



Redlynch and District WI

Charity Registration No.292382

September 2019 Report

Our monthly meeting was held on September 11th and as this was the 103rd birthday meeting, the members stood to sing Jerusalem. Apologies were given by June Dabell Vice President, who was in the chair. She then went on to welcome a new member and a visitor. Birthday posies were given out. Notices included updates on the trip to Waitrose for a cookery demonstration, the skittles evening, the October lunch and the November craft morning.

Alix Booth, our speaker for the afternoon, was introduced by June. Alix gave a most informative and entertaining talk on the history of Punch and Judy. We learnt that Punch was first recorded here in England, by the diarist Samuel Pepys on May 9th 1662. The entertainment at that time, was aimed at adults and the puppet theatre was very popular. The puppets were operated by strings. After approximately one hundred years, the string puppets were replaced with hand puppets, which could pick things up such as Punch's stick. Later, in Victorian times, the shows were aimed at entertaining children and characters such as the Baby, the Police Man, Hector the Horse, Pretty Polly and others were introduced. Alix brought with her a Punch and Judy stage plus all the well known puppet characters and props. Most of these she had made herself. We were entertained with many excerpts from the well-known stories.

On a sad note, June presented Val Reynolds with a gift and card from the members, to thank her for all that she has done over the years for the WI. Val is moving out of the area. She will be greatly missed.

The afternoon ended with a birthday tea and raffle. Altogether a most enjoyable and memorable occasion.

New members are always welcome. Enquiries to Jill on 01725 511173.

COMMITTEE

Rosemary Pugh (President), June Dabell, (Vice-President), Jill Bowen (Secretary),
Pat Blount (Treasurer), Ann Kelly (Assistant Treasurer)
Gloria Henderson, Janet Stock