

WHITLEY W.I. News



The 1st anniversary issue of our WI newsletter!

FUTURE WI MEETINGS

APRIL 1st WI meeting

Angela McIntyre is joining us to tell us about her work over 23 years with vulnerable and homeless people at the Cornerstone Day Centre. If you would like to join us please email Melanie for a zoom link on

melanie.barber@btinternet.com

May 6th WI meeting

One of our members, Janet Patterson will be talking about her experiences working for Save the Children. You may remember seeing Janet on TV in May last year regarding the issues charity shops face in light of the clearing out we had all been doing during lockdown and the fact that most of the volunteers who help run the shops are over 70.

See the diary dates overleaf for more opportunities to join CFWI zoom meetings featuring inspirational women and of course our own impressive list of sub groups.

From your President Chris Jones

Being a WI president over this most unusual year has been a new challenge for my team and me.

We felt it was important to keep in touch with our members so we used a combination of a monthly newsletter and telephone calls. Our phone calls have resulted in new friendships over this time and support for each other when needed.

As the year unfolded, we realised the pandemic was not going to be a 'quick fix' and we had to embrace the technology option. I appreciate this is not for everyone and it has its difficulties when we have poor internet connections, or you just prefer not to use them. We do understand and want you to remember that we haven't forgotten you.

Our Zoom Christmas meeting was a success and this gave us confidence to continue and start new subgroups. Working with virtual subgroups has given us the opportunity to meet members whom we hadn't spoken to previously. Sharing interests is a good way of meeting people. The subgroups are well supported and produce lots of laughter and learning.

As yet we are not sure when face to face meetings can resume and there may be restrictions on numbers when we do. In the meantime we will try and give you a varied programme of speakers and subgroup meetings to keep you entertained.

We will resume meetings when it is safe to do so with guidance to keep you safe. Until then, best wishes to you and your families and keep well. I do hope you join us again this year.

Gifts for pre-school

As Easter approaches the craft group have been busy knitting bunnies. Chief bunny (Annette!) delivered a basket of bunnies to the children at pre-school who were all thrilled.



Annette then went on to the WI centenary tree and added some rather splendid hedgehogs to yet more bunnies for a seasonal focus.



Zoom meeting Diary Dates

Thursday 1st - 7.30pm Main meeting - Angela McIntyre "Working with the homeless"

Wednesday 7th - 7.30pm Book club led by Helen Carey

Friday 9th - 10.15am Positive Planet group led by Gill Alcock

Monday 12th - 7.30pm "Talking about Art" led by Karen Smith

Tuesday 13th - 7.30pm CFWI Arts and Crafts show you how to upcycle a well loved jumper

Wednesday 14th - 1.30pm Craft club led by Annette Minor

Wednesday 14th - 7.30pm CFWI zoom - Kirsty Murphy the first and only female Red Arrows pilot

Monday 19th - 10.30am Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 21st - 1.15pm CFWI zoom - Sue Kendall recalling her experiences of being a contestant on Mastermind

Thursday 22nd - 7.30pm Committee meeting

Tuesday 27th - 1.30pm Baking Beauties led by Jonty Jones talking about fruit cakes!

Wednesday 28th - 7.30pm CFWI zoom Claire Birkenshaw - the first transgender headteacher to transition in post

For more details of events run by CFWI visit their website at cheshire.org.uk and look at events

To join other meetings contact Melanie for a link

SUBS

Following the extension of 3 months to last year's subscription, this year's subs are now due. There are details of how to pay in the attachment sent with this newsletter.

If you are a new member or know of a prospective new member then contact our Treasurer Pat Sharp on patsysharp@gmail.com who can provide the Membership forms.

For this year only Annette (our MCS rep) will retain membership forms from last year with members details on. If you have changed email, phone number or address in the last twelve months please let Annette know on anneteminor@btinternet.com

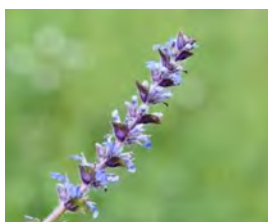
Whitley WI Positive Planet Group

'I didn't think climate action was my thing, but now I'm really enthusiastic', said Joan Blackshaw, after seven of us spent a jolly hour together earlier in March, brainstorming ideas for good, doable ways to protect and enhance our local environment. Following up on the article in the last Newsletter, we now have the birth of the latest Whitley WI sub-group – our Positive Planet group.

