

## REDGRAVE LADIES CLUB REPORT 2017

Redgrave Ladies Club meets six times a year on the second Tuesday of the month starting in February. We usually have speakers at the February, April and October meetings and arrange visits to places of interest in June and August, and in December we try to have a Christmas theme, sometimes going out for a meal.

Our February guest speaker was local horticulturalist Kit Grey-Wilson who gave a talk with slides entitled 'Nepal – A Plant Hunters Paradise'. This talk had been booked many months in advance and in the meantime there was the devastating earthquake in Nepal. It was a sobering thought as we watched the slides that possibly some of the places had been affected by the earthquake. Kit very kindly donated his fee to the disaster charity.

In April another resident of Redgrave, Carolyn Botley, gave a talk about the charity Home Start in Mid Suffolk for whom she worked. She spoke about the work the charity does for people who need assistance. She advised that there were many different scenarios where they were called upon to help. It could be financial problems or maybe a new mother struggling to cope with life after the birth of her baby. Sometimes it might be showing a young mum how to feed her family on a limited budget.

Our first outing of the year in June was a Blue Badge guided tour round Bury St. Edmunds. The title of the tour was 'Ladies of the Town'. I hasten to add, they were not ladies of the night. Our guide also pointed out a number of blue plaques of which there were quite a few and we all realised that when we are walking around doing our shopping etc. we take little notice of what is around us. One word of advice our guide gave us was to look up at the tops of the buildings above the shops. Our visit ended with tea and cake at the Atheneum in Angel Square.

Our second trip out in August was to a wonderful garden near Hingham. The garden, Sea Mere, covers five acres with a 20 acre circular lake as the back drop to the five terraced lawns. As it was August the owner's children and grandchildren were staying there and were out boating on the lake. It was a pretty special place. Again our visit ended with tea and a wonderful cake. Everyone asked for the recipe.

October we were back in the Activity Centre. Local fashion and stylist company Dream On gave a demonstration on different ways to wear a scarf and also talked about colours. They demonstrated how different colours suit different skin tones and hair colours. It was a very popular evening.

Our last meeting of the year in December saw the return of local flower arranger Janet Whiteside who came along to guide us through making a Christmas ring for either our front door or the table. This is always a popular event and it is always satisfying to take home something that we have made ourselves. A lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

It is interesting to look back over the last year and it is satisfying to see that all four speakers were all very local to the village.

We have around 40 ladies on the book, of which an average of 20-25 attend each meeting, and we are always pleased to see new members. There is no annual membership fee and we only ask for an admission fee to cover the cost of the speaker and the hire of the hall and most evenings we charge just £3.00. If our meeting/outing is of general interest we invite husbands/partners to join us.

We have a very exciting programme for 2017. Please see our programme brochure.

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March 2017