

# Holt WI

We kicked off the New Year in our new slim-lined format, led by our new President, who was sporting two black eyes, a glued eye-brow and various scrapes and bruises, after a fall. She was celebrating the fact that her new hip and knee had not been damaged and that she had not tried to break her fall and ended up breaking her wrist. Something of an indomitable woman! Continuing members have taken on various jobs to ensure Holt WI's continued existence, so we launched the new year, smaller, but active and with a packed calendar of speakers.

Rosemary Prosser set us off in good style. Something of an indomitable woman herself, she joined West Mercia Police in the 1970s and served for a decade in uniform and CID.



Having opened her talk with the adage that laughter is the best medicine, she regaled us with anecdote after anecdote that illustrated her irreverent memories of the force. For example, how do you avoid a cup of tea, made for you by a slovenly woman, whose floors are so sticky that your movements are slowed down, whose husband has just called you a string of unmentionable things on his way out of the house and whose preparation of your tea-cup involved a very dirty apron and spit, which still had not removed the fly-droppings? Or the incident in Worcester's high rise flats, where a report of a man indecently exposing himself, turned out to be an innocent strip-wash, viewed by a not very innocent old lady, who despite her disability, climbed on the kitchen table to ogle lower than the poor man's waist! And then there was the runaway, who kept having to be retrieved from Manchester and Leeds, and escorted back to a home in Worcester. Frustrated and a little weary with escort duties, Rosemary had asked said teenager what she was looking for in

the Northern cities and whether she had found it. On her reply that she had indeed not found whatever it was and where did the Sergeant think she might, the sarcastic answer “The Isle of Wight” came back to haunt Sergeant Prosser. In court, when the absconder had been collected again, she cheerfully informed the magistrate that the police sergeant was the reason she had been picked up on the Isle of Wight.

Rosemary also entertained us with excerpts from the police magazine, including the tale of an eighty year old woman who when brought to court for the theft of a tin of peaches and receiving her punishment of four days’ incarceration to match the four peaches in the can, was betrayed by her husband who pointed out that she had also stolen a can of peas!

Not related to her funny stories, but part of her mission in addressing various groups, Rosemary drew attention to the serious level of Lyme’s Disease in this country (carried by the ticks on our ever increasing deer population). Being informed about the threat and avoiding its life-long consequences is worthwhile for every one. The longer a tick is attached to the body, the more chance there is that the human will develop Lyme’s disease. Covering legs and arms when walking in grass or bracken, and carrying a tick remover are two good places to start. Also recognising the symptoms is crucial as Lyme’s can become a life-long debilitating condition for which there is at present no definite cure.



After that rather sobering conclusion to this month’s report, we would still like to remind readers that , as ever, we welcome new members. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm, Holt Village Hall.