It's really encouraging to realise just how much Whitley WI members are already doing, and how with a few tweaks we can achieve even more. This was the focus of the brainstorm, between Chris Jones, Melanie, Pat Sharp, Annette, Helen Carey, Joan Blackshaw and Gill Alcock.



So what's on the agenda? A Whitley WI Challenge for 2021! We hope that everyone in Whitley WI who has a garden, a window box or a planter - will choose to grow one thing in 2021 to help wildlife – bees, butterflies, birds, whatever. (You don't have to stop at one!) But you can also do less than before! Maybe do one job fewer – to allow a small wild patch to develop.



Pat Sharp has pulled together many really practical tips and suggestions for the Gardening Group and is happy to share these more widely. Later on we hope to share photos of what we are doing so we can celebrate our efforts!

Secondly, we encourage our other Whitley WI groups to think about a climate – friendly angle to what they do –cooking, crafts, bookclub etc. Maybe have one of your meetings on how what you love doing can contribute to helping our planet and environment?

We also came up with some great ideas for speakers for our WI meetings later this year and into 2022.

This is just a taster of what we managed to come up with together – and of course there were laughs along the way too. We are meeting again on Friday 9th April at 10.15 by zoom, and everyone is very welcome. We'd love to hear your ideas!

Melanie Barber can send you the zoom link, and you can also contact Gill Alcock on 01925 730153 or galcock@phonecoop.coop, or any of the seven of us, for a chat as well.

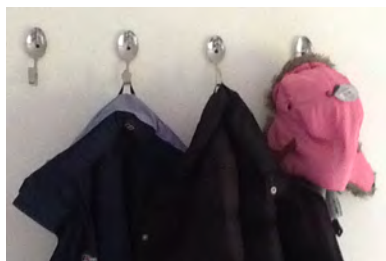
All things feet!

At our monthly meeting in March members enjoyed an illuminating talk by local podiatrist Fenella Lipkin on the importance of looking after our feet and also some of the most common causes of visits to her practice. Fenella shared her insight into how we can improve our foot health - well fitting shoes playing an expected important role. We then enjoyed a light hearted quiz - who knew that the UK shoe sizing system is based on barleycorns (a hand or 4" = 12 barleycorns) before enjoying a chat in our break out rooms.



Coffee morning

Over the last couple of months a range of topics have been covered in our coffee morning chats. Decorating featured heavily in February and Jontyn shared her tip of using tablespoons as interesting coat hooks in her boot room.



Last month members talked about their favourite coffee mugs many of which stirred up memories from places visited or were just 'the right shape'!

Baking Beauties

Our second meeting covered 'all things pastry'. Light hearted discussions ranged from type of fat and flour used, tins or dishes and even, controversially, adding sugar to the mix. Members enjoyed a good laugh and all picked up a tip or two along the way. Many were aghast at Jenny's tip of adding cornflour to the apples when making apple pie only to find out that Mary Berry includes it in one of her pie recipes too! Next month fruit cakes are the topic under review.



Joan Blackshaw's Local History talk

37 members, including 11 from Dutton WI joined our latest zoom meeting to hear Joan tell us about the history of four local buildings and the families and connections between them all. Joan has taken advantage of lockdown to research the history of Grimsditch Hall, Chetwode Arms, Bradley Hall Appleton and Vale Royal Abbey and the intricacies of interconnections between the families who lived there over the last centuries. So many interesting stories were brought to life and I'm sure many members will look at our local area with renewed interest.



CHESHIRE NEWS

Our very own Pat Sharp is the new editor of Cheshire News and her first edition is hot off the press. We have limited copies and will do our best to distribute them to groups of members who could possibly pass a copy on to a fellow WI member close by if required.

Queen Elizabeth is 95 on the 21st April. Joan Blackshaw reminds us of the lovely card our member Norah Mosedale sent to celebrate her 90th birthday and the lovely reply we received.

