

Lewtrenchard WI July Report

Our president Margaret welcomed 18 members & 2 guests, we had some apologies due to ill health and COVID.



It is official, we are an international WI club with one member from Australia, so glad to have Monica Horns daughter Kathryn on board, the 3rd generation.

Shoko sadly had to cancel her little talk about life in Japan as her young daughter is getting quite home sick and needed her mum, Shoko put together an info sheet accompanied by a wonderful origami kimono & fan.

Business as usual, Jerusalem sung, minutes read & signed, 3 Birthdays & a couple of lovely thank you cards. Bags2School raised £60, we are planning to bring back our jumble sale. Cream Tea is definitely back! Tuesday August 9, doors open at 3pm, £5 per person. The Lewdown produce show schedules are out with a new WI entry: The Monica Horn Trophy. Finances & Rampsonwillis Nature Trail were discussed at some length, to be revisited in September.



Then it was time to hand over to our speakers: Karen & Michael Watkins with their eagerly awaited Silk Painting Demonstration.

Michael welcomed us all to his silk scarves demo, he used latex paint to outline a pattern on medium silk which had been stretched and pinned onto a wooden frame. They used to hem the silk themselves but as most of us know this is a very labour intensive job and they now buy the silk already hemmed. Outlining took him but a few minutes. Whilst the paint was drying on the first scarf, Michael started a second one, he used special silk paint, very diluted and quite a large brush to paint large star shaped patterns, paint dries very quickly and you have to work fast, damp & wet conditions are ideal. Whilst painting, Michael chatted about his career, he studied textile design, used to paint in pen, ink & watercolour but always loved painting on silk. Eventually and after several years he decided to concentrate on silk painting. Silk paints can be quite costly, but if you shop around you can find reasonably priced products, he suggested we should have a go. He and Karen have been doing this for over 25 years and are regulars at the Royal

Cornwall Show, where they count MP Derek Thomas as a fan of their ties. Michael paints scarves, ties & bow ties, but is not keen on the bow ties as they are quite fiddly. The most popular tie design is depicting the planets. Other popular designs are seahorses & dolphins.

Karen is not only the glamorous assistant, she contributes to Michael's art works too, she sprinkles salt onto the wet paint which results in some fabulous patterns, once a scarf is finished, she irons it (that seals in the paint), then hand washes it, dries it and irons it again. They freely admit that working together is rather nice but not without its challenges, but it is all very good natured. Karen then demonstrated 3 ways to wear a scarf properly. Two volunteers helped finish off the first scarf. Members asked how many scarves could they make in a day, this all depends on the intricacy of the pattern, time of day & humidity, but 8 is not an unreasonable amount. They no longer do commissions, they prefer to work on their own designs. We highly recommend you book your own silk painting demonstration, you can find them here: www.facebook.com/michaelsilks19/, one word of advice: watch out for the silkworms!

Michael and Karen very kindly donated one of the scarves to our raffle in August. Monique gave the VOT which was followed by huge applause for a wonderful demonstration.

Tea and biscuits followed and the meeting closed.

**Next meeting August 9th, 3pm Cream Tea Event at Victory Hall Lewdown
Walk August 4th TBC. Coffee at Roadford August 18
Come along you will be made most welcome**

