

W.I. report

At the July meeting of the WI we had a talk by Kevin Little. He is a fishmonger (and has been for over 50 years) who works in Smelly Alley, Reading. He assured us that the name Smelly Alley (Union Street) was first used in the sixteenth century and has nothing to do with his shop!! At that time Union Street joined Broad Street and Friar Street and was a narrow footpath by the side of an open sewer.

When booking speakers, you never know what to expect. Were we going to hear about the price of fish? Were we going to be given recipes, the history of the fishing industry or what not to buy?

No. In fact we were treated to a very amusing set of anecdotes about the life of a fishmonger. We learnt that lampreys can wriggle upwards and settle in the roof space of a car, (Not many people know that!!) and not surprisingly, the terms red herring and holy mackerel have their roots firmly embedded in the fish trade.

The tales about health and safety and visits from the health inspectors added to the hilarity. At the end of the meeting one member was heard to say that she hadn't laughed so much in years.

If you would like to join us at Hampstead Norreys Village Hall at 7.30 on the first Tuesday of the month you will be very welcome. Further details can be got by phoning 01635 201147