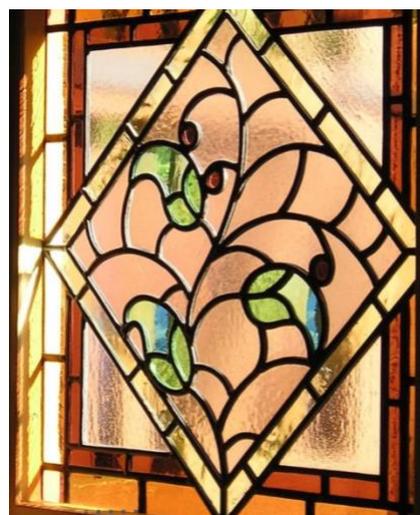


W.I. Report: March 2019:

‘Pray hard and keep your bowels open.’

Such was the advice given to Arthur Evans, retired teacher from Waddesdon School, from a grizzled practitioner from way back in time but which, Arthur felt, was probably as good as any he’d heard to manage surviving forty odd years of teaching in downtown Aylesbury. He was joking of course – one of many quips, as Arthur told us of one particular student he remembered, who’d begun his school life as a hapless, non-achieving lad and became in time, a top Michelin starred chef. Arthur’s general message, clearly, was that not all children shine brightly at school, but no-one should be written off. In the light of talk about ‘off-rolling’ at secondary school and the failure of Pupil Referral Units to fill the gaps in learning for troubled kids, Arthur Evans’s words provided much food for thought.

Arthur’s talk to our W.I was in February and for the March talk, Anna Conti (a teacher at Denman College) presented many images of her extraordinary stained-glass work, many of which have been commissioned by individuals – Richard Branson being one – or as renovations to public buildings. Anna’s interest in stained glass began as a child with a fascination for digging up and collecting glass bottles and now she teaches the subject and runs many courses on a worldwide basis. Being a notable expert on modern design she is able to merge her distinctive style with more traditional examples of stained glass.



Both the above events were well attended by our W.I. cohort and we were delighted to welcome some new members to our group, together with a sprinkling of guests who had a particular interest in the topics advertised. Hopefully, more villagers will be tempted by Christine Farmer’s light-hearted look at Shakespeare and his work – 3rd April and Maria Greenhall’s talk ‘Reducing Your Chemical Load.’ On 5th June. Sounds a bit scary that one, but presumably we should all be thinking about how to do that.

Mere prayer and inner cleanliness may not be the answer.

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