

Shipton-under-Wychwood W.I.



I have been a WI member for more than 30 years and enjoyed meetings many and varied. But I left our recent meeting reflecting on the best talk I have ever heard, Renata Calverley addressing us on her *Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Occupied Poland*. Despite being very tiny at the outbreak of war, her memories of this terrible time are still very vivid and she talked quietly of her experiences without using any notes.

She managed to escape being sent to a concentration camp because she had blonde hair and did not look at all Jewish and by the extraordinary kindness and courage of friends and strangers. Coming from a privileged background, with parents who were not practising Jews, she hardly knew what the term meant. At the end of the war she had lost most of her family but was reunited with her father, who had survived as a doctor in

the Polish army. Stepping from the deck of a ship into the arms of her father, Renata instantly fell in love with London and Britain and made her life here.

Tour of Oxford

As a complete contrast, a group of us, including a few husbands, enjoyed a fascinating tour of Oxford with a 'blue badge guide'. Leaving the hustle and bustle of the shopping area it is only a few steps to a completely different world. To enter college quads and gardens set amongst such beautiful, historic buildings is to find a world of peace. Our guide explained how the University was founded and how the college system works, as well as telling us some of the history of the city. Two hours passed so quickly but we managed ten minutes in the exhibition of the 'King James' Bible.'

Shipton WI meets on the second Thursday of the month at the New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton at 7:30pm.

Visitors are always welcome, so do come along For information ring President, Nicky Pratt on: 01993 831659 or Secretary, Margaret Hartley on: 01993 830306.

Milton WI meets on the third Tuesday of the month at Milton Village Hall at 7:30pm. For more information about their meetings ring their President, Linda Dixon on: 01993 830411.

Christine Halliday

Ascott-u-Wychwood Charity Fun Run Sunday 30th October 2011

10 kilometre multi terrain and 5 kilometre fun run/walk

10.30 am at the recreation ground, High Street, Ascott-u-Wychwood.

Entry forms from:

stuart@cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk or: ingrid@meadowbank-ascott.co.uk