February 2023

WHITLEY W.I. News



FUTURE WI MEETINGS

Thursday 2nd February

At our main meeting this month Karen Hodgkins from Pet's Pantry in Stockton Heath will be talking about her 3 month sabbatical in Laos and Thailand. The competition is for a

pet photo or item

Thursday 16th February

is our Birthday Celebration. Come along and join us for tea and cake at the Village Hall from 2pm -3.30pm. If you haven't booked your place yet then please let a committee member know if you are planning to join us - just so we don't run out of sandwiches!

Thursday 2nd March

We will be celebrating all things Welsh so bring along your favourite welsh souvenir and an unusual daffodil or two, if you have them, so we can make a stunning display. 'Mwynhau' (enjoy)

From your President

Our speaker in January was Sarah Darlington who gave us an insight into the history of the family business, Mrs

Darlington's jams and chutneys. We all enjoyed a taste of the lemon curd recipe that started the business off when the family had a surplus of cracked eggs to use up! I'm hoping Sarah may have inspired some of you to have a go at making your



own jam or preserve and enter it into the Cheshire Show Produce section under the title 'Sugar and Spice'! In addition to our own regular monthly sub-group meetings, Cheshire Federation have sent details of numerous events and workshops to sign up including stewarding and providing cakes and preserves for the Cheshire Show. Make sure to check the events table at Thursday's meeting.

Melanie Barber



For more information on any of the above visit www.whitleywi.org.uk

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Diary Dates

February 2023

Thursday 2nd February - main meeting 7.30pm WVH Karen Hodgkins - Pet's, Pantries and Saving the Planet

Monday 6th February - Book Club 10am WVH *The Kindness Project* by Sam Binnie

Tuesday 7th February -Walking Group - Ann O'Brien is leading a walk along the Whitegate way. Meet at village hall at 10am

Wednesday 8th February -Scrabble 7.30pm WVH

Wednesday 15th February -Craft Club 1.30pm Whitley Village Hall. Cheshire Show brainstorm

Thursday 16th February - 2pm Afternoon Tea Birthday party WVH

Thursday 16th February - WI Committee Meeting 7.30pm WVH

Friday 24th February - Baking Beauties 1.30pm WVH. Gingerbread people

Monday 27th February -Community Coffee morning 10.30am Whitley Village Hall

Monday 27th February - Art Group 1.30pm at WVH -Daffodils

MARCH

Thursday 2nd March - main meeting celebrating all things Welsh

Wednesday 8th March - Village Group WI with comedian Jamie Sutherland

Whitley's longest serving member - Irene Robinson

I was so very pleased and surprised to be presented with a certificate for being a member of Whitley WI for over 70 years. Over the past 70 years I have seen many changes: Until recently I was a member of the Weaver Valley WI Choir, which began life as Whitely WI Choir, and I'm proud

to say I was a member from its inauguration. We were certainly a WI who loved performing, as in the early days we also had a Drama Group, which I joined with my Mum, Mary, and we put on concerts for the village, holding them in the Assembly Rooms at the Grimsditch Mill. Miss



Rumney, who lived at Grimsditch Hall had a treasure trove of wonderful costumes, including fabulous dresses with bustles, which she allowed us to use. It was a time of great fun and laughter as you can imagine.

I have always loved being part of the WI, and I am proud to be a member of such an active, lively and varied WI as Whitley, and it has helped me maintain a strong link with the village I grew up in, until I defected to Comberbach when I married George in 1961! Our WI has changed and evolved over the years and in doing so has maintained a strong, loyal membership, and most importantly has attracted younger members as well as the oldies like myself!

Resolutions 2023

You are welcome to join our resolutions discussion meeting on **Monday 30th Jan at 2- 3pm** for further discussion prior to our vote at Thursday's meeting.



For more information on any of the above visit www.whitleywi.org.uk

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Craft group

What a lovely fun afternoon getting to grips with the art of crochet. There was some frustration and some members found it much easier than others! At least we all know now what crochet is all about and whether we want to 'attack' it when we need a challenge.

It was wonderful to see all Joan Pattinson's work over the years - and have her company again. Something to aspire to!









Baking Beauties

This month the topic was a family recipe. Nine members met to offer their recipe, some to honour a family member, others searched very old cook books for inspiration. This resulted in a variety of bakes including a luncheon cake dating back to 1899 using a lot less sugar than todays cakes, and still tasted delicious. Other bakes included egg custard, tea breads, apple cake, walnut bars, Anzac biscuits, meringues and sticky chocolate cake.

Jontyn spoke about the original gingerbread of Ormskirk which dated back to the 1800's. This was served on trains in the area by gingerbread ladies. An annual event still takes place to honour its success. A recipe book from Pat's mum gave us a completely different recipe. There were a number of options to cure 'ills". This resulted in a great discussion and a google search to see what some of the natural products were. Have you heard of 'squills'? Whitley school also had recipes to offer. Some were given by parents and others from the cooks who worked there. All in all a very interