

# Annual Report Whitley WI 2021



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
CARRY  
ON**

# Our Committee and Members



The Subscription year changed to April.  
As of November 2021 we have 68 members signed up.

# Our Annual Meeting 2020

Annual Report  
Whitley WI 2020



*A Year Like No Other*

- Following successful committee meetings run on zoom the committee decided to try our first main meeting on Zoom for our Annual Meeting.
- 24 members joined in for a look back on what had been an extraordinary year for everyone.
- Everything went surprisingly smoothly!
- Chris thanked Sally Riley for her work on committee especially as speaker's hostess.

# Christmas Goody Bags

Committee and other crafty members worked hard to produce a Christmas gift bag for every member. Each bag contained a jar of jam or chutney, a tree decoration, a chocolate treat and a Christmas poem and was accompanied by a hand painted card and personalised label. All were hand delivered by committee members



# December – our Christmas Party



Chris Jones' second and very different and difficult year as President of Whitley WI was rounded off by an alternative Zoom Christmas party.

38 members joined in the fun!

# Christmas Party Pictures



Members were encouraged to wear festive headgear



# Remember the trees!



And we even had carols and Auld Lang Syne



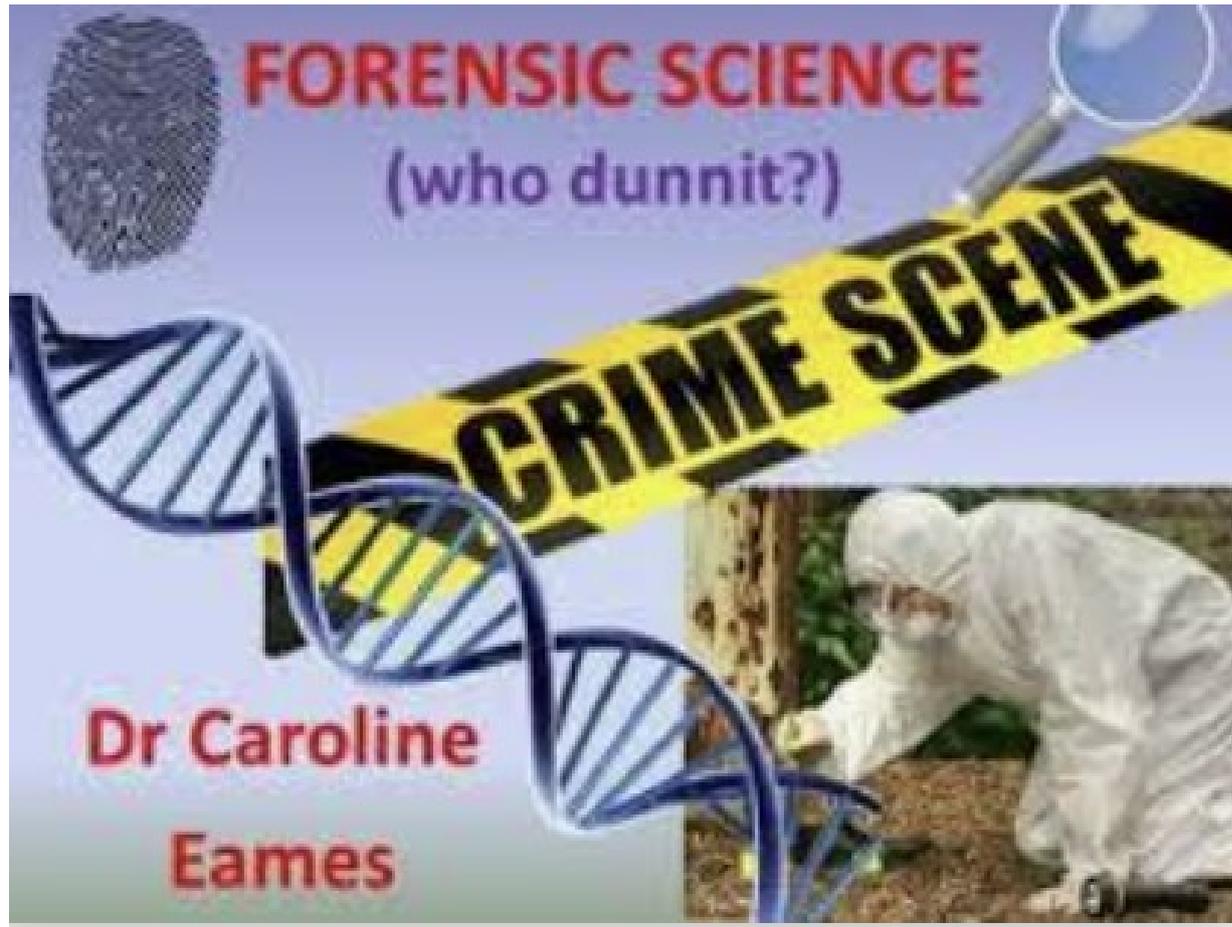
# January - Jen Quayle



Local vet Jen Quayle took us on a trip to Mongolia to learn about the endangered bactrian camels living there.

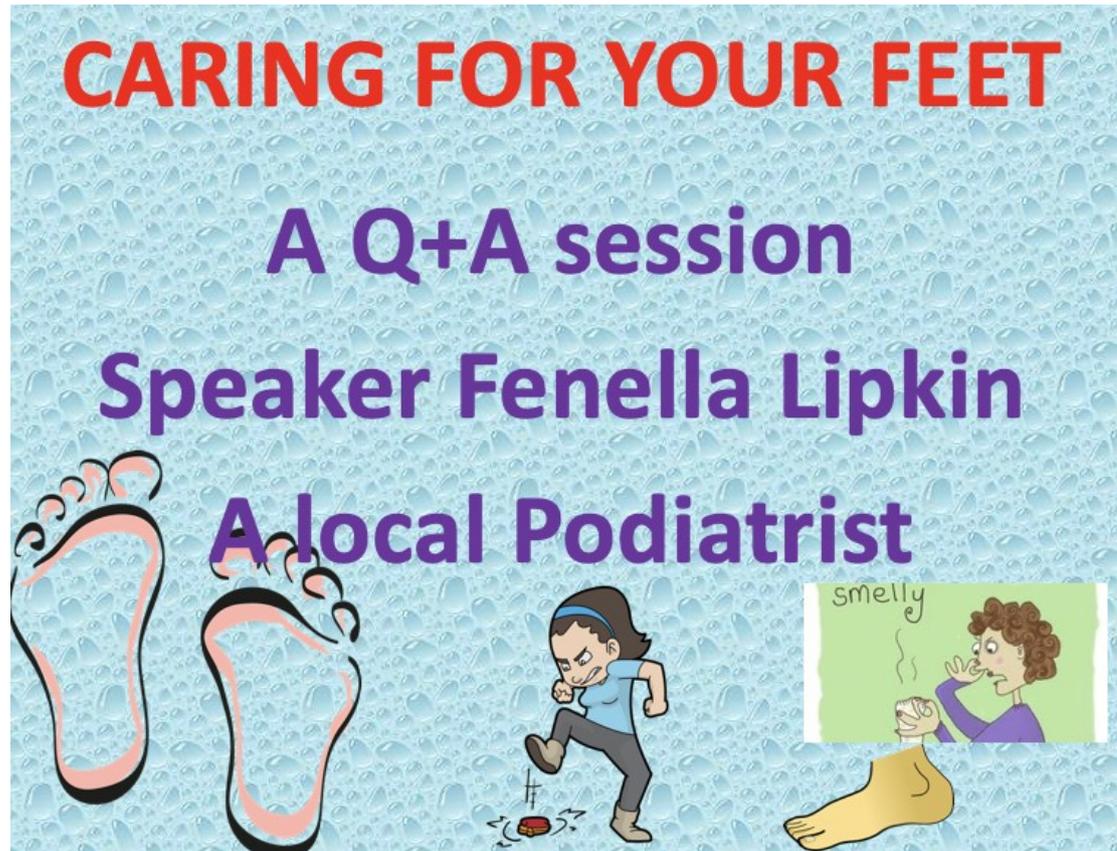


# February –Caroline Eames



Caroline has worked as a forensic scientist for over 30 years and gave us an insight into how traces that criminals leave behind can be used to help solve a crime

