

Purton Evening WI purtonevewi.org.uk

As the Newsletter from Yorkshire Tea says, "All good things must come to an end ..." and it seems that after 20 years of providing free tea to Institutes across the country and jointly supporting environmental endeavors, sadly 2011 will be the last year of the privilege. This has to do with commercial contractual agreements. We were all saddened to hear this news and swore undying loyalty etc. We shall probably get the full story in the next issue of our national magazine.

The AGM on 16 March happened just after we went to press with the April magazine entry. All went well and we have a new President and Committee - but not before heartiest thanks were given to Barbara Compton at the close of her 3-year stint as President, greatly applauded. And your latest lady to take on this responsible task? Mrs Tricia Baker, always popular and full of bright ideas -Congratulations, Trish, and good luck!

One of the proposed National Resolutions this year said, "This meeting abhors the practice of factory farming, particularly large animals such as pigs and cows, and urges HM Government to ensure that planning permission is not guaranteed for such projects". The discussion at the AGM was led by a member much experienced in the ways of farming (Lynne Young), and she lucidly presented the case for and against. The NFU believes the proposition that big farms will drive smaller farmers out of business is a myth, and suggests that large-scale units will need to exist alongside more traditional units, for the dairy industry to be more competitive and productive. Members appeared to be in agreement. Do look at page 16 of the April issue of WI Life if, like me, you are not really familiar with the various arguments.

The second proposed Resolution, which is also detailed in WI Life, concerns Local Library Closures and I doubt that we need much discussion on that question! But, of course, I could be wrong, not for the first time.

Members will be eager to know the result of the WI Cakes and Preserves Stall at the Top Shops area on Saturday 2 April. All those who saw it, and especially those *who* contributed to the amazing show of homemade cakes and biscuits, will be keen to know the results: £89 was raised and a grand thank-you is due to all who contributed.

At our April meeting we shall be finding out who forms our new Committee, and what the programme for the year will be. The speaker for the 18 May meeting will be Hazel Gillingham, on "Mary Seacole, the Other Nurse of the Crimea". I look forward to seeing you all there, ready for an active WI summer.

CONSTANCE REED (771 571)