

## **Neen Savage WI Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2026**

Neen Savage WI has enjoyed another year filled with a diverse programme of activities, community support, and heartfelt commemorations. It has been a privilege to step into the role of President following our last AGM, continuing our long-standing traditions while embracing new ideas for our group.

### **Highlights and Heritage**

Looking back at the latter half of 2025, a standout moment was our August visit to Blossom Barns, a local care farm for people with learning difficulties. We also continued our competitive streak at the annual Applefest; we are already looking forward to crowning this year's "Star Baker" in the apple cake competition, so please do start practicing!

Our recent efforts have been heavily focused on local history and remembrance. Following a very successful Coffee Morning in April, we were thrilled to raise funds to purchase two female WWII silhouettes. These will serve as a poignant tribute during Remembrance Sunday commemorations, with plans to locate one at the church and the second near the commemorative bench on Green Lane. Our "Women at War" display featured several fascinating articles and artifacts reflecting this history.

### **Community and Learning**

Our monthly meetings have provided a mix of wellness, professional insights, and local tours, with topics as diverse as rearing pigs, chair yoga and the history of St Kilda and vintage curiosities. A recent highlight has been a visit from Becky Robinson from the new Robinsons Vets in Cleobury, who shared her inspiring journey from working in the Cook Islands to opening her own small animal practice this June.

Looking ahead, our summer schedule includes a behind-the-scenes tour of Farlow Farm Nursery in June, a talk on the vital work of Blood Bikes in July, and an August outing to the beautiful Stockton Bury Gardens.

### **Remembering Barbara Evans**

It is with heavy hearts that we mark the passing of our longest serving member, Barbara Evans, who was part of our WI for an incredible 70 years. Barbara joined alongside her mother as a teenager and remained a fountain of knowledge for our group's history. A long-time recipient of the "Flower of the Month" vase, she was honoured by members who decorated "her window" in the church with garden blooms for her funeral. Her wisdom and presence are deeply missed.

### **Join Us**

We remain a vibrant group and always welcome new faces, whether you wish to join as a prospective member or simply visit for an evening (£5).

**When:** 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

**Where:** Neen Savage Parish Hall, where we continue to benefit from the comfortable new tables and chairs.

Gayna Woodland, President, Neen Savage WI