# March – Fenella Lipkin



Fenella, a local podiatrist took questions on a variety of foot related problems and warned us of the dangers of neglecting our feet!

# April Meeting - Angela McIntyre

Angela told us about her 23 years working with vulnerable and homeless people at the Cornerstone Day Centre in Manchester



# May Meeting - Janet Patterson

Whitley WI member Janet Patterson told of her experiences working for Save the Children including a trip to Mozambique to see how some of the money raised in the UK is used to set up projects overseas



# June Meeting - Rina Tillinger

## **TIPTOE THROUGH the TOMBSTONES of CHESHIRE**

*'A Historical and  
humorous  
talk involving  
interesting Inscriptions  
and Epitaphs'*

**Speaker is  
RINA TILLINGER**

**JOINT MEETING WITH  
DUTTON WI**



# July Meeting - Murray Jacobs

Using google maps and archive photos Murray gave us a tour of the must-see street in Cambridge – Kings Parade



# August Meeting - Whitley Olympics

At last we could get back to a face-to-face meeting although we did observe social distancing guidelines.

What fun we had !

So lovely to see peoples' smiles and hear the laughter as we competed for our gold medals!



# September - Andrew Thwaite

What a treat –  
members enjoyed  
tasting the  
delicious  
chocolates  
Andrew made for  
us – it all looked  
so easy !



# October - Surprise speaker!

Joan Blackshaw stepped in at the last minute and shared her findings about the confusing world of recycling plastics and looking for alternatives



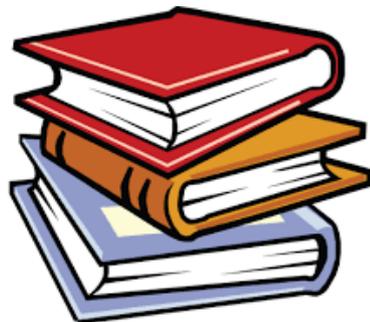
# Social Groups

Many of our social sub-groups moved onto Zoom to keep in touch with members and enjoyed monthly meetings through the winter and spring

**WALK &**



**TALK**



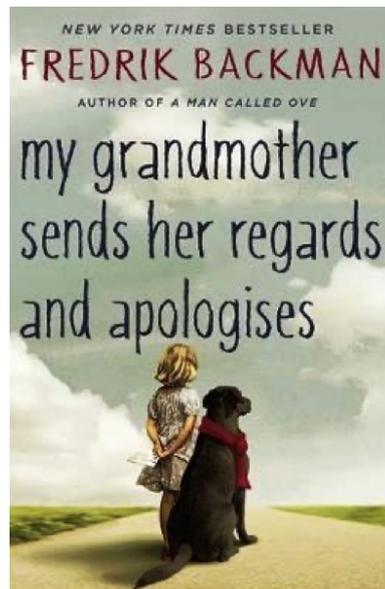
As soon as restrictions allowed the walking group started up with groups of 6 members walking together.

Other groups resumed face to face meetings as summer approached

# Book Club

Members met on zoom and discussed the books they had been reading during the latest lockdown

The latest two books have been discussed at face to face meetings at the Village Hall



# Walking group

From zoom chats over coffee to socially distanced walks in groups of 6 you can see how the walks have changed as the restrictions were lifted !



# Craft Group

Many members managed to finish projects started long ago – 35 years ago in one case!

