

Lewtrenchard WI October Report

We met on October 10th at Lewdown Victory Hall. There were no birthdays. Margaret welcomed everyone including new member Nicola and introduced speaker Barbara Dawkins, who will join us later on. September's minutes were read and signed, with no matters arising. We sang a lovely rendition of Jerusalem. We were all sorry to hear that Teresa is in hospital with a broken thigh, she has been moved to Exeter.



Jumble sale raised £296. Margaret thanked everyone for their hard work. Barbara S reminded us of the various clipboards.

Food Craft & Skills starts on 20/10/22 at Lamerton Hall, 1.45pm, entry £9 plus £2 for material. Any questions call Audrey H or email Monique, Marion or Hilary.

Margaret then handed over to Judy Law who presented Barbara Dawkins Husky Challenge Adventure. Barbara Dawkins is a local lady living in Lewdown, she is the daughter of our member Eileen. In 2018, her friend Angie wanted to do some sort of challenge and came across the Global Adventure Challenge, trekking with husky dogs and a sledge from Norway to Sweden in 2019. As soon as Barbara heard about Angie's plan she wanted to be part of it and raise money for cancer research. They had to raise £4k each, did lots of fundraising events including one at our WI in December 2018. They surpassed their target by raising well over £5k each. They flew from Heathrow to Bergen and then travelled to Tromsø where their adventure really began. They were given 6 huskies each, a sledge, food for themselves and the dogs, it was their task to look after the dogs, feed and care for them. They learnt how to attach them to their harnesses, pitch a tent, light a fire, boil water by collecting snow, food came dried in pouches - just add hot water - they were actually quite tasty. If they cooked under the canopy of the tent it warmed up nicely. Temperatures dipped down to a cool -30C at night. On average they travelled 14 hours a day, travelling 30-50km. There were 3 categories: Easy, Middle & Hard, Barbara & Angie chose middle. No toilet facilities, but they were all given a roll of toilet paper, which we all found quite funny. Once they 'performed', they had to burn 'it' & the paper and bury it in the snow. All-in-all the weather was really good, judging by the photographs and videos Barbara shared with us. When Barbara exited a corner too fast she injuring her foot, but luckily

that was on day 4 out of 5 sledging with the dogs. Their adventure culminated in Sweden at the Ice Hotel, 2 days before the polar bears would wake from their hibernation! The whole trip was really well organised, all-in-all there were 12 adventures, accompanied by the owners of the huskies and 4 girls from Canada & Australia, who come back every year. The dogs were extremely well looked after and loved. Barbara managed to join us at about 8.40pm and answered many of our questions. It was clear to see that she loved her trip and would do it again if she was a little bit younger. It was a great atmosphere as we chatted, asked questions and listened.

Monique thanked Barbara for answering our Q&A's and for a wonderful presentation, it was very inspiring and for a worthy cause, all very interesting.

Potato challenge: Most members forgot to bring in their results, please email them to Margaret or Monique and we will announce the winner in November.



Date and venue for next meeting: November 14, 2022, 7pm Victory Hall Lewdown, Allana Chick - Glass Painting

November dates for your diary:

10 - Walk

17 - Coffee morning at Roadford Lake

27 - Reserve the date for an evening at Dingles with the Red Spider Company

Please come along to any of the above, you will be made most welcome.