

# The Grapevine

## Monthly Newsletter

### President's Note

What a wonderful response to the previous Grapevine. Your comments were very much appreciated by Stevie, who produces the format so expertly for our benefit, mine especially.

Today, Thursday 26th November, would have been the Over Peover WI AGM and Christmas Dinner at Wilmslow Golf Club. Alas, no festive celebrations in 2020 as we reach the end of another WI year.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed in whatever way, whether as a Committee Member or as part of the back room support. All the mandatory end of year submissions have been forwarded to Chester. A sincere thank you to Helen for the paperwork and to Rosalind who has produced the audited end of year accounts. A copy will be available for you at our first meeting of 2021.

**Cheshire News** - We have received information to say that in 2021 we will not have to pay to receive the newsletter. I enjoyed reading the last issue - did you spot the perfect words from Ann Brooks on 'What the WI means to her'?

**The Village Hall** - After I wrote about the improvements to the Village Hall last month, Anne Tomkinson contacted me with the news that Peter, her husband, had been involved with the cutting of the new post. It was a Larch Tree felled and milled on the Peover Hall Estate, really keeping this in the WI family ... a lovely story .

Most of you will be aware that Randle Brooks sadly passed away on the 12th November. He had always been a great supporter of Over Peover Village and had a strong interest in the Village Hall. He will be missed. I have sent a sympathy card to his family on behalf of us all at Over Peover WI .

The next Grapevine will be sent out on Thursday 17th December, this will be an opportunity to share Festive Greetings and photos of the Christmas wreaths or anything else you have to add. It will be lovely to have some sparkle!

In the meanwhile I hope that you will be able to raise a glass of something you fancy at 7.30pm this evening. The toast is to Over Peover WI and your support for our unique association. Thank you!

Cheers,

June

The glam and smart attire of last year has been swapped for leisure wear and comfy slippers.



Enjoying a drink and a chat, we will certainly miss the conversation we enjoyed.



Official business almost complete as Helen reminds us of all the activities and meetings we have experienced and the accolade of the achievements made during the past year.

Remembrance Day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many.



This year we couldn't attend the services as normal.



It was heartening to see so many large poppies flying on lamp posts, along with the beautiful displays on church gates and railings. The purple poppies commemorate the animals (dogs horses, pigeons etc) who served during the war.



We were looking forward to welcoming original calendar girl Tricia Stewart to the Spring meeting in March. Sadly this had to be cancelled. All of the money has now been refunded and we are hopeful that we will be able to rearrange to another date in the not too distant future.

## Raising funds for hearing dogs for the deaf

Having seen first hand how essential these dogs are to improving daily life for the deaf, Barbara started her fund raising challenge at the end of October. Accompanied by four WI ladies, the first walk was a rather "soggy" one in Tatton Park but the views certainly made up for the weather. Since then she has continued to fund raise and the latest update is that she has received £80 in donations and pledges of £120 directly to the hearing dogs charity. Superb result!

Although a personal challenge, Barbara is delighted and very grateful for the support given by the WI and their canine companions.



*Some of you will recognise Poppy, a popular and regular member on the WI walks. Pictured above wearing her "hearing dogs neckerchief" - very smart!*

## The Reading Group

Unable to meet up, the group continued to enjoy their books at home.

'Olive Kitteridge' got a thumbs up and recommendations for worthy future reads are;

Victoria Hislop 'Those Who Are Loved';

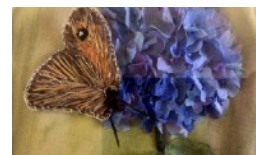
Raynor Winn 'The Wild Silence'

Martin Walker 'Bruno, Chief of Police' and 'DarkVineyard'.

We look forward to hearing what the readers thought of these books and perhaps it will encourage others to turn a page.

## The Embroidery Group

Determined not to be beaten by the restrictions and the inability to meet up, many of the group have been quietly working on pieces throughout the last few months. Being a modest group, it took some persuasion to get them to share their recent creations and no that butterfly and flower pictured below are not real!



