



## Redlynch and District WI

Charity Registration No.292382

### October 2018 Report

At our meeting on 10th October, June Dabell acted as President, there were 12 apologies for absence and 2 birthday posies were presented. Members taking part were reminded of the details of the Royal British Legion Remembrance Sunday Parade and start at 9.30 am. There is to be a Members' Lunch on January 18th in MV&WVH, when the minimum number must be 35, so please try to come. We are invited to send 2 members to the Godshill W.I. Christmas Meeting.

The November trading table will be entitled "Foodie Heaven", and members were invited to bring their favourite bakes to sell. We were reminded of the "Members' Meeting" in January, when the Committee will stand down and members will conduct the Meeting

June then introduced our speaker, John Youells, formerly of Bishop's Waltham Vineyard. He gave us a brief history of vine growing in England, which was introduced by the Romans in order to pacify their men and overcome the problems of importing large quantities of wine from Italy, a hazardous task in those days. Remains of a vineyard have been found by Hadrian's Wall, showing how different the climate was then. He outlined the year's activities for a vineyard, Pruning in January; praying there would be no frost in March, and from April keeping weeds down and spraying against disease: phyloptera was brought in on American vines in 1870 and many vineyards were wiped out by it then. September brings grape-picking time and all the problems of finding suitable seasonal labour, being forced eventually to employ Eastern European workers, who worked well and knew what they were doing! Then the grapes are taken to be made into wine, 500/600 English vineyards now produce 5,000,000 bottles of wine each year. Good sparkling wines mostly come from Hampshire which has similar soil and climate to the French champagne region. National Taxes on wine vary greatly, with English wine bearing £3/£4 per bottle and French only 30/40 pence, hence the wide difference to the consumer.

His final advice was to drink what we like and ignore fashion. He then invited Members to sample the red English wine he had brought, with a bright fruity bouquet and all enjoyed it. He was thanked and applauded and the Meeting closed.

Next month's Meeting will be on November 14th, at MV&WVH at 2.15 pm. No flower of the month, but do remember to do some baking for the Trading Table!

New members and visitors are always welcome, queries to Val on 01725 510850..

#### COMMITTEE

Patricia Cousins (President), Rosemary Pugh, (Vice-President), Valerie Reynolds (Secretary),  
Sandra Pearce (Treasurer), June Dabell, (Joint Secretary),  
Marion Lewins, Gloria Henderson