

WHITLEY W.I. News



WI Picnic

Following our WI committee at the end of July we have decided to try and organise an informal get-together for interested members at the Village Hall on Wednesday 19th August 4.00-5.30pm. You should have already received an email from Jean about this.

We will of course be following social distancing guidelines and ask that you bring your own chair if possible and your own refreshments, if required.

To book a place please email Melanie at melanie.barber@btinternet.com

CFWI 'Zoom' meetings

Several Whitley members joined the Zoom meetings organised by CFWI. The first one had speaker Peter McGleave talking about his experience setting up the stem cell research charity 10000donors.com. Over 170 members joined in the virtual meeting which worked surprisingly well and included lots of questions at the end of the presentation.

Welcome to our August Newsletter

From our President

We are starting to make our first tentative steps towards meeting up with our WI members. Various subgroups have been busy keeping in touch virtually and a handful of members met up for a socially distance ramble in July. Following Jean's email about the proposed picnic, your link committee member will be in touch to canvas your views on re-opening and what a WI meeting might look like in the near future. We are exploring all sorts of ideas and welcome your views.

Hoping to see some more of you soon

Chris Jones

Attached with this newsletter is a letter from NFWI announcing the proposed permanent closure of Denman college. Many of you have been on courses over the years and had wonderful experiences. Our most recent bursary winner Eleanor Evans describes her stay there earlier this year on page 3. The closing of Denman will be a great loss to the WI but maybe more local alternative facilities will come to light instead.

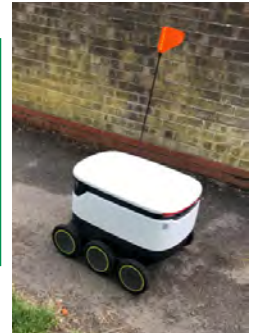


June Smither sends her sincere thanks to everyone from Whitley WI for their cards, messages and beautiful pink orchid sent for her recent 90th birthday. June was overwhelmed and had a magical week of celebrations!

Huge thanks go to Harry Mosedale for making us a stand for the plaque to go by our CFWI centenary tree



Our president Chris Jones spotted this out and about on a recent day out - is this the way the future will look!



Susan Lynch has a vegetable garden to be proud of and is shown here cutting a cauliflower for her Mum, Joan Blackshaw's tea!



Annette has turned her attention to these lovely cuddly hedgehogs - especially effective with sparkly wool!

Joan Blackshaw sent in this poem aptly describing the current extraordinary times. It had been attributed to a 19th century poet but was actually written by a retired teacher from the USA this spring

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Remember the cute fluffy chicks in June's newsletter? Just look how much they have grown! Well done Chris!



Our treasurer Pat Sharp has now got her sewing machine fixed so is making lots of bags and a few aprons ready to sell on a WI craft stall at Rose Queen 2021

For those of us missing our foreign travel, Pat has devised a 'Let's travel the World' quiz which is attached to this mailing - answers next month



Sally Riley completed this lovely watercolour entitled *Street scene South of France* after only her 5th lesson on 'zoom' - amazing!

Please send us any photos and news/ tips for next months newsletter to whitleywi20@gmail.com

Jean is still waiting to hear from members about their own personal experiences of the coronavirus lockdown. It could be a poem, a limerick or just a short paragraph or two just giving an insight into what the past few months have been like for you. Please email to Jean who has offered to collate them into a document we can all share.

In July members of the walking group joined Ann O'Brien on a ramble to the Daresbury Firs. The wild flowers were abundant and the rain stayed away. Here they are socially distancing!



What does it mean when a butterfly lands on you?

This happened to Chris Jones when sitting in a neighbour's garden recently.

Google gives you some amazing answers!

Didn't we have a lovely time those days we spent at Denman

I have listened with interest over the years as members, who have visited Denman to attend one of the many courses on offer, have 'reported back' with such positive comments. I was delighted therefore to be awarded a bursary from Whitley WI which would allow me to try the 'Denman Experience' myself.

With two other Whitley members we identified a 'Bumper Crafting' 'Take-Away' course in February 2020 which would involve us in making some small craft projects using different techniques and various materials. The finished items could then be taken away to be used as home decorations or to be given as gifts or the ideas shared with others.

We travelled to Oxford by train and taxied to Denman where we soon settled into our allocated rooms. Mine was sponsored and decorated by the Oxford County Federation in a peaceful turquoise colour scheme. It was soon time for dinner then on to our first session introducing our course tutor Natalie Green who showed us the different projects we could try our hand at.

Following breakfast the next day at 9:00 am we eager students were assembled in the craft room waiting to start our first project. We started out with making folded fabric flower corsages to Japanese design known as Kanzashi Flowers, using folding and stitching to create a 3D flowers, finished off with a fabric 'yoyo' centre and a decorative button. Once the technique is mastered they can be quickly made and used to compliment a new outfit or incorporated into other decorative projects

We then went on to make some hand-made buttons and beads using polymer modelling clay, not something I had use before and quite an art to get the clay to soften sufficiently to mould and model without cracking and breaking, prior to curing in an oven. Good fun though and despite lots of muttering and giggles from myself, which probably drove everyone else mad. I really enjoyed it and was pleased to produce some 'passable' items in the end. I guess practice makes perfect in this case.

During the course of the day we moved on to a small felting project, again a technique that was new to me and I can quite easily see how it can become addictive, something quite therapeutic in stabbing the needle quickly up and down and creating a flat surface. We made flower petals which again can be incorporated into other projects or used to make decorative brooches or hair ornaments. After lunch we had a quick overview on the use of Washi tape, another Japanese craft product which can be easily used to make decorative greetings cards and for covering photo frames and tins and boxes. When used in conjunction with buttons and trimmings to decorate you can quickly make a gift or card with a personal touch.

We were busy all afternoon making Tassel Bag charms, with fork Pom Poms and Button Bracelets and Bouquets and learned how to up-cycle tiles and coasters using a special glue varnish and pretty wrapping paper.

I think all three of us would have liked to have completed one of the little fabric pictures mounted in a embroidery hoop that Natalie demonstrated but unfortunately we did not have the time but hopefully something we can try at home. Suffice to say I found the whole day lots of fun, learnt a number of new techniques, generated some new ideas, made new acquaintances and shared lots of laughter and good hearted banter.

The following morning we had the opportunity to look in on the other classes taking place including ribbon embroidery and of course the cookery school before our final lunch then

off to the station to return back to Cheshire. We had all enjoyed our 3 day break!

Little did we know that in a few weeks time the seriousness of the Coronavirus pandemic would lead us into lockdown and various stages of distancing from each other.

