

## **Report of September Meeting**

A warm welcome was extended to several visitors who joined us this month, to hear our speaker Colin Pady tell us about the delights in store for visitors at Holyford Woods, near Colyford.. This stretch of ancient woodland, dating from pre-1600, occupies a steep valley and is mainly made up of mixed broadleaved species, with a small area of conifers. The Water Board pumping station which was used within the woods for 60years, became redundant and following representations, grants were awarded to set up a management trust. This has enabled the woodland to be protected and the public to continue to enjoy the area using the many permissive paths. The first weekend in May in particular sees the arrival of many visitors, as they come to rejoice in the sight of the sheets of bluebells throughout the woods. The area has a rich and varied habitat, encouraged by a regime of benign neglect, with some rareties such as a colony of Beckstein's bat. Access to the woods can be gained on any day of the year, either downhill from the water tower, or from Holyford Farm, just past Colyton Grammar School.

Carole Bolton already has arrangements well in hand for our Christmas Dinner on December 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Flintlock at Marsh, and for next year's programme, which promises to be as interesting and varied as this year's. Once again, as we approach our AGM, we hope that members will offer to take on officers' roles, enabling our W.I. to continue next year. The winner of this month's Flower of the Month competition, was Phyllis Bellworthy, with a vibrantly coloured Kaffir Lily, and the competition, for a woodland arrangement, was won by Carole Bolton.

Next month's meeting (in the Village Hall as usual), will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup>, when Jane Rockett will demonstrate Christmas card making.

Joan Cudmore