



Redlynch and District WI

Charity Registration No.292382

December 2018 Report

Our December meeting on the 12th, saw our President, Rosemary Pugh in the chair to welcome everyone, there were 11 apologies, we had brought presents for the Alabaré Centre in Salisbury, Birthday posies were given to 2 members. Rosemary asked us to study the Resolutions for the next AGM. Janet Stock gave a very interesting report on the Annual Council Meeting, where the speaker had been the inspiring Sally Becker, "The Angel of Kosovo", who had so very bravely helped the oppressed people in that terrible conflict. A retiring collection had realised £2,000 for her charity - Road to Peace.

Rosemary then introduced Mrs Patricia Godwin, who had kindly come at a moment's notice as our advertised speaker had been taken ill. Mrs Godwin has a beautiful collection of dresses and costumes from 1900 to 1919. The earliest items were black in tribute to Queen Victoria, who had been in mourning for Prince Albert, and then moved on to brighter colours in the Edwardian era, all with sewn-in petticoats and lovely embroidery and hand stitching, requiring the assistance of several maids to maintain them. There were sweet hats and handbags to wear with each costume and some amazing underwear, including 2-leg bloomers "for hygiene and comfort". It was difficult to imagine how such stiff and heavy clothes could have been comfortable. As she displayed the garments Mrs Godwin read out various contemporary advertising items with extraordinary claims, Vaseline extolled itself as a general cure all, and also as a cure for baldness in gentlemen and a skin tonic for ladies. The mind boggles!! The collapse of the stock market in 1929 put an end to runaway fashion and clothes were much more mundane until well after the Second World War. Members were able to handle and study the beautiful clothes, one piece from 1908 was from a Paris fashion house still working today.

Tea and the raffle brought the meeting to a happy close.

We wish you all very Happy Christmas !

Next meeting, which will be run by Members, will be on 9th January, 2019, in MV&WVH.

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