

MILTON-u-WYCHWOOD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Milton-under-wychwood Women's Institute held its 80th birthday party with friends and members from the past, members of Oxfordshire Federation, friends from Ascott, Shipton, Chadlington, Charlbury and Finstock Institutes and, of course, their own members altogether a gathering of some 80 people.

In her welcome, Linda Dixon the President, said she felt privileged to be President at this time, and thanked all the committee and individual members who had provided the marvellous food and flower arrangements.

Rosemary Hartley read an abridged version of Milton's history from 1918, and said that there is one member who joined in the 1920s, Rose Burson, and two members who joined in the 1930s, Rose Timms and Marjorie Rathbone, who are still members today.

The original banner, when Milton and Shipton were one Institute, is now so frail that it has been framed, and was on show together with the record albums, displays of work and the tablecloth which members sign and embroider. Linda Dixon said that the village and the Institute will continue to be taken forward, and pledged to keep it going "for the next 80 years" – but not with the present members!

Following refreshments, Mrs Burson (who is 98 years young this year), Mrs Timms and Mrs Rathbone cut the cake, and this was recorded by the taking of photographs for the future record. Finally, Valerie Cantrell, Oxfordshire county president, thanked Milton for a wonderful evening and party, and wished them well for the future.



Mrs. Rose Timms, Mrs. Rose Burson and Mrs. Marjorie Rathbone