The craft group kept the WI tree suitably decorated marking the green hearts – Show the Love campaign in February, Easter bunnies and wildlife in the garden in June

Members have managed to knit over 500 poppies to mark the centenary of the British Legion and this will be displayed from 6<sup>th</sup> November



# Garden Group

Pat Sharp managed to complete her photographic year of gardens and nature around Whitley using images supplied by members  
Pat even managed to set it all to music!



# New Sub-groups

## Baking Beauties

Chris Jones & Jonty Jones initiated this group on zoom initially

A theme is chosen – meringue, frozen desserts, traybakes etc,

Members bake, discuss and then taste! What is not to like !



## Art Group

Karen Smith started this group on zoom to promote a discussion about art and the group has gone from strength to strength.

They were painting in the garden in June!



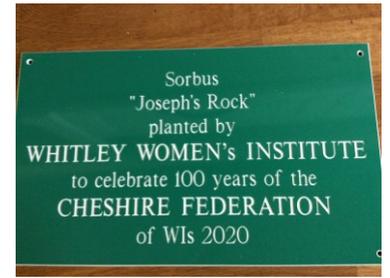
# Positive Planet

Gill Alcock gathered interested members to discuss ways we could as individuals promote a more sustainable life and address some of the issues involved in climate change

For **The Great Big Green Week** we built a bug hotel!



# Our Centenary Tree



Our Centenary tree has been a focus of attention throughout the last 12 months thanks to Annette Minor and her craft group



Look out for November 6<sup>th</sup>!



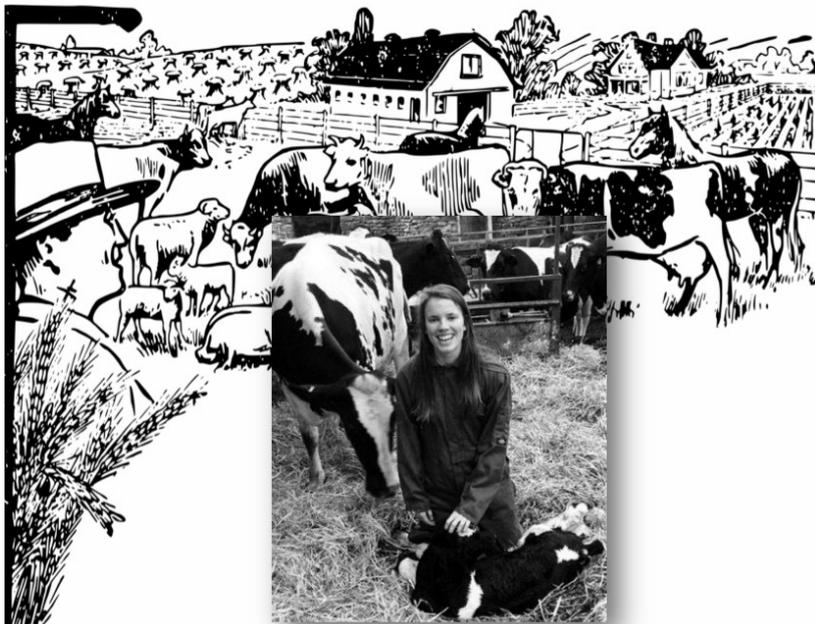
# Local History

In March our very own Joan Blackshaw gave Whitley and Dutton members an insight into four local buildings on Zoom: Grimsditch Hall, Chetwode Arms, Bradley Hall Appleton and Vale Royal Abbey



# Village Group

We have enjoyed two zoom group meetings



**'That Awkward Age'**  
A hilarious tale of growing up in the  
countryside  
by Lydia Slack

Nicki Matlow -  
Swizzles Sweets



# Cheshire Federation

CFWI put on at least two zoom meetings a month following the theme of 'Inspirational Women'

