**Doveside WI**

Our three months of WI activities and outings have been as brilliant as the weather, at least as it is at the time of writing this article.

We always have fantastic, and often thought provoking speakers, but one of my personal favourites has to be Derek Poulson. He explained about the origins of the English language and why we have so many different accents. Derek took us on a tour of accents around the British Isles, with a great command of all the regional intonations, and incredible humorous, witty and amusing anecdotes. He ended on a more serious note: encouraging every one of us to keep our various accents alive, as they are such an important part of our individual identities.

Another month we were informatively entertained by Claire Lyons with her talk on ‘Women in Camouflage’. Incredible to think that we have records dating back to the 15th century detailing women who pretended to be men, to enable them to join the army. This was done for a variety of reasons; some wanted to escape a violent marriage, others follow an unfaithful husband.

We have had a coffee morning with a French flavour, a cheese tasting afternoon and a treasure hunt through Rolleston, followed by prosecco and strawberries with cream.

As a WI, we are always trying to participate in village affairs. On the Transport Bank Holiday Monday we held a very successful garage charity stall, with the raised money going equally to the RSPCA in Stretton, and the Alms Houses in Rolleston.

We will be involved in the Gardening Sunday, as always manning stalls, but also displaying our entry to the poppy competition, which you can admire in front of the church.

We have plenty more in store for the second half of the year, so why don’t you come and give us a try.

**We meet once a month, on the third Friday, at Rolleston Club from 9.45am until 12pm. Our craft and games afternoons take place on the second Thursday of each month between 2-4pm. You can contact me for more information on 07375474523, or e-mail me at** **imnn.waller@sky.com****.**

 Michaela Waller

 Vice President