

# The Grapevine

## Monthly Newsletter

### President's Note



The WI Committee Meeting was eventually held on Thursday, May 27th, the weather relenting enough to enable members to sit outdoors. So lovely to be able to meet in person and plan restarting OPWI, albeit with cautious optimism.

All members are invited to A PICNIC IN THE PARK (the grounds of Peover Hall) on **Thursday, July 29th at 5.30pm**. This will be the initial WI meeting of 2021 and we have tried to select a date and time suitable for everyone, mindful that current Covid restrictions on numbers should be lifted on June 21st. Further details will follow separately, but hopefully picnic chairs and sun hats to the fore rather than rugs and waterproofs, plus the mandatory delectable treats and your favourite drink. Something to look forward to.

Another date for your diary is the Social Evening on **Thursday, August 26th** ... venue to be confirmed, more details to follow.

The Village Hall has had a face lift as the tubs have been potted up with a beautiful selection of plants sourced by Anne, with Judy, Angela, Jennie and Christine as assistant tub planters. Thank you all for your time.

Judy and I met at the Village Hall to check over the fabric of the building in preparation for meeting later this year. Basically, the Hall is in fairly good shape. We made a list of improvements/ repairs required before opening i.e. some new portable heaters (much needed in the winter) with the circuit board being upgraded to cater for the additional electrical requirements and a thorough deep clean of the building. A new draught excluder curtain is required to replace the torn one over the side exit door. The Village Hall Management Committee has received business continuity grants totalling over £20,000 during the last financial year.

Thank you for all your contributions for this edition of the Grapevine and to 'our editor in chief' Stevie who has yet again given her precious time for our benefit and enjoyment.

Thinking of all our members and their families at this time.

With best wishes to you all for an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

June





## PEOVER HALL NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN AFTERNOONS

Saturday, June 5th and Sunday, June 6th at 2pm to 5pm

OPWI has been asked to organise the teas on these two afternoons, our first class reputation for cakes and scones and the infamous bun loaves has clearly spread across the area.

Can you help serve? wash up etc on either of the afternoons please, just a couple of hours would be very helpful.

Calling all cake makers ....volunteers to make large cakes, scones, lemon drizzle cakes, bun loaves, gluten free cakes please.

Barbara has kindly volunteered to compile a list of volunteers to help on the day or to make cakes or both. Cakes can either be brought along on the afternoon if you are helping or brought to the Peover Hall tea rooms from mid morning on each day.

Contact details for Barbara

T: 01625 860 239 M: 07973453823 E: [bwilson3759@gmail.com](mailto:bwilson3759@gmail.com)

Money raised by the WI will be donated to Christies at Macclesfield ....a most worthwhile cause. Thank you all in advance.

## OUT & ABOUT ... GARDENS, SHOWS & HALLS



Having been denied our freedom for such a long time, didn't that first coffee with friends, lunch or dinner out feel like a real treat.

Whilst demand is high for some places and this is being reflected in the prices, there are deals to be had. We hear that the Egerton Arms are doing 50% off food Tuesday to Thursday after 4pm as a welcome back offer. They ask you to book on line but you can phone if you prefer. Hazel tells us that she had a lovely meal and was able to sit inside! - **that's one added to the list - thanks Hazel.**

Some of us have ventured further afield, even stayed overnight! The Peak district is within an easy drive and places like Chatsworth have reopened - as with most popular attractions, pre booking is essential for the Hall and the Restaurant.

The new RHS Bridgewater Gardens in Worsley have been in the news recently and for those lucky enough to have visited already, we hear it is worth the trip and as Ingrid commented "it will be interesting to see how the gardens evolve over the years" (**sounds like you had a good day Ingrid**). The Gardens open 10am - 6pm and you will need to prebook a time slot. They also have a garden centre and shop. The Tatton Flower show is returning this year (Wed 21 - Sun 25 July) and tickets are available online.

Janet told us she had visited Wollerton Old Hall Garden near Market Drayton before Covid and thought members might enjoy it, as with Chatsworth, some of you may have visited it already. It seemed timely to give Wollerton a mention. The venue boasts 4 acres of English country garden, full of vibrant and interesting planting and has been awarded many accolades. Tickets are available on line.

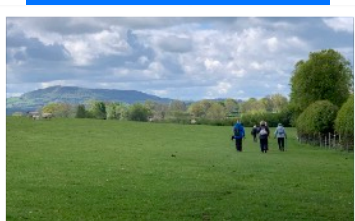
**Thanks Janet, definitely one to visit!**



## Gawsworth walk was full of nature's delights...



A quick photo  
before we start



Beautiful views  
& countryside



Refreshments at  
Bosley Locks



It was sunny and dry but having had torrential rain the day before, it was no surprise that everyone turned up in waterproofs. We were taking no chances that the forecast of showers might arrive early. A quick photoshoot and we set off (7 WI members, 1 guest and canine regular Poppy). Although Covid rules allowed us to walk as a group, Barbara was on hand to remind us, **some of us regularly**, that this still meant we kept socially distanced.

