

Evening All! 'Allo, 'allo, 'allo, what have we here?

Tutbury W.I. heard a fascinating talk, from our very own Mary Tipper, about her 21 years as a special constable. Mary decided to become a special when her children were quite young and approached the local bobby for advice.

She filled in the forms and was called to the court to take her oath before the magistrate. When she asked her husband for a lift he wondered what she'd been up to!



The photo shows policewomen from the 1960s in the kind of uniform that Mary wore. She described how hot and restrictive the uniform was and how she held herself very straight to show her pride in her uniform.

Mary's first evening on the beat was at the Burton "Statutes" Fair, and her accounts of her years walking round Burton brought back many memories of how things used to be round the town. The specials were volunteers and received only minimal expenses for their efforts on our behalf.

We were on the edge of our seats when Mary described being called out to look for a missing child. The three year old had wandered off and was missing overnight. Mary described the tension felt by the searchers and we all felt a chill down our spines when she said, quietly, "There comes a time when you are told to stop looking for a child and start looking for a body."

Mary was with a team searching fields when the police helicopter went over and they heard a little voice, "Helicopter!"

Mary said there wasn't a dry eye as they carried the unharmed child back to his parents.

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Tutbury W.I.

Before too long Mary was made a sergeant and spent her time as a special making Burton a little bit safer for all of us. On one occasion she found a stranger wandering round the police station and, taking him firmly by the arm, she led him to the front office. It was only when the other officers stood to attention that she discovered she had apprehended the new Superintendent!

Mary talked for an hour, with only a few notes, and none of us wanted it to finish. Thank you Mary, we were delighted to hear your reminiscences.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting takes place on Thursday 11th November. This is our AGM and, after the business part of the evening, we will have a fish and chip supper, so why not come along and join us?

Janice Hamer, Tutbury W.I.