

Lewtrenchard WI January Report

We met on December 20 & January 09 at Lewdown Victory Hall. Both meetings were well attended.

At Decembers meeting Margaret: welcomed all to our Christmas party (postponed from December 12 due bad weather) including a warm welcome to the Lifton singers and Teresa, her first visit since her



accident. We had a few announcements then the Lifton singers entertained us with some lovely Carols. Our committee members discreetly left the room, got changed and then performed a surprise Snow White 'speed panto'. It was hilarious. Susanne recorded the performance so that we can share it with absent members.



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We all settled down for something to eat. As always, there was plenty of delicious food. Secret Santa's were distributed and annual trophy-winners announced:

Flower of the month: Julie Chick

Competitions: 1st Joyce Vanstone, 2nd Julie Chick & 3rd Marion Lethbridge

Potato Challenge: Joyce Vanstone

At Januarys meeting Margaret: handed over to Mary E, Lynn, Margaret D & Barbara to present the 2023 WI Resolutions. All were very good and interesting.

Mary - Save our water: Some interesting facts & water saving suggestions, the earth still has the same amount of water as when dinosaurs lived but now we have many more people. A lot of water is wasted due to leakages, if you know of persistent leaks contact your MP that is the only way to get higher powers moving. We are suffering more and more droughts. We can no longer take water for granted and must do our best to save it. At time of writing, this resolution received seven votes.

Lynn - Tea workers: A talk on the plight of female tea workers. The four biggest tea producers are China, India, Kenya and Sri Lanka. The majority of tea imported into Britain comes from Kenya. Tea is the most popular drink in the

world after water, with an estimated 70,000 cups drunk every second around the world. Women make up the majority of the tea-plucking workforce. Plucking is an extremely labour-intensive process with workers paid below living wage levels. Emily Pankhurst went to a great deal of trouble to help woman gain equality and it must not be in vain. At time of writing, this resolution received five votes.

Margaret - online gambling: Some woman may not be gamblers themselves but become victims by a gambling partner, they might experience financial hardship, domestic violence, unable to feed their children or heat their homes. A gambling woman might suffer extreme guilt causing mental suffering to herself or the whole family. Studies from June 2022 show a decrease in gambling, but remote betting increased. More than one death a year is down to gambling. This calls for an urgent new gambling act. At time of writing, this resolution received five votes.

Barbara - clean rivers for people & wildlife: A 'chemical cocktail' of sewage, agricultural waste and plastic is polluting the waters of many of the country's rivers. Two main polluters are sewage spills from the water industry and pollution from the agricultural sector. Not enough is being done; we are calling for Government to designate stretches of rivers for safe bathing. At time of writing, this resolution received two votes.

Date and venue for next meeting: February 13, 2023, 7pm Victory Hall Lewdown.

February dates for your diary:

10 - Walk

14 - Show the Love for Climate Change

17 - Coffee morning at Roadford Lake



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