

Shipton-under-Wychwood W.I.

There is a decidedly horticultural theme to the recent activities of the Shipton WI. In a rare privileged moment, we were given the opportunity to visit the Japanese Garden hidden away in Shipton.



Zen Garden after 50 Years

The garden is a wealth of Japanese features and the tranquillity of the plantings was appreciated by all those lucky enough to go on the visit. Rod Wilkinson has been head gardener for nine years but has lived on site since the age of seven, as his father Jack was gardener and helped set out the gardens when the house was built in 1962. The Zen garden was laid out with huge precision overseen by a designer from Japan.

Garden Meeting

On an afternoon of not quite tropical weather we gathered at the home of Margaret Hartley to enjoy our annual garden meeting. Allan Ledger told us about his experience sixty years ago as one of the choirboys in Westminster Abbey at the Coronation of our Queen. (See page 31). He brought us up to date with his account of his return visit to the Abbey with Brenda his wife as an invited guest to the



celebration at the Abbey on June 4th. Our competitions for the best plate of sandwiches and cupcakes provided a very splendid tea for us all. Flowers with a coronation theme

were on show, alongside photos of hidden Shipton, and corsages fashioned from any medium. Nicky Pratt went to the limit of the title fashioning her entry from plant labels, dibbers and Arden twine. Although it got my vote, it was not the eventual winner.

Barbara Triumphs at Blenheim

Barbara Bowman, one of our newer members, has been busy dreaming up beautiful contemporary floral pieces for

BBO Area Flower Arrangers' competitions and with impressive success. Barbara won best exhibit at Malvern in May and gained the popular public vote. Not content with that she has soared onwards and upwards with major successes at Blenheim, winning 1st Prize for her class exhibit, *A Time to Reflect* (shown here) and also being awarded Best in Show' and 'Best Use of Colour'. She also went to the National Exhibition in

Bournemouth on July 9th. We are happy to congratulate Barbara, count her as one of our own and wish her every success.

Kay Shortland