



BSWI MONTHLY REPORT

3 APRIL 2025



INTRODUCTION

The April meeting was introduced by Barbara Bradbear, the Secretary, in the absence of Kim Henson, BSWI President. She welcomed 34 members, thanking them for their prompt payment of the subscriptions for the coming year. Members were asked to sign up to forthcoming trips and events, take the Spring bulb catalogues, buy NFWI annual raffle tickets and remember to pay for coffee and cakes and the £ in the bucket which will now have a £10 prize each month. The theme for this month's competition was Easter.

ENGLISH COUNTRY CHEESES

Barbara Wedgbrow introduced the speaker for the evening, Derek Marsh, who gave a talk on the history and development of cheese in Britain. Cheese production can be traced back to times before Ancient Egypt and was brought to the UK by the Romans. For many centuries cheese was produced in monasteries and abbeys where sheep, goat and cattle could produce milk for hard cheeses which kept well in stone jars, free from vermin.

The Agricultural and then the Industrial Revolutions brought great wealth to Britain but many foods were still adulterated. It was not until the late 19th century that Louis Pasteur heated milk to produce a safe and hygienic product. Derek described the features of the ten best and most famous English cheeses and finished his talk by asking members to taste some of the samples he provided.

Barbara thanked Derek for making such a long journey and giving an informative and entertaining talk.

NOTICES

Members enjoyed coffee and cakes during the break.

- Barbara reminded them that Liz Brown has been in hospital recently, flowers have been sent and all members wish her a speedy recovery.
- There was a good contribution for the Easter competition which was won by Sally Marriott. The annual points have been totalled from last May and Mary Duckworth was declared the winner.
- The next monthly meeting will be on 8 May, NOT 1st, when Kim Henson and Natalie Russell will give a presentation on First Aid. It will also be BSWI's birthday so cakes will be provided.
- The prize of £10 from £ in the bucket was won by Sara Perry
- Events – lunch at the Nags Head on 15 April
- Film of Billy Elliott at South Mill Arts on 22 April
- Cambridge trip – 28 April

(Notes compiled by Barbara Bradbear, Secretary BSWI)