual the speakers were superb and it was a truly interesting day. We have all been reading about Coronavirus and agree it is a terrible time for everyone but that we should keep things in perspective.

Happy Birthday wishes were given to Peggy Stevens and Jean Housley.

Gay then introduced our speaker for this evening, Norman Shepherd, who is a Co-ordinator for BORG – The Bucks Owl and Raptor Group. He has been with the group for 18 years and helped AVDC set up the teams who check on sites and erect nesting boxes for the birds. He told us of the downwards spiral of depletion of the species and how they have helped halt this, and how the numbers are steadily increasing. The prisoners at Springhill Prison helped to make the boxes and this was a

win-win for both parties! Members were surprised to hear that owls can be killed on the roads as they swoop over the low rise hedgerows. It is normal for owls to lay 9 eggs but only a small number make it to fully fledged birds. BORG are always looking for eager volunteers to help their work and this needs commitment on approximately 12 days a year. Norman was thanked by Julie Day and we then had refreshments.

Wendy Taylor then gave us a brief update on the plans for the new Village Website, and emphasised the privacy on data which had to be followed. She said it would be an option to have the newsletter delivered online only, rather than paper, but this had yet to be finalized. The website would give all of the village an opportunity of logging on and seeing what's happening and will certainly be an asset. Gay thanked Wendy for coming along and keeping us in the loop. The raffle was then drawn. The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

UPDATE: Sadly, since the above Report was prepared the Covid-19 Lockdown has come into force, and there will be no W I meetings for the foreseeable future. We will keep in touch with members as advice changes. Look after yourselves everyone!