We chatted as we walked through the lush fields against the backdrop of the rolling Derbyshire hills to the sound of lambs bleating. The path took us beside a lake where we delighted in seeing a raft of ducks with ducklings in tow. As we walked past a line of trees, the chaff burst into song and we caught a fleeting sight of 3 donkeys as they ran by. This was becoming more of a nature trail.

We continued across a road and into another field to be met by sheep acting as a 'rolling road block'. No worries, we had Julia to guide us past them considerably. Back onto tarmac flanked by woodland and blue bells, we continued until we joined the canal. An ideal spot for a refreshment break.

Hydrated, we continued along the towpath, admiring the little gardens created by the narrow boat owners. Having reached a bridge, we were given a couple of route options. Barbara and Chrissy had kindly reced two routes - **thank you**. We decided to continue as a group on the more direct route back to Gawsworth. As we neared the end of the walk, 3 off us went on ahead (**work and lunch called**) and as we descended to the Hall, we caught a glimpse of Jodrell Bank through the trees - what a wonderful walk it had been and we had escaped the rain.

The next walk is planned for **Tuesday, June 22nd**. Full details to follow.

## CHESHIRE SHOW .. HAVE YOU SENT YOUR ENTRY IN?

OPWI has been well represented at previous shows - let's not make this year any different. Thus far there have been very few entries, so come on get your thinking caps on and take some pictures. A reminder of the categories is below and Ann has further details if you need them.

**Class 1. What Went Wrong?** - A photo of any lockdown disaster

**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.

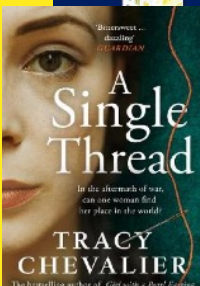
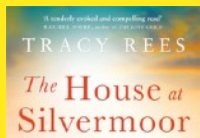
**Class 4. Lockdown achievement.** Any new skill learnt; something created; art, garden, pottery, etc.

**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.

If anyone needs any assistance the Grapevine team are happy to help with the technology and submissions.





At last our other interest groups have been able to meet up and resume their activities. Mindful of Covid rules, the groups met safely and observed the necessary social distancing.

### Readers get straight down to business ...

The readers met up at Julia's house and Ann explains "how good it was to see each other again and so much to talk about - but business first, we discussed the books we had read since our last meeting. Then on to a fairly wide choice for the next few weeks.

After a quick look at them we decided to agree on one 'compulsory' read and then 'free' choice of one or more books. Finally we settled on 'The House at Silvermoor' by Tracy Rees - a story of two children growing up in a Yorkshire coal mining area and their efforts to find a better life. A glimpse of life underground and the hardships endured. A fairly easy read.

The other choices were - 'The Dutch House' by Anne Patchett, 'The Music Shop' by Rachael Joyce, 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig, 'A Single Thread' by Tracy Chevalier ( an interesting mix of church embroidery and bell ringing) and 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stewart - a hard but fascinating read about life in the Gorbals of Glasgow, some knowledge of Scottish vernacular would be useful!

Business completed, we were ready for, and really enjoyed, a cup of tea and a good chat!

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 6th at 2.30 pm.**"

### Embroiderers finally get back to stitching ..

Needles polished, threads dusted, the embroidery group finally came out of hibernation (**well it felt like it**) and met for the first time in many months. Zoom had not been a viable option and so the embroiderers have been going it alone during lockdown. Some had some wonderful lockdown achievements, others had been less creative (**enough said!**) Under the careful tutorage of Sue Newhouse we were all quickly stitching and chatting. The morning flew by and we were back in our stride, **well those of us that lost it!**

It was just so nice to be back!



## GRAPEVINE SNIPPETS AND SMILES

Thank you to everyone that sent items in, we hope they bring a smile and maybe the odd groan.

Woman in court, charged with stealing a tin of peaches. Judge asked "how many peaches were in the tin?" To which she replied "there were 4".

He told her that she would serve 1 month for every peach.

As she was being led away, her husband shouted from the public gallery .. "AND SHE STOLE A TIN OF PEAS" ...



**Piano Tuner**

I have come to tune your piano

**Man**

I didn't send for you

**Piano Tuner**

No your neighbours did!

Had my first jab today and thought I was hallucinating when I saw the Honey Monster. Then I realised it was a woman reading a magazine 🤔



When I was in my younger days,  
I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in  
to wear a belted dress.  
But now that I am older,  
I've set my body free:  
There's the comfort of elastic  
where once my waist would be.  
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes  
my feet have not forgiven:  
I have to wear a nine now,  
but used to wear a seven.  
And how about those pantyhose -  
They're sized by weight, you see,  
so how come when I put them on  
the crotch is at my knee?  
I need to wear these glasses  
as the print's been getting smaller:  
And it wasn't very long ago  
I know that I was taller.  
Though my hair has turned to gray  
And my skin no longer fits;  
On the inside, I'm the same old me,  
It's the outside's changed a bit.

Once upon a  
time there lived  
a king who was  
only 12" tall.  
He was a  
terrible king  
but he made a  
great ruler ...

Is that a groan  
we hear !!

When its probably ok to use a  
very rude word!

