

Lewtrenchard WI March Report

We met on March 11 at Lewdown Victory Hall. Margaret welcomed two visitors, both called Rosemary, our speaker Ann and 20 members. We sang Jerusalem.

Speaker: Ann Marcer - Training Teachers in Nepal Ann a primary school head teacher who planned to travel the world with her husband once retired. When he very sadly died, she didn't know what to do. She knew about the Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) organisation, who send professional volunteers to train and advise in developing countries, and decided to apply. She was snapped up and sent to Nepal for 2½ years. School, education & life in general is far removed from ours. Girls are largely ignored & not encouraged to go to school, instead helping on the land or looking after siblings. Often boys are sent to boarding school at huge expense to the parents. Ann's task was to encourage girls to go to school and learn in a fun and supportive way. She taught teachers how to make lessons enjoyable & educational, showed them methods of creating learning resources (there is no money for resources, maintenance, cleaning etcetera). Not an easy task for a western lady with grey hair (Nepalese woman don't let their hair go grey) and being a widow (widows are ignored), men don't shake hands with women and there she was, in charge of a male dominated work force. When Ann arrived, attendance for girls was 10%, when she left it was 90%! Academic achievement for girls also rose steeply. What an achievement. Ann has been back since but not after COVID. Nepal's only income is tourism and they really struggled during COVID asking for money to prevent them from starving. 80% of under 5's are malnourished. Ann showed us beautiful photos she took herself, her talk was captivating, interesting, shocking and uplifting, no notes, straight from the heart. If you want to know what she did when encountering a large monkey on the way to work, you are just going to have to invite her to do a talk.

Table Top Sale: Was a great success raising £301.05 for our funds - well done all.

**Date and venue for next meeting: Monday April 08, 2024 at 7.30pm.
Genevieve - The Hog Hospital.**

April dates for your diary:

08 - April meeting 7:30

15 - Tamar Group Meeting 6pm

18 - Coffee morning at Roadford Lake

22 - Monday Walk

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INSPIRING WOMEN