

The May meeting of the WI

At the May meeting we were treated to a fascinating talk by Alan Turton on the Mary Rose. Many of us remembered watching the television coverage of her being raised from the sea bed in 1982.

There's a common misconception that she sank on her maiden voyage. In fact, she was a successful warship for Henry VIII for 34 years; almost the entire duration of his reign. In 1545 she sank during the battle of the Solent and despite attempts to raise her she remained stuck fast on the sea bed. There she lay for centuries until she was finally located again in 1971.

We heard about the successful recovery and subsequent preservation. She is now part of the exhibitions at the Portsmouth Naval Yard museums and can be viewed through windows on three separate floors with some of the 19000 artefacts recovered. It is a Tudor time capsule that has been called 'Britain's Pompeii'. The findings on the Mary Rose are not just objects; they tell us so much about the people at the time.

Alan's enthusiasm for the subject made us want to visit, or re-visit, the ship. She is owned by The Mary Rose Trust and relies on them for her preservation. So ... all visitors are more than welcome!!