Many Whitley members joined these and enjoyed a wide variety of talks including a Red Arrows pilot, a wannabe astronaut and three Syrian refugees who set up the charity Syrian Women across borders

CFWI also organised a 'Virtual Cheshire Show' following the cancellation of the in person event in June

# WI NEWSLETTER

## Keeping members in touch

Issue 2 2021

### WHITLEY W.I. News

February 2021

#### FUTURE WI MEETINGS

##### February 4th WI meeting

Caroline Eames is joining us for our February meeting. Caroline has been working as a forensic scientist for over 30 years and will explain how traces that criminals leave behind can be detected and used to solve a crime. If you would like to join us please email Melanie for a Zoom link on [melanie.barber@btinternet.com](mailto:melanie.barber@btinternet.com)

##### March 4th WI meeting

We can confirm that Fenella Lipkin from The Bridge Podiatry will be joining us for our March meeting to discuss the importance of looking after our feet. If you have any foot related questions you would like to put to Fenella then please contact Chris Jones on [chris79.jones@cloud.com](mailto:chris79.jones@cloud.com) or [melanie.barber@btinternet.com](mailto:melanie.barber@btinternet.com) above and they will be passed on to Fenella to discuss at the meeting.

##### Happy Birthday Whitley WI

This month Whitley WI celebrates its 83rd birthday. If you are joining us for our February meeting then why not bring along a piece of cake. Below are a few of the stunning birthday cakes we have had at our meetings over the years. How many do you remember?



##### Resolutions

Mary Highmore (our Public Affairs Liaison) and Jones attended a CFWI briefing on this year and led our own Resolutions Zoom meeting and members had a lively discussion and cast 1 we had a few extra sent in to CFWI and will be have all been sent in to CFWI and will be nationally. We will be advised later in the resolution will be taken forward to the Meeting.

For more information on any of the above visit [www.whitleywi.org.uk](http://www.whitleywi.org.uk)

Issue 1 2021

### WHITLEY W.I. News

January 2021

#### FUTURE WI MEETINGS

##### January 7th WI meeting

We are pleased to be able to welcome Jen Quayle MRCVS to our January meeting. Many members will remember Jen telling us about her exploits a couple of years ago, moving two elephants from Knowsley safari park to a zoo in France. This time Jen is relating her 'Tails from Mongolia' describing her experiences of a working holiday conducting research on the Bactrian camels in this remote part of the world. If you would like to join us please email Melanie for a zoom link on [melanie.barber@btinternet.com](mailto:melanie.barber@btinternet.com)

##### February 4th WI meeting

We can confirm that Caroline Eames, a Forensic scientist booked for April 2020 will be able to join us for our February meeting.

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##### From your President Chris Jones

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

##### Christmas this year has been very different for us all, being separated from family and friends. However, many of us have enjoyed the challenge of having to adapt and embrace new opportunities. Please spread the word to your WI friends who are yet to be initiated into the world of 'zoom' that it is n difficult and is great fun to be able to see people catch up. I would love to welcome you all!

##### Best wishes for 2021, Chris

##### Our President Chris Jones member Ann O'Brien, centenary tree the f treatment.

##### A few days later adding the final

##### Pat Sharp would love to receive some wintry photos for her garden group compilation. Maybe some visitors to a birdtable or a brave snowdrop!

For more information on any of the above visit [www.whitleywi.org.uk](http://www.whitleywi.org.uk)

Issue 4 2021

### WHITLEY W.I. News

April 2021

#### 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](mailto: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 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.

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2019



2021



Whitley WI's Friendship Tree has blossomed over the last three years  
Thank you Chris

# Looking Forward to 2022

The last 12 months have been a challenge for us all.

Many of us have embraced the technology that has enabled us to stay in touch and can now 'Zoom' with confidence

Hopefully looking back we can be proud of what we have achieved as a WI and enjoyed the

## Friendship, Learning and Fun

**As the saying goes –**

**Onwards and upwards!**

