

The Grapevine

Monthly Newsletter

President's Note

By the time this reaches you the month of January will be almost over and what a month this has been.

January is named after the Roman god Janus who had two faces, so could see the future and the past. He was also the god of doors which is appropriate as a door has opened up re the COVID vaccination programme. I know many of you have received or are due to receive your jab soon. A light at the end of a long tunnel and we can begin to look forward again. Plus the door for change has opened up in the USA as Joe Biden was inaugurated as President with Kamala Harris, the first ever female black and South-Asian Vice-President. The young poet laureate, Amanda Gorman, was inspirational and will be having many doors open up to her.

Looking ahead, Angela and Judy are proposing that the Over Peover Village Show be held on Saturday, 4th September this year. Hoping for lots of entries from you all as you bring any new lockdown skills to fruition. Still plenty of time to start planning for your exhibits. Hope everyone will feel this is something we can aim for. If you feel we could go ahead with this event then a Show theme will be chosen.

Don't forget to log onto the Zoom sessions set up by Cheshire Federation on our behalf. There is a varied programme and details have been sent out to you.

Fourteen votes were received in favour of the amendment to the WI Constitution. These have now been forwarded to Chester. Thank you to all who participated.

Our thoughts and good wishes go out to Jill and her family during these next few months.

The next Grapevine will be circulated on Thursday 25th February. Your positive comments have been kindly received. Thank you for all for your varied and much valued contributions. I feel that this has helped us all to keep in touch especially as we approach a whole year of WI lockdown. Where did that time go? Talents revealed in all directions this month do hope you agree and enjoy the content. Stevie has again worked her magic and woven all the items into an eye catching format. Thank you from us all.

Continue to keep safe and well.

Best wishes to you and your families .

June



Our thanks to Anne Tomkinson for sending us an image of her hibiscus taken last summer. She thought it would cheer everyone up - the vibrant colour was the inspiration for this month's newsletter.



Keeping busy during January can be a challenge at the best of times, the days are shorter and the weather can dampen any enthusiasm to embrace the outdoors. It's a month where we can become lethargic but clearly not the OP WI ladies. Many of you have continued your daily exercise (gold stars all round) and sent us some lovely pictures from your walks. The banner to the left shows just a few of the highlights.

Others have turned to their favourite hobbies, been creative in the kitchen, enjoyed a quiet read and even taught themselves new skills. Who said lockdown has to be boring !!

Jam, Jam, glorious Jam ..

Helen has been using her time to make jam and we hear she has stocks of Marmalade, Mint jelly, Damson and Blackcurrant Jam. Only £2.50 per jar. All proceeds go to the WI or St Lawrence Church, your choice!

Talk about win win ... You get to enjoy delicious jam and at the same time help the WI or the Church.

Interested? Just contact Helen who is ready to take orders. Helen look out for our email!

E: h.skelton007@btinternet.com. or Tel: 01625 582574

A puzzling affair!

With all the cupboards clean and the decorations put away, Ann Brooks shares how she is keeping busy.

"I am back to crosswords and jigsaws again (interspersed with FaceTime and phone calls). I have also made 18lbs of marmalade, which I love doing, but this year was amazed at how heavy a pan full of oranges, water and sugar was! I must take more exercise!"



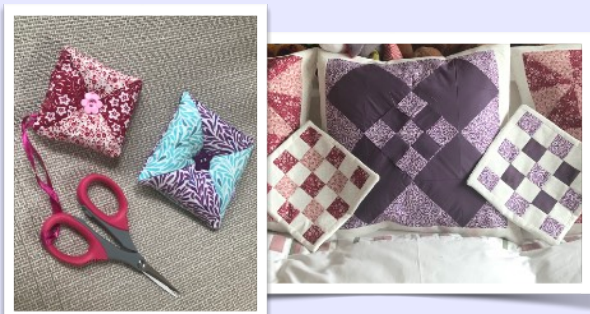
I wonder if anyone would like to borrow one of my jigsaws? I have about 14 - most have 'bigger' pieces and easier to handle than the normal size. Mainly 500 pieces, so they do not take forever to do! The subjects vary from sea shores, county shows (!) country scenes, skating and so on. If anyone is interested I am sure we can organise collection/delivery. Please phone me on - 01565 632007. Incidentally, at Christmas I was given a 1000 piece jigsaw (normal size pieces) of the Knutsford Tapestry - I think it will keep me going until the end of lockdown!"

... Ann Brooks

Good luck with the new jigsaw Ann and we spotted how you managed to get a reference in about the county show. Hint taken!

A BEAUTIFUL CRAFT

We heard that Glenys had been learning some new skills and after some persuasion she shared some pictures of her latest work. She explained that the cushions (picture below right) were her first project and with the offcuts she made the table lamp mats.



