

# Lewtrenchard WI October Report

Barbara welcomed members, guests, new member Trudi and our speakers Nigel & Sara Hicks to the Open Meeting. We sang Jerusalem.

**Hot off the Press DFWI Skittles:** We won against Buckfastleigh WI! Next round in the New Year.

Nigel & Sara Hicks then talked about experiences with Orangutans. Nigel, semi-retired after having sold his veterinary practice in Lifton, visited Borneo where he was entranced by these endangered animals. Their forest habitat is continuously being eroded by the development of palm oil plantations, mining and logging, resulting in lack of food, shelter, injury & disease. Those rescued are treated, but kept in compounds as a tourist attraction, never returning to the wild. Nigel discovered though that in Indonesia the Orangutans that are rescued are treated, rehabilitated and 'trained' through schooling to care for themselves then eventually returned to the wild. Returning to the UK he inspired Sara to help. They set up OVAID (Orangutan Veterinary Aid Charity) and over 16 years supplied vital equipment, education, time and expertise to the value of ~£500,000. They spend 7-8 months

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN



there each year, training vets, treating injuries/sicknesses of these intelligent animals. Severe floods and a landslide destroyed their rehabilitation clinic in 2024. They set about raising more funds and called in favours from other vets to re-supply what was needed. Now the centre is up and running again. They plan to return in the next few weeks. Barbara thanked them for a really enlightening talk. See: [www.ovaid.org](http://www.ovaid.org) for more info.

**Potato Challenge:** Joyce wins the trophy plate with 3.9 kilos of potatoes.

**Date & venue for next meeting: Monday November 10, 19:00, Lewdown Victory Hall**  
**Christmas Crafting with Julia**

## Dates for your diary:

|               |                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st November  | Shopping Event                                                   |
| 10th November | Next Meeting <b>Starts at 7pm</b>                                |
| 20th November | Thursday Coffee morning - <b>Strawberry Fields</b> (Garden Room) |
| 24th November | Monday Walk, contact Mary E/Lynn                                 |