

Salem Nilestown Womens Institute

At our Agriculture Meeting in September 2006 we visited the London Dairy Farms on Old Victoria Road at 1:00 p.m. We watched how 600 cows are milked.

Margaret Harris, ex F.W.I.O. President, was guest at our October meeting. She told of her experiences in W.I.

At our Health Meeting in November Jane Szturm told of the work of the V.O.N. in Dorchester.

On March 15, 2007 our W.I. celebrated our 91st Anniversary in Nilestown Masonic Hall. Visitors were present from the other Middlesex East W.I.'s. Marion Smith, our President, chaired the meeting. Bernice Harris, Vice-President of Middlesex East W.I. brought greetings. A skit "How It All Began" with Elizabeth Thompson as Erland Lee learning from Margaret Graham, Georgina Carroll, Nancy Duncan, Betty Lawson and Peggy Wilson of the changes in our W.I. since its inception. Several displays were on hand as were three autographed quilts from the past. Our Tweedsmuir History Book and Scrap Books were open to view.

Mr. Ron Foster, President of the Mossley Heritage Group spoke at our April 2007 meeting of the history of the Dorchester Mill Pond.

Early in its history there was a sawmill there from which logs were shipped down the Thames River to Detroit for lumber to build houses. Later it was owned by the Cartwright family as a gristmill. The Morris family owned it for many years until the 1960's when it burned. Today the Mill Pond is owned by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority.

Election of Officers for 2007-8 was conducted by Betty Black at the April meeting.

Crumlin W.I. hosted the District Annual in May 2007. Joyce Pettigrew of Otterville told of the history of the Blacks in Woodstock and Ingersoll and area.

In June we explored the Short Trail around the Dorchester Pond after a visit to Riny's Restaurant in Dorchester.

Thomdale W.I. entertained the County Rally in July and the London Area Tweedsmuir Workshop in August. A speaker told of the Quaker Group as found around Norwich and Sparta. Each of the Middlesex East W.I.'s showed samples of their "Cherished Collectables" and told about them.

London Area W.I. Convention was held in October at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre. Five of our members attended.

Donations in 2006-7 of monies, toys and several knitted articles for Children's Hospital were given. Also Pennies for Friendship to A.C.W.W.

At the Citizenship & Culture meeting in September, 2007 we learned of the life and work of Dr. Stella Burry, a native of Newfoundland, as told in the book "No Ordinary Woman".

For our Education meeting in October we heard of the life of Helen Keller, both blind and deaf, and how she learned to read Braille and to converse by hand signals due to the help of Ann Sullivan and Alexander Graham Bell.