The left hand picture shows two small little pads (affectionately referred to as "dingle dangles") also made from off cuts. The pink one is tied to her scissors so they are easy to find, whilst the blue one is filled with rice and acts as a weight to prevent any material she is crafting with from slipping off the working surface. Glenys tells us that "she is still learning" - all we can say is wow! and we have asked if she is taking orders.

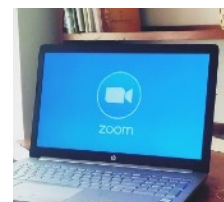
LOVE READING, LOVE LOSING YOURSELF IN A BOOK, READ HERE ...

A page turner of a book, by a cosy fire and with a cup of tea ... what could be more satisfying to while away the winter months. If you can relate to the previous sentence, then you are very welcome to join like minded WI friends on the very first Zoom session that is being held to facilitate our Reading Group .

Frances has very kindly volunteered to be the virtual host on **Tuesday, 2nd February at 2.30 pm**. If you wish to join in the conversation please let Frances know on 01565 632862 and she will send you the unique code by email. If you have read a book which you think others may be interested to know about , please have that to show and share ! Sorry once a teacher always a teacher - sounds like Reception Class - Refreshments will of course be of your own choosing!

If you were mesmerised by the American Poet Laureate at the Presidential Inauguration you may be interested to read the poems of Maya Angelou another inspirational black female poet. You can find a selection free to read on the internet .

Happy reading, June



Roll on the vaccine ..

As more centres open up the availability will no doubt increase. We hear that Julia and Bernie went (separately) to a Macclesfield Pharmacy, one of the first pharmacies in the country to be giving the vaccine. Julia reported that the parking was easy and the staff helpful. We have seen vaccination signs in Knutsford and Barbara's [Connecting Chelford](#) volunteers are busy supporting Chelford Surgery by guiding people through the vaccination delivery system.

Bernie Byrne shared a funny story about her friend who went to get the vaccine .. having had the jab, she was told to take 15 minutes rest and the medic pointed to a room. She duly went in, sat down and waited to be given the all clear. You can imagine her surprise when a nurse came in and asked "what was she doing there?". She explained that she was resting, only to be told she was in the kitchen! ... The things some people will do to get a cup of tea!



SNIPPETS, STORIES AND SAYINGS

This month we have a tasty “veganuary” winter soup recipe to share and we thought as it was January we would give the brain a rest and swap our Brain Teaser for a few “funnies” that you have sent us. Thanks to all of you, we hope they make you smile and give you a little chuckle.



Parsnip & Apple Soup

Easy to make, freezes well and tastes delicious

- 25g/1oz butter (I used Flora Plant butter)
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 2 medium onions chopped
- 600g/1lb 5oz parsnips cut into 2cm/1" pieces
- 2 garlic cloves crushed
- 600g/ 1lb 5oz Bramley Apples, peeled, quartered, cut into chunks
- 1 litre / 1.75 pints vegetable stock
- 150ml/ 5 fl oz milk (I used almond milk)
- Flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Melt the butter and oil in a large saucepan. Gently fry the onions and parsnips for 15mins or until softened. Add the garlic and apples and cook for a further 2 mins stirring regularly.

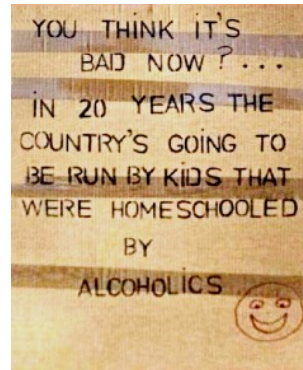
Pour over the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for about 20mins or until parsnips are very soft. Remove from heat and season with salt and pepper. Blend if you wish until smooth.

Stir in the milk. Season to taste and serve. I sometimes add chopped nuts and chopped herbs or spinach as a garnish .

.... June

This month's selected saying ...

“Worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening, it just stops you from enjoying the Good” Ingrid



If you are concerned about the impact that lockdown will have on our children's education, Janet spotted this reassuring poster.

Kay shared below

“the logic of an uncluttered mind”...

The children were lined up for lunch in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE. God is watching.'
Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples....'

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

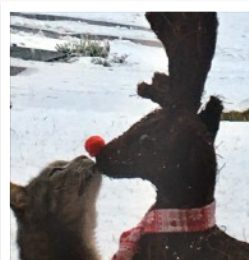
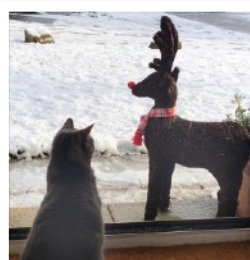
The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'
The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'

That will be £100. Chasing birds is not a reasonable excuse to be outside



WHAT IS IT WITH THESE CATS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING ...



Love blossomed as the Norbury cat, “Lindus”, spent most of Christmas gazing out of the patio doors at Rudolph. He seized the moment when he thought no one was looking .. we understand Rudolph had his back leg tied down so not guilty!!