



Stottesdon & District Women's Institute

W I Report to Farlow Annual Parish Meeting 2021

As with so many things in the 2020-2021 'Pandemic Year', the W I had to cancel the planned programme of speakers, crafting demonstrations and events, with top priority being given to the safety and wellbeing of members.

With 19 members, many of whom are elderly, widely scattered around the district our principal concern was to establish new ways of keeping everyone in touch. The committee adopted What's App as a new means of meeting early on, and others were linked by email and telephone ring-around. Those few without access to digital channels were kept supplied with hand-delivered Newsletters and updates from our WI and the Shropshire Federation.

Last summer, between lockdowns, socially distanced garden-yoga sessions were a popular feature of our 'keeping in touch' arrangements. We greatly missed being unable to design and display our usual exhibit for the Handicrafts Competition at The Burwarton Show which, as also for 2021, was cancelled.

Then, into Autumn and Winter, we embarked on a programme of virtual events, hosted on Zoom by our President. The diverse range of subjects included 'Climate Change', crafting 'cards with doodled patterns', 'eco-brick making' (a practical use for 2L plastic bottles which you stuff with otherwise unrecyclable plastic waste!) and a fascinating illustrated talk on the 'history of Treen' (cutlery and domestic tools handmade in whittled-wood).

Christmas celebrations were helped along with a seasonal card and a small gift (of crafting materials in a handmade bag) presented to every member.

Now, as vaccinations progress well and lockdown slowly eases, we are in good spirits - we look forward to being able to resume 'normal' activities, in a careful 'one step-at-a-time' manner, during the months to come.

Clare Tibbits
for Helena Hale, President
May 2021