

BPW ITALY TWINNING VISIT

On a glorious summer's day a group from BPW Italy (16 members and a few husbands) arrived in Bath on 8 June. As part of a five day tour they had travelled from London, visited Stonehenge en route and arrived at 12.30pm (an hour late due to road diversions). Nikki Bennett-Willetts (National President) and Teresa Perrett (BPW Bath) were pleased to welcome Giuseppina Bombaci (BPW Italy National President), Elia Pizzini (BPW Bari President) and members from various other clubs. Several members were accompanied by their husbands who seemed to enjoy being surrounded by so many women.

We all went to the Pump Room for a leisurely lunch, during which we were serenaded by a pianist. With the help of their tour guide, information was exchanged with much humour and warm smiles. The tour guide then took them to visit the Roman Baths. Although Teresa had other commitments for the rest of the afternoon, Nikki joined up with them afterwards.

Sylvia Perry (BPW Bristol) and BPW West Wilts members Annette Bond (President) and Jeanne Ingham-Law met up with the group outside the Abbey, where initial introductions involved a lot of smiling, kissing and handshaking. We then went to Sally Lunn's for tea where Giuseppina, Elia, Sylvia, Nikki and Annette sat at the 'top table'. Elia gave a speech saying how pleased she was to be twinning with the SEW Region and the opportunity that it would provide to share friendship and common goals with other BPW members. We were presented with a book called 'Le Sette Perle della FIDAPA' (thought to refer to the seven best places in Italy as recommended by BPW Italy) and also given a print of Bari harbour (a glass oyster with a pearl) and some flags. Nikki presented BPW Bari with a book about Bath (signed by the UK BPW members who were present) and a Bath Aqua glass vase. The Twinning Certificate was signed by the Italian presidents and Nikki. Following the speeches and presentations everyone tucked into a delicious tea. Afterwards Giuseppina spoke about how pleased she was to be in Bath.

There was limited opportunity to get to know the Italian members as they spoke little or no English and Giuseppina was conversing with Nikki in French! The afternoon ended in chaos when everyone wanted to pay separately and, needless to say, the payments were short and resolved by the harrassed but good natured tour guide. We accompanied the members to their coach and waved them off at about 6 pm.

Teresa Perrett (BPW Bath) and Annette Bond (BPW West Wilts)



Lunch in the Pump Room (L-R) Teresa Perrett, Giuseppina Bombaci, Nikki Bennett-Willetts, Elia Pizzini



Presentations at Sally Lunn's (L-R) Giuseppina Bombaci, Nikki Bennett-Willetts, Elia Pizzini, Annette Bond



Outside Bath Abbey