

REDGRAVE LADIES CLUB REPORT 2018

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.

In February we spent a very pleasant craft evening under the guidance of Julie Parker who showed us how to make a tile using pieces of broken mosaic. It was truly amazing what hidden talents we had in our midst. My tile has pride of place in my guest bathroom with a candle on it. We all thoroughly enjoyed this evening and hope that Ms. Parker will come back sometime with more things for us to make.

Glynis Smy was our guest speaker in April. She called into the village shop in 2016 and said that she had written a book set in Redgrave. Before her visit some of the ladies took the trouble to read the book. It was entitled 'Maggie's Child'. It was set in the 19th century and those who read it felt they could not relate it to the present-day village, but it was an interesting evening.

Our first outing of the year in June 30 of us went on a whole days outing to Walderingfield. We hired a coach and arrive in Walderingfield in time for lunch at the Maybush Inn, which overlooks the river Deben. After lunch we boarded the boat which is operated by Deben Cruises and enjoyed a two-hour cruise down to Felixstowe Ferry. We then retraced our steps passing the pub and continuing on to Woodbridge marina. Whilst on board we were served with tea and scones. The weather was lovely and we all thoroughly enjoyed our day out. Our thanks go to Liz Collins who very efficiently organised this for us.

Our second trip out in August was to the wonderful West Stowe Hall near Icklingham. The gatehouse and hall were built in 1520 but there was probably a moated house already on the site, the first documentary reference to it being from the middle 13th Century. The lovely colonnade linking the gatehouse and main house was built in 1580. We have visited many private houses in Suffolk which we do through the Invitation to View organisation and it is especially lovely to see these old houses being lived in and not being allowed to fall into disrepair. Once lost, they can never be replaced. It was a pretty special place. Again, our visit ended with tea and wonderful cakes.

October we were back in the Activity Centre. Local fashion store M & Co put on a fashion show and the garments were modelled by some of our members. It was a very popular evening and our members were given a 10 per cent discount voucher to spend in the store. We charged a higher entrance fee for this evening as we decided to use the evening to raise money to help save the Crosskeys Pub, which the community were hoping to buy. We were able to hand over the wonderful sum of £220 and as a foot note the village do now own the pub.

For our last meeting of the year in December we welcomed Jason Salisbury from Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses which is based in Creting St. Mary. He gave a very amusing talk on how he and his wife started their business. They are first generation farmers, Jason had experience working in the dairy industry and Katherine was a veterinary surgeon before they made the life-changing decision to follow their dream to start their own dairy herd and produce cheese. Today they have 80 award-winning Guernsey cows. The cheeses they make are Suffolk Gold, Suffolk Brie and Suffolk Blue. Jason brought along a lovely selection of cheeses for us to sample and we were then able to buy cheese for Christmas and I believe he almost sold out. A lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

We have around 50 ladies on the book and an average of 20-25 attend each meeting, and we are always pleased to see new members. There is no annual membership fee at the moment 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 2018. Please see our programme brochure.

Kay Mitchell (01379 897324)

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