

Report of December Meeting

What a treat awaited us for our final meeting of 2009, held this month only at the Cricket Pavilion. The intriguing title of Julie de'Ath Lancaster's talk – 'A Hundred Ways with Wetwipes' gave no clue of the hilarious, informative and entertaining talk we were to hear. Three years ago, and feeling in need of a challenge, Julie took part in a sponsored walk up Snowdon in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Obviously undeterred, when she heard of a trek up to Everest Base Camp, she decided to take part. It was a diverse group of 28 who met at Heathrow, but they quickly bonded. Julie sometimes found the experience of life in a third world country hair-raising – as, for example the traffic in Kathmandu showed no respect for road lanes or a code of behaviour. Periodically breaking into song, Julie evoked a vivid picture of her trekking experience, sharing with us the delights of smelly loos (holes in the ground), inventive and most unusual combinations of fast foods served up by the sherpas, and wildly swaying bridges, high above the chasms beneath. One of her most obviously longlasting impressions was that of the cheerfulness of the sherpas and their families in the face of poverty and their harsh and basic living conditions. And the wetwipes? Consider the need for preserving one's dignity and bodywarmth in extreme cold, with very little water for performing one's ablutions!

Several visitors joined us for the meeting, which was the first at which Joy Churchill presided. Following a break for festive sherry and mincepies, the winners of the competitions were announced – Margaret Dare for Flower of the Month, and Barbara Woodsford for a plate of mincepies.

The first meeting of 2010 will be held at the Village Hall on January 14th at 7.00pm, when there will be a cookery demonstration by three of our members.

Joan Cudmore