

## **Chideock WI Committee report for the Annual Meeting, Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

**Committee 2017-18: Mary Rogers, president; Tish Wynford-Thomas, vice-president; Janet Carey, treasurer; Shirley Lambert, assistant treasurer; Ros Hipkiss, secretary; Iris Jones, assistant secretary; Pam Fuller; Heather Kidston-Couch; Bev Taylor; Brooke Quinteros, (co-opted); Lee Ramsden, co-opted.**

Chideock WI has had an exciting year in which membership has grown and new ideas have been established. Our membership from January 2017 was 38 including one dual member and one honorary member and we began this year with 42 members, including one dual. We were sorry to learn that our neighbouring WI, Whitchurch and Morcombelake, has been suspended and pleased to welcome to Chideock three new members from the group and hope they will be happy with us. We have had a committee of eleven including two new members who were brave enough to be co-opted in June and July. Iris Jones has declared her intention to step down from the committee this year, which is her and Mike's diamond wedding year, with many celebrations planned. Iris has been secretary and assistant secretary for a number of years. She is well known for her engaging reports about our activities for Chideock News, the local press and DFWI. Less well known but so valuable for our WI was that as secretary she introduced and established the use of the computer for minute taking.

Our 2017 programme was planned by Tish Wynford-Thomas and Linda Gould. There was a strong emphasis on local speakers with Damian Burton on Tae Kwon Do; Glen Bayliss with a dance master class; and on local heritage with The Story Traders, a Bridport writing group with Chideock connections; Pat Berryman from the Honiton Lace Museum; and Denys Brunnsden on the Chideock Cider Makers. We had our second demonstration of home-grown talent to which members brought and talked about their own skills, interests and crafts. With spinning and weaving, jewellery-making, quilting, tailoring, upholstery, Polish cookery, and doll-making we realised how much talent we have in our group. The annual birthday party (our 98th) was hosted by the committee with entertainment and nostalgic music from a local ukele group and the Jurassic Drifters. Sue Pettifer volunteered to organise the members' meeting in July at Royal Oak Farm Cotleigh which was much enjoyed.

Monthly meetings continue to be supported by members who organise tea and the raffle on a rota basis. Birthday flowers are arranged by Clem Allan and Karen Warburton. Flower of the month supports the Association of Country Women of the World. Noreen Vaughan and Marilyn Tuck again provided a lovely ploughman's lunch for the 2017 annual meeting. Diane Benjamin is our photograph archivist producing an album of our activities for us and future WI members to enjoy. The committee thanks all members for their continuing support.

2017 was a celebration of 100 years of the Dorset Federation. Some brave members took a picnic to Stonebarrow as part of the DFWI picnic month. Iris Jones and Ros Hipkiss rolled out the Chideock banner and took it to the Centenary Annual Meeting at Poole. We decided to support the Dorset Centenary Carol Service at Wimborne Minster, with Christmas shopping of course. The annual summer outing and meal with partners was to Portland Heights and the coach journey was enlivened by Denys Brunnsden's enlightening commentary on the landscape. The WI made a tribute for the Village Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial. Christmas lunch was held at the George Inn, Chideock.

Our January meeting is traditionally a discussion on the resolutions with a fun auction to follow. The WI resolution which has caught the interest of Chideock members this year has been "Plastic Soup". Lee Ramsden has researched the materials provided by Dorset Federation and gave us a talk on simple ways in which we can protect the oceans by, for instance, how we use our washing machine. We look to continuing our own local campaign by taking part in local initiatives such as the Seatown Beach Clean, and seeking environmentally friendly packaging.

The Craft Group, whilst our longest established group, has developed further this year. The committee is very grateful to Noreen Vaughan for providing such a lovely location for the monthly meetings. To complement these meetings three or four craft workshops will be held in the village hall over this year. Tish also organised a day out to a local glass workshop with lovely results and which was very much enjoyed. Bev's organisation of the bimonthly Lunch and Natter has been well supported as has Skittles at the Clock, and the Walking Group is

growing. Book Group has developed according to the interests of its members and we have read several books which have inspired discussion on women's perspectives and the history of issues which still remain today. Tracy Chevalier was our initial focus and some of us were able to go and hear her speak at the Dorchester Literary Festival. Other authors who have inspired us this year include Khaled Housseini, M.L. Steadman, Deborah Rodriguez, Victoria Hislop, Philippa Gregory and Helen Dunmore.

Our thanks to member Helena Pilatowicz for inviting us once again to use her garden and Chideock House kitchen for our annual cream tea. The Easter cakes and savouries stall courtesy of Annette and David Jones was again successful. Annette and David have moved so we would like to record our thanks for their support without which we could not have set up and run the cake stall for so long. The WI was asked to organise the Village Hall Christmas Fayre this year. Bravely Mary agreed with the proviso that it was a one-off and it proved a most successful event with light lunch served. It enabled the WI with the craft stall, bric-a-brac and cake stall, and also local stall holders to make money for their causes. Our other major fund event was "Another Dorset New Year" in January 2018, supported by the Symondsbury Mummers and local band Tinker's Cuss. Altogether the WI will be able to allocate some £1500 for community projects including accessible doors for the Village Hall, the Cupboard Love Food Bank as part of the Bridport Christmas Tree Festival, Chideock News.

During this year we shall be planning celebrations and commemorations for our own centenary in 2019. The WI committee continues to strive to support the ideals of the WI, whilst ensuring our activities are relevant and interesting for our members in Chideock.

With your approval this report will be sent to the Dorset Federation.