

Minutes of Renhold W.I. meeting Thursday 7th June held at 5 Home Close, Renhold at 7.30pm

Theme "Celebrating 100 years of the first women being granted the right to Vote" with costumes & celebratory sashes being worn



Committee members in attendance: Geraldine Pearson-Green, Julie Roberts, Amanda Ash, Pat Lindsay, Claudette Slater, Jeanette Roberts

Attendance: 13 members and 4 visitors

Apologies received from : Di Gow, Jill Barrell, Jill Moubarak, Sonia Warby, Sue Levitt

It was very pleasing to see so many people in costume, and photographs (group & individual) were taken by our Secretary's husband

President welcomed everyone & explained that as this was an informal meeting business would be kept to a minimum

Pauline Stewart, friend of our President, resident of Renhold, a Soroptimist, & "modern day Suffragette", told us a little about Suffrages and Suffragettes, and read an article which started with their formation through to the 1918 Representation of the People's Act which allowed women of property, over 30 years of age the right to vote, and finally in 1928 when all women could vote. Pauline encouraged everyone to continue with the fight to stand up for women - even in our modern day society the imbalance in some areas needs to be addressed. Pauline issued a list of when and where women earned the right to vote, starting with New Zealand in 1893 and finishing with Saudi Arabia in 2011. Geraldine thanked Pauline for talking to us, and passing on her enthusiasm &

commitment to women's rights. Pauline had intended to join Renhold W.I. at our recruitment evening, but being away so much never got around to it. Will be doing so from July.

Minutes of the previous meeting were signed, with emailed copies having been sent and agreed. Discussion took place about whether they should continue to be read out & the majority agreed email was best, with hard copies being given to those ladies without email addresses.

Raffle prizes – raffle prizes are very welcome, but should be given to a member of the Committee, not put straight onto the prize table, in order that a decision may be made as to whether they are appropriate for the raffle or would be best suited to the sale table. If they are in abundance it is possible some prizes may be held back for a meeting later in the year. £22 was raised from the raffle at this meeting.

Bags printed with Renhold W.I. logo – orders still be taken by Amanda

All members now registered with W.I. House (after several attempts) so all should receive the magazine. Anyone who does not get one should let Amanda know.

Jan kindly planted tomato plants some weeks ago to be sold for W.I. funds and has 24 for sale at 50p. As it was predicted there wouldn't be room at the meeting, these are available at 63 Ravensden Road (ring first to check Jan will be at home 01234 297456). These are now quite big, hardy and can be planted straight into the ground. Please support and make a purchase, it would not be nice to see them die.

Dates for diaries:-

14th June 6pm Flowers & Farming at Howbury Hall £3.50 per person with £1 going to funds and £2.50 to breast cancer research. Names of those to attend will be required. Pay on the night

19th June 7.30pm Ravensden W.I. speaker Eva Clarke, survivor of the Holocaust £4

27th June Singing Group at Roxton (following success of our attendance on 30th May). 8pm Roxton Village Hall. Words provided. £2.50. Lifts available

28th June Ladies Lunch (following success of lunch at the Bluebell) next lunch will be at Danish Camp. Further details to follow from Jeanette. Pre-booking rather than just turning up (availability of "meal of the day") to be investigated.

6th July 12 noon talk on cinema screens, followed by hot dogs & pop corn at Little Thatch, 18 Green End, Renhold MK41 0LN. £3.50 for funds – names of those to attend will be required. Pay on the door. Members to be aware 2 friendly labradors live here

19th July trip in John Bunyan boat Sovereigns Quay to Cardington Lock. Tickets may still be available

8th August 2pm Picnic in the Park, meet by the café. An organized tour may be possible, but not yet confirmed

October Behind the Scenes tour of Derngate Theatre and visit to 78 Derngate, Charles Rennie Mackintosh house. Date to be advised

Geraldine thanked everyone who attended, contributed to the catering, and Julian for the photography. Special thanks expressed to Claudette for opening her house to us and her hospitality.

Meeting closed at approx 9.45pm