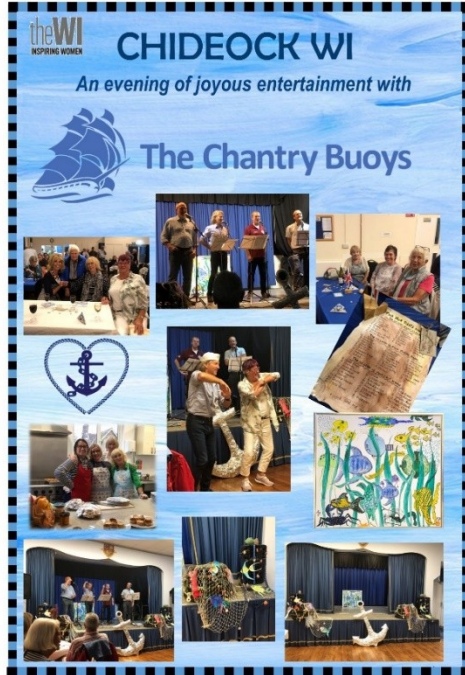


## WI Report – November 2023



A thousand apologies for the lack of a report from last month – I managed to miss the earlier deadline!

If you have a strong desire to read it in full the report can be found on the [chideockwi.org.uk](http://chideockwi.org.uk) website.

Just a little flashback to remind you of the wonderful evening spent with the Chantry Buoys.

Many thanks to the members of the WI (and other halves) for all the hard work they put in to making the evening a success!

In October we had an entertaining talk about life on the fairground from its early roots to present day.

In complete contrast we had a very important update by Paul Ramsden on the work of WRAG. The talk was of particular importance to our WI members as this is the theme of the 2023 Resolution, 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife'. Paul's excellent talk was very well received by members who found it thoroughly engaging.

This is a synopsis of Paul's talk:-

The Group came together at the end of last year following concerns about the very high levels of E.coli found by Dorset Council in the lagoon at Seatown in August 2022.

Early testing in the river for E.coli had suggested that this pollution might be coming from the treatment plant, but in homing in on possible sources, a sewer pipe from the holiday park to the treatment plant had been found to be leaking directly into the river. This was reported to Wessex Water who promptly repaired the leak. A further round of testing revealed that levels of E.coli downstream of the treatment works had decreased dramatically, but were high near Clapps Mead and this needs further investigation.

Testing along the river for phosphate revealed high levels downstream of the sewage treatment works - water companies do not currently screen out phosphate (but will do, starting sometime between 2025 and 2030).

Neither the Environment Agency nor Dorset Council will test for pollution in the river.

While this is frustrating it makes it even more important that the Group continues their own testing to try to identify the sources of pollution. Paul explained that the Environment Agency can be concerned about the lack of invertebrate species called riverfly. WRAG collected riverfly in North Chideock and found a healthy population, whereas the numbers in the river at Seatown were very low. More work will be done with riverfly come the spring. In the meantime, bacterial and chemical testing will continue over the winter.

We look forward to further updates.

Over the past two months the Book Group has read two very contrasting books. In October the classic 'Silas Marner' by George Eliot and this month Wendy Joseph KC's novel 'Unlawful Killings'. For many their memories of 'Silas Marner' was of reading it at school. Despite the slow pace at the beginning, the novel was enjoyed by all and provided points for discussion on moral codes and life in the nineteenth century. You couldn't have a more contrasting book than 'Unlawful Killings'. Based on her work as Queen's, later King's, Council the book was a real eyeopener. It brought into question the difficult work of the courts. The dilemmas faced by Judges and questioned much about Society as a whole that crime is on the increase. The group will meet in The George on 11<sup>th</sup> December at noon where we will be discussing a more lighthearted novel 'The People on Platform 5' by Clare Pooley.

Members of the craft group, having finished making their beautiful poppies, sold these at the October WI meeting and made £35 which will go to The Royal British Legion. The group has been making Christmas wire and bead Baubles which I hope you saw (and purchased) at the Christmas Fayre. The Christmas theme is continuing with Christmas Craft Celebrations.

Although the Gardening Group has suspended its meetings until Spring 2024, the group will be meeting for their Christmas Lunch where they will discuss next year's programme.

Despite it being Winter the stalwarts of the Walking Group continue to meet monthly for a short walk.

There will be no December meeting but, needless to say, will be full of Christmas cheer. On 6<sup>th</sup> December members will be attending the WI Carol Service in Exeter Cathedral and, no doubt, taking the opportunity to visit the Christmas Market. This is followed by our Christmas Lunch at The George in Chideock on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Our next meeting will be in January 2024. There is a change of date to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 when members will be discussing the WI Resolutions and having a fun activity, 'Getting to know you'.

Finally, many of you will know that for a number of year members of the WI have made comfort cushions and seat belt pads for Macmillan providing for those suffering with

breast cancer. This project has come to an end and we are about to embark on a new project knitting trauma teddies for STARS, a Dorset-based charity. STARS offers one to one support, free of charge, for anyone of any age or gender, living or studying in Dorset, who has experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives. The WI is now looking for knitters, not just from the craft group, who are willing to support this initiative. Wool and stuffing will be provided. Please contact Tish on 01297 489200 or email [chideockwi@gmail.com](mailto:chideockwi@gmail.com).



**Finally, we would like to wish you all a very 'Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year'.**