

Super Zoomers!

“You’re never too old to learn”, as the ladies of Clifton Hampden & Burcot WI have proved during the pandemic. Despite initial doubts about their technical skills, nearly all members managed to become expert Zoomers and they not only continued to hold their usual monthly meetings but a monthly Coffee Morning too! Many of their members also attended the plethora of excellent virtual sessions that the Oxfordshire and National WI provided, lectures on all manner of subjects and even Walking Netball sessions! Who’d have thought it possible?

On Zoom CH&B WI learnt about the work of local and national charities, found out more about their local history, acquired new skills in flower arranging and in the most surreal session of all, participated in communal singing with a Punch and Judy man! Nevertheless, they couldn’t wait to meet up again face to face so have already had a few trips out and eagerly anticipate returning to the local village hall for meetings from September 2021. They have a great programme planned including : A Treasury of Costume, Wonders of Aromatherapy and Wildlife on your Doorstep.

Plans are in place to organise an event for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee weekend too.

They have spin off groups such as monthly Walk, Talk & Fork (a short walk ending with refreshment) plus a fortnightly Craft Group. Here they make items for local charities and hospitals or just try out different techniques in knitting, sewing, general crafts, digital cutting etc. A great opportunity to be inspired, try out new crafts and learn from each other.

This WI is embracing new ideas and modern technology. For them Zoom is here to stay as it has opened up great opportunities. We can have guest speakers from anywhere in the world!

Linda Champion, their current President, is keen to increase the membership, particularly younger women whose ideas might well take them in a different direction and introduce new activities. She says *“The WI has been a support to so many women, not just during the pandemic but for so many years before. It is a great way to make new friends in your immediate community. We want to include something for everyone. Our monthly sessions involve learning, acquiring new skills, fitness and general well-being. We’re not fuddy-duddies and sadly none of us make jam though we do seem to consume rather too much wine! Yes, even when Zooming!! Do come along and dispel all the myths and prejudices that you may have.”*

Meetings are in Clifton Hampden Village Hall every 3rd Thursday 7.30pm. They welcome women from all local villages. Several of their current members come from further afield. Check out their Facebook page, Clifton Hampden and Burcot WI, for information on their 2021/2022 programme or contact Linda findljc@hotmail.co.uk.