

Report of March Meeting

Stephen Sylvester made a welcome return visit to Kilmington W.I. for our March meeting, to tell us all about his life in the entertainment profession. His talk was packed with amusing anecdotes about the characters he met, many of them well-known celebrities. Our members' memories were stirred by tales of Edith Evans, Sir John Gielgud, Nigel Hawthorn, Arthur Askey and Donald Wolfitt, to name but a few. He first developed a taste for acting at the age of 5, whilst playing a hooded stranger in a fairytale. His teacher's desire for realism backfired when the youthful Stephen proceeded to slowly clear his plate of Marmite sandwiches provided as a prop. Later, as a romantic youth, he became rather overheated (in more ways than one) whilst standing in as Henry VIII. Padded all over to disguise his slim figure, he left his moustache on the beautiful young actress playing Margaret Howard following a passionate embrace. Noel Coward was remembered for one of his cutting witticisms, when, during a stage presentation of 'Gone with the Wind', a live horse broke wind on stage. Venting his spleen on both the horse and a rather precocious young actress, Coward is reported to have suggested that the horse should have been plugged with the objectionable child!

Amongst our business for the evening, we discussed our plans for our forthcoming Coffee Morning on April 10th. Put a note in your diaries – we should love to see you all at the Village Hall – there will be bacon butties on sale, and a host of stalls, including cakes and preserves, produce, plants and veg., bric a brac, books and a 90p stall to denote the W.I.'s anniversary year.

The winners of this month's competition were Barbara Woodsford and Mary Nowell, for a famous autograph, and Margaret Dare, who won Flower of the Month with a beautiful hellebore.

Next meeting – Thurs. April 8th at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Dorothy Lomas will speak about the Fox Family Tree (Wellington and Coldharbour Mills). All visitors very welcome.

Coffee morning – Saturday April 10th 10.00am – 12.00noon. Everybody welcome.

Joan Cudmore