

STOKE GABRIEL W.I. REPORT FROM APRIL 2023 /2024

This year we have been able to hold our monthly meetings as planned. We have had a variety of speakers including taking a look inside Lady Katherine`s Wardrobe in 16th century Dress .Speakers from the Dartmoor Search and Rescue group & The Mercy Ships. We have been given an insight into the work of the local Action for Ukraine group and also in Nepal by local volunteers going out to these areas from our village.

We had a lovely day out for our meeting on Wheels in June when we went to Plymouth by coach. We went to the Box museum recently opened. After spending a couple of hours there we went on to the Barbican for a break for lunch, possibly some shopping followed by A Boat trip on the Tamar for those who wished to do that. The weather was kind and an enjoyable day was had by all. We had our New Years` lunch at Emma`s when we had sittings on two different Sundays as most members attended to enjoy Emma`s lovely food. . Some members have joined in with various group and County events. We hosted a round of the County Quiz here at the end of January which proved to be successful; unfortunately our team did not make it to the following rounds

Thanks to Denise for organising an active programme for the gardening group. We went to several interesting gardens both locally and further a field and we were blessed with good weather for our trips out. We have a craft group which meets from time to time. Some members are involved in the water testing on The River Dart and The Dart has been mentioned as one of the 17 areas to achieve water bathing status from 15th May until September.

We are very fortunate to have one of our members Evelyn Watson as our County Chairman

During the year we have lost a few members and sadly we marked the passing of at least two of our members. Noreen Chadwick who moved to Totnes a few years ago .she was secretary for several years of our W.I. Lady Pipa Williams who had been a member for many years sadly passed away just a couple of weeks ago at the grand age of 98. We have welcomed some new members so our membership remains around the 40 mark. We would love to be able to attract some younger ladies to join us. However it does appear that there are many organizations that have the same problem of being able to get younger people involved. We have a good bank balance thanks to all the great efforts done for the Christmas Fare and the Hall is booked again for this year`s event. We took part in the Carnival and the Wassail event.

We have a full programme planned for the coming year .Our June meeting will be a back stage tour at the Palace Avenue Theatre in Paignton. In July we are going by coach. To Powderham Castle for a conducted tour. These are just 2 events to look forward to. They are all listed in the new programme which will be available shortly. Next year our W.I. will celebrate its 80th birthday in 2025.