## The Walking Group

The November walk was scheduled just days before the second lockdown began. Talk about lucky timing!

Wincle had been on the list for a while so this was the obvious choice. It is a walk which is very much weather dependant.

The group was small (four in total) but that didn't detract from the enthusiasm. The sun was shining and it was dry, so the beautiful village of Wincle beckoned.

A five mile hill walk (not for the faint hearted) allowed for stunning views and a mix of terrain. Having completed the walk, a warm drink from a flask was well deserved. It tasted just as good as any from a coffeeshop!

The group are hopeful they will get one final walk in after lockdown and before Christmas. Anyone who is interested and not already on the walkers WhatsApp group, contact Barbara Wilson on 07973 453823 or email [bwilson3759@gmail.com](mailto:bwilson3759@gmail.com) for details when available.



### LOCAL BULB SPECIALIST

One of the positive things that has come out of lockdown is discovering some great suppliers on our doorstep. One that has been highly recommended by a number of WI members and therefore worth sharing, is bulb specialist Petrichor.

Based in Great Warford, they offer a large range of varieties for planting in Spring Summer and Autumn. The bulbs are sourced from growers in the UK and Holland.

It is run by owner, Bert, who is only too happy to offer advice.

Previously featured on BBC Gardeners World programme and exhibited at the Tatton show, this is one for all keen gardeners to have on their radar.

Visit [www.bulbspecialists.co.uk](http://www.bulbspecialists.co.uk) where you can order online or tel: 07500937363

Petrichor Bulb Specialist, Heathgate Nurseries, Ancoats Lane, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TT



## SNIPPETS, STORIES AND SAYINGS

We asked for your tales and tips and you didn't disappoint. Thanks to all of you who sent your stories in - we haven't got room to cover them all in this issue but rest assured we will share them over the coming months.

*You really are never too old to learn ... "Despite mobility, instability (and ? senility!) I have learnt to garden again - using my mobility walker, a small long handled fork and my 'grabber' I can weed, very slowly, by working the weed loose then lifting with my grabber into the trug which is on the seat of my walker. I can also do pruning, with good secateurs, at waist to shoulder height - a climbing rose and hydrangea - and carry manure in trug to put around said plants. Slow work but very satisfying. I am really looking forward to the next season and learning new tricks! "*

.... Ann Brooks

*We all have sayings, phrases and poems that get passed down and they are just as relevant today as they were then...*

*'God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, but the wisdom to know the difference '*  
... Ingrid Phillips

A cautionary tale ... Mouse alert!

*"As I approached my car in the supermarket carpark, I noticed a leak (the tell-tale rainbow marks) I had also smelt petrol fumes earlier, so took it straight into the garage. The mechanic confirmed indeed I had a leak, he also pointed out that my car was diesel (ok so what's in a smell). The cause - holes in three rubber hoses - the culprit - mice! Apparently they love wires and hoses, even more than the box of chocolate Roses (stored in my garage) that they tried to get into the previous winter. I caught the two chocolate thieves and left a couple of traps just in case any family friends popped by. The traps remained empty, so no suspicion that I had any mice. My car was safe in the garage, or so I thought. Imagine my surprise when I opened my compost bin to see a furry face looking back at me, he was not alone .. according to my gardener they were "house" mice rather than "field" mice, clearly nipping into my garage for the odd snack. Apparently traditional traps are not always effective. Lesson learnt if you put your car in the garage invest in a sonic mouse deterrent .. works a treat!"*

.... Julie Haighton aka the mouse controller

Only 4 weeks to Christmas day. .... we have already spotted the lights up in various homes. After the year we have had, let's embrace the idea of bringing Christmas cheer early and through the whole of December.

Be creative this year, make those decorations and don't forget to share your pictures.  
... tis the season!

## THIS MONTHS BRAIN TEASER

Riddle: What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?

Answer in next month's Grapevine and remember no help from google!

October's Riddle - the more you take the more you leave behind ... ANSWER - footsteps. Well done those that got it.