



The February meeting of Soulbury WI was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February in the Village Hall. It was really good to welcome a large number of our members back to enjoy a sociable evening.

After the Minutes of the previous meeting had been read and the business of the month had been dealt with, members were told about up and coming events which they could join in with and attend. An ever popular Investigation & Discovery Day is being held in Aylesbury on 15<sup>th</sup> March with some very interesting speakers and a board is available for members who would like to go along. The annual 3-Counties Quiz first round is being held on 25<sup>th</sup> March in Buckingham, and we would like to send at least one team - if members are interested they should let our Secretary know and we will put them forward.

Subs are due in March members were reminded. We are hoping to organize an outing to Claydon House, the National Trust property we were told about last month. They have told us we can choose to go along on a Tuesday when they will open specially for us with a Guide.

Members were told about the proposed Village Jubilee Celebrations starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. There will be the lighting of the Beacon, a Picnic on the Millennium Green and special treats for the VIP's of the village, i.e. those aged over 70! There will also be the Soulbury Pudding Competition which will be judged by a specially convened Committee - members were encouraged to have a go!

When the business of the evening was completed, Gay introduced our speaker, Paul Rabbits, a well known local history expert who has written several books on the 50 best known buildings in various towns. He gave us an illustrated talk on Leighton Buzzard in 50 Buildings, many of which were of course very well known to us, with stories of their history and various uses over the years. We were all very intrigued to learn that Leighton Buzzard was known as a town with more pubs than any other in Bedfordshire! Sadly, many have now disappeared but their traces still remain. Classic buildings such as Barclays Bank and NatWest Bank as well as The Swan Hotel were part of the history of the town as well as the site of the Old Corn Exchange in Lake Street, where the Library now stands. A lot of memories were roused by Paul's talk and he was enthusiastically applauded. Delicious refreshments were then served, the raffle drawn and the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m. We look forward to seeing everyone again in March when we will welcome a speaker from the Royal Flying Doctor Service.