

BOSHAM WI 'resumed normal service' in Bosham Village Hall on 1st September after not meeting 'in the flesh' since 4th March, 2020. Rosemary Keating – President – wholeheartedly welcomed back 50 members and the members responded with much cheering and clapping. 'Well done' Bosham WI for all the Zoom meetings provided throughout the Pandemic, which continually supported and provided fellowship for each other - and for coming through it with a smile.

The **speaker was Tess Burrows** and her talk was entitled '**The Adventures of a Lady and a Penguin**'. Tess began her talk by using a conch horn which is used by the Tibetan people 'to awaken the higher mind of each and every heart'. It certainly did that! Tess has the good of our planet in her heart and is determined to do everything she can to raise money to help it and the people in it.

A little furry pink and purple penguin called Yanik accompanied her everywhere she went. In 1990 to protest against mining companies wrecking the Antarctic, she climbed The Old Man of Hoy and spent the night on the top – with Yanik of course. She and a few others dragged up a huge banner with the words 'Climb for your World'. That event was supported by many WI members. The result was a 50 year moratorium which meant no further mining in the Antarctic.

In 1992 she went to Rio in Brazil where the world leaders got together for the Earth Summit. She and her team climbed 1300ft up the rockface of Sugar Loaf Mountain to protest against the shooting of street children. The banner read 'Climb for the Earth, Help Street Children to Live'. They slept on portaledge (flat pieces of canvas suspended by ropes from the cliff-face). There was enough money raised by this action to provide a Refuge for the street children, together with a park around it for safety.

Tess and her family (children and grandchildren) have done many different charity fund-raising activities – together they cycled from John O'Groats to Lands End in order to help protect whales. The Climb for Tibet raised £160,000 and they have built 6 schools, collected tens of thousands of peace messages, prayers for hope, peace and harmony.

Whilst in the Himalayas - a place of intense beauty and also intense sadness - a family of farmers with a cart arrived to talk to them and, sadly Yanik (the penguin) was kidnapped and not retrieved.

One of many loving messages sent from people all over the world have been read to Inuit children. One was - 'Why can't all peoples work together?'

One day Tess received an unexpected parcel and it contained a furry Emperor Penguin. His name is Gaius and he became the successor to Yanek (who is doing a good job elsewhere) and he accompanied a polio victim on a charity wing walk. Tess took part in the South Pole Race when she travelled 500 miles on skis pulling a sledge for 12 hours a day. She trained with the Norwegian Army where, in snow 14" deep, she was pulling tyres for 105 miles. Her motive is that when convinced she is doing something that is right – she can achieve.

For climbing up Mount Kilaminjaro, she collected messages from many nations and put them in a tyre which she hauled 6,000 ft. up to the top. Gaius was with

her all the way until a family of three children cuddled and admired him so much she let them keep him.

Tess uses the penguin because of its behaviour. It huddles together with its neighbours, looks after them and also protects the whole community. She thinks World Peace is possible and we can all do positive things - thus giving out the energy. Tess is certainly full of enthusiasm and vitality and her determination, endless energy and strength were very much admired. In amongst all these incredible and dangerous adventures, she has managed to find the time to write many books.



Tess is pictured here with Buntu. This comes from the South African word which means 'common humanity' - 'I am as you are'.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th October in Bosham Village Hall and the talk is entitled Lewes Bonfire Night.

If you require any further information please visit Bosham WI website boshamwi.co.uk or contact Rosemary Keating on 01243 839953.

Jennifer Fidler