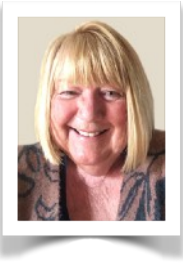


# The Grapevine

## Monthly Newsletter

### President's Note



By the time you read this, the WI Committee will have met and discussed our options for an initial 'picnic style' get together in the grounds of Peover Hall sometime in the early weeks of June. Anne Tomkinson has liaised with the family to ensure that the previous offer made by the late Mrs Brooks still stands and information will be sent out as soon as possible, after CFWI have been informed.

We have received other kind offers of garden venues which could give us opportunities to meet up outdoors, if we think it is appropriate, thank you for these.

The first WI walk since the lifting of some restrictions has taken place. Thank you to Barbara and Chrissy for planning and organising this.

I am delighted to share with you that the total Over Peover membership remains the same for 2021/2022. Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. It is so rewarding to have you all back on board again.

At the request of CFWI, I have sent copies of the Grapevine to be kept in their archives as examples of how WI's kept in touch during the lockdown period.

A wealth of information continues to arrive from WI, both nationally and from Cheshire. There are some excellent Zoom Talks to link into (details were sent to you) plus the 'virtual' Cheshire Show which Ann Brooks will explain in this Grapevine. We also have some interesting video links which we are pleased to share. So lots to keep us busy!

Our thoughts are with Helen and her family at this time and we are also thinking of other members who are coping with illness and undergoing treatment. You have our support and we send good wishes to you and your families.

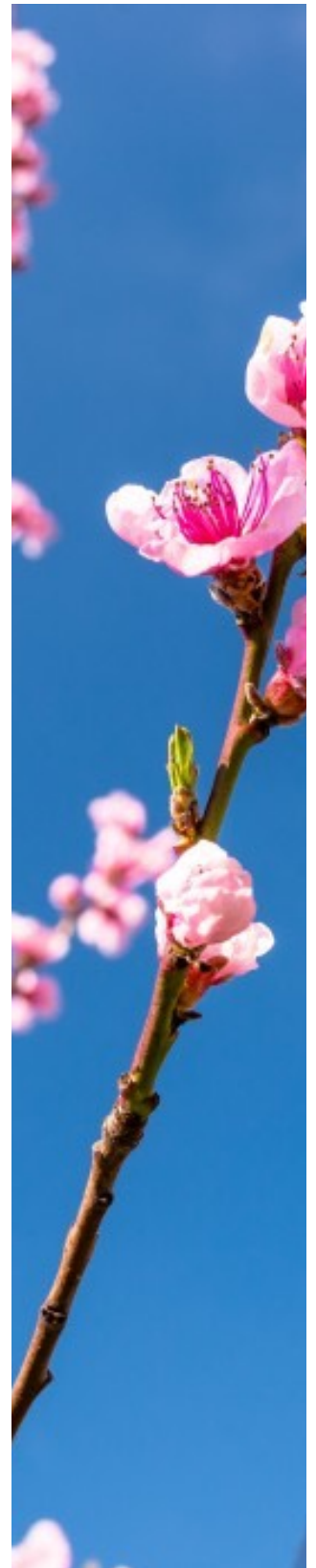
Celia is moving to her new home shortly but thankfully is remaining as an OPWI member. We wish her every happiness for the future especially as she will be nearer to her family.

Finally, thank you for all your wonderful contributions and for Stevie who has again used her creative skills to perfection.

Take care and I looking forward to seeing you soon.

With very best wishes ,

June





Chrissy's group head through Peover Woods



Barbara's group stop for a quick photo.



Back to enjoy socially distanced refreshments.

## Walkers get back on track ...

April 20th was an important date for the walking group as they could finally resume their activities. 8 WI members, 3 guests plus one enthusiastic canine companion, Alfie, met at the village hall. The weather was perfect, bright sunshine and there were smiles all round. Anticipating high demand for this walk, Barbara with the help of Chrissy had recced two routes so the COVID rule of 6 could be observed and it ensured all levels of ability were catered for.

Chrissy led one group on a circular walk over to Peover Hall, through the woods and towards Goostrey, whilst Barbara's group headed for Blackden Lane to complete their circular walk across the fields via Foxwod Farm and then back to The Dog for socially distanced refreshments.

Both walks were not without some drama; Chrissy's group encountered a herd of enthusiastic cows (hidden from view until the land levelled), fortunately some waving of sticks, and Alfie's presence, kept the inquisitive herd at bay until the group had passed. The next set of woods presented another challenge as an over exuberant black Labrador bounded across a bridge to greet Alfie. Pushing past Bernie, who demonstrated excellent core and balance to avoid falling into the bushes, the dog was successfully restrained by Chrissy, who as a competent dog handler quickly returned the dog to its rather embarrassed owner. Enough excitement for one walk, the group returned back through the woods to the village hall, chatting all the way.

Barbara's group took the route that allowed them to take in views of the sun glinting over Jodrell Bank - magnificent!. En route they encountered some low hanging branches and poor Jennie got her ear caught on one. Bleeding profusely, fellow walkers rallied round quickly. Tissues, sanitiser et al were quickly to hand to stem the flow. Showing typical WI grit Jennie was undeterred and continued on the walk even managing to keep her sun hat on. We understand that having sought medical advice, her ear is healing nicely although she is currently signing off as Van Gogh!

All in all an excellent morning and we are looking forward to the next walk planned for *Tuesday May 18th*. Full details to follow.

## Entertaining links ...

The virtual world is now part of our everyday lives, our IT skills have for the most part improved - admittedly often by trial and error - and we can tap into talks and videos from the comfort of our sofas. Below are a few links that Hazel sent us and we thought you might find them interesting, we certainly did and our excuse for no work last week was that we were researching for the Grapevine!

[www.mirthy.co.uk](http://www.mirthy.co.uk) - a wide variety of material to suit all interests, some free talks, some £2.99

[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) - lots of interesting talks, check out the free talk on 'Getting to Know Gaskell' on May 18th.

There is also a series of videos available at <https://fb.watch/515pypfeWO/>, on the beautiful Keukenhof Park, "the garden of Europe" Well worth a look! Thanks Hazel!

## Get ready it's Showtime! ...

Continuing with the virtual theme, Ann Brooks explains "Although there is no WI representation at the Cheshire Show this year, the Cheshire Federation is organising a Virtual Fun Show and I do hope that some of you will enter. A 6" x 4" photo is to be sent, with an entry form, to WI House by 31st July, so you have plenty of time to do something! **(We take the hint Ann).**

Prizes will be awarded!

There are six classes which I have summarised below:

Class 1. What Went Wrong? - **A photo of any disaster you have had during lockdown.**

Class 2. Have a Go.- **Photo of a decorated celebration cake - real or 'dummy'**

Class 3. UPcycling. - **Repair, reuse or remodel - give new life to something.**  
**Before & After photos essential.**

Class 4. Lockdown achievement. **Any new skill learnt; something created; art, garden, pottery, etc.**

Class 5. Limerick for Lockdown. **A Limerick or prose piece (100 words max).**  
**Digital entry preferred**

Class 6. Pandemic flowers. **Your growing efforts, indoor or out.**

I have full details of all classes and entry forms and I am happy to talk you through it, if necessary." **Thanks Ann!**



## Fond memories ...

Events such as The Cheshire Show are an opportunity to see the WI at its best and celebrate its rich history. That history is created by its members and Over Peover have had, and still do have, some remarkable ladies. Helen Norbury came across these old photographs and we thought longstanding members might enjoy seeing them. Helen was on the committee for many years with these ladies and more often than not would end up in heaps of laughter. She remembers that the garden parties were nearly always blessed with warm sunshine and she baked for days! **Clearly Happy times!**



On left is Mary Bowers, on the right Audrey Lowe. (Mary's son married Audrey's daughter)



On left is Connie Welton, on the right Audrey Mottershead.



We are so lucky to have lovely places to visit right on our doorstep.



## GRAPEVINE GROWERS & GARDENERS, OUT & ABOUT ...

This month we have introduced a couple of new topics for the Grapevine; "out and about" as we start to emerge from lockdown and some "growers and gardening tips" as the weather hopefully improves and we spend more time in the garden.

From your responses we quickly understood that your focus was getting out and about, enjoying an early breakfast or a leisurely lunch al fresco. The gardening tips were largely recommending local nurseries and as many of these offer refreshments it made sense to combine these topics.

### Local places to visit:

We haven't got room to list all the places we have around us so we have cherry picked a few that kept coming up in your emails.

We suggest you check the facilities available prior to visiting. Some restaurants are offering take outs only and advance booking may be required.



**Dunham Massey (National Trust), Dunham Massey**  
*Ice cream reported to be good!*

**Lyme Park (National Trust), Disley**  
*We are still searching for Mr Darcy!*

**Elizabeth Gaskell House, Manchester**  
*There is a tea room and the Gaskell Society offer various talks and events*

**Little Moreton Hall (National Trust), Congleton**  
*Mrs Dale's tea room even has a log burner for nippy days*

**Quarry Bank Mill (National Trust), Styal**  
*Take away Pizza is reported to be a good choice*

**Speke Hall, (National Trust), Liverpool**  
*You can try their Wet Nelly, Liverpool Tart or Scouse & Pan Haggerty*

**Ginger & Pickles at Lowes Farm Shop, Byley**  
*Do great take out coffees for cyclists!*

**Brian Lowe's Spark Lane Nurseries,**  
*No cafe but he sells lovely vegetables & shrubs*

**Marbury Hall Nurseries, Marbury Park, Northwich**  
*No cafe, small but excellent quality and selection. Good for plant lovers!*

**Fol Hollow Nursery Ltd, Astbury, Congleton**  
*Small, helpful and reasonably priced*

**Astbury Meadow Garden Centre, Astley, Congleton**  
*Cafe plus gifts cards etc*

**The Smithy, Middlewich Road, Lower Peover**  
*Great for vegetables and seeds - contact Alan 07748 005471*

Confidence  
isn't thinking  
you are  
better than  
anyone else,  
it's realising  
that you  
have no  
reason to  
compare  
yourself to  
anyone else.

– Maryam Hasna

Lockdown has given us all time to reflect and make changes – some small, some big – some by choice, some by necessity. We have been reminded what's important to us. This ditty Helen sent us last week certainly struck a chord.



When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember ..... the Mayonnaise Jar and the 2 Beers.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous yes.

The professor then produced two Beers from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

Now, said the professor as the laughter subsided, I want you to recognise that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things---your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favourite passions---and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car.

The sand is everything else---the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, he continued, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.

The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house, take out the rubbish or deal with things from your job. Take care of the golf balls first---the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Beer represented. The professor smiled and said, 'I'm glad you asked. The Beer just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of Beers with a friend.'

Courtesy of Helen Skelton

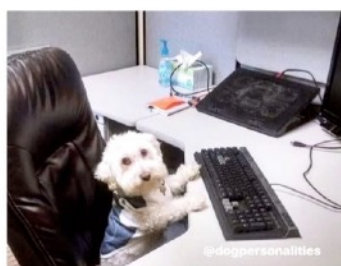
## GRAPEVINE SNIPPETS AND SMILES

This is where we share some funnies and hopefully you end your read with a smile. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this Grapevine.



"He's in pretty good shape considering you've been walking him backward."

Scott, 24. Lied on his CV to get the job. Makes cups of tea for the office every hour to distract his coworkers from his incompetence.



@dogpersonalities



I don't care how magnificent you are, the law says six.....



When you leave the Colin Caterpillar cake in the cupboard too long.



### THE GEOGRAPHY OF A WOMAN

Between 18 and 22, a woman is like Africa.  
Half discovered, half wild, fertile and naturally Beautiful!

Between 23 and 30, a woman is like Europe. Well developed and open to trade, especially for someone of real value.

Between 31 and 35, a woman is like Spain.  
Very hot, relaxed and convinced of her own beauty.

Between 36 and 40, a woman is like Greece. Gently aging but still a warm and desirable place to visit.

Between 41 and 50, a woman is like Great Britain. With a glorious and all conquering past.

Between 51 and 60, a woman is like Israel.  
Has been through war, doesn't make the same mistakes twice, and takes care of business.

Between 61 and 70, a woman is like Canada. Self-preserving, but open to meeting new people.

After 70, she becomes Tibet. Wildly beautiful, with a mysterious past and the wisdom of the ages. An adventurous spirit and a thirst for spiritual knowledge.

### THE GEOGRAPHY OF A MAN

Between 1 and 100, a man is like North Korea and Zimbabwe .

Ruled by a pair of nuts!!

Wetherspoons reveal design of special vaccine passport required before entering one of their pubs

