

## **Report of March Meeting**

We were delighted to welcome Peggy Cooke as our speaker at this month's meeting, who regaled us with a humorous account of her lifetime associated with tea and teatimes. Memories of our own childhoods were kindled by details of family and village life, recounted in Peggy's own warm and inimitable style. As a child, she learnt the etiquette associated with teatime at the 'Chapel Teas' held at the Baptist Chapel at Halwill Junction, and was introduced to the delights of afternoon tea at Dellers in pre-war Exeter. In 1976, she decided to work for herself, and set up her tearooms in East Budleigh, which for ten years running were mentioned in Egon Ronay's "Just a Bite". Imagine making scones every morning, followed by making lunches and evening meals – running a tearoom was certainly hard work. Since her retirement, she has worked as a hospital chaplaincy visitor, and values the opportunity to get to know long stay patients, always of course over a cup of tea. Peggy's parting advice was to value the chance to give hospitality with a cup of tea, which she sees as very precious. Next month, our meeting will be held at the cricket pavilion, as the members of the Baptist Church will be holding their Maundy Thursday Supper at the Village Hall. Our thoughts and sympathy are with them after the terrible tragedy of the fire at the Baptist Chapel. The following week, we shall be back at the Village Hall for our Group Meeting and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Arrangements have been made for our outing in May to Hartland Abbey, stopping for coffee at Dartington Glass on the way, and for our mystery trip in June. Thanks to Coral for raising more funds for the WI in her third 'Pampered Chef' party, and congratulations to Carole for winning this month's competition for a decorative cup and saucer, and to Julie Jobson, who won Flower of the Month with a lovely bi-coloured tulip.

**Next month's meeting – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at the cricket pavilion.**

**Speaker – Wayne Hurren 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'.**

**Visitors always welcome.**

Joan Cudmore