

## DIPTFORD WI SECRETARY'S REPORT

MAY 2023 to 31 MARCH 2024

The group has had 22 members and no new members.

Some of our members have been unable to come to meetings and events/outings due to mobility issues. We have tried to keep everyone up to date and included, with visits and lifts.

As usual we have had a full and varied programme of events, activities and speakers. We began in May with presentation of a cheque to representatives from the Birch Ward Trust, our charity for 2022/23. Subsequent months saw us welcoming a local florist, a magician and town Crier, a comedian, poet and singer and representatives of charities and the fire service.

We have enjoyed visits to Lady Astor's house in Plymouth, a Dartmoor alpaca farm, craft fairs and a Christmas Market, Brookside Cafe and Restaurant for our Christmas lunch and a lunch with auctioneers.

Activities have included rifle shooting, willow weaving, pottery decorating, crafting sessions, a book group, coffee mornings and visits to local cafes. We held a cream tea, our 10<sup>th</sup> Advent Fair and a soup lunch, all well attended by the village. We entered a team in the DFWI quiz in January.

We were invited to view the school and reopening of classrooms following some major construction work, viewed the rehearsals for their end of term production and the nativity play.

Our charity this year has been Totnes Hospital League of Friends and we have raised just over a £1000 for them.

The committee has continued to run the group as a team and whilst the organisational duties have by their nature still been focused on two people, tasks have been spread amongst them.

We have taken the decision to leave the WI at our year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2024) and the formality was dealt with in February when Evelyn Watson, Chair of DFWI came to our group meeting. We are forming a new independent group to be called, Ladybirds, and hope to continue in a similar but less formal way with many of our existing members and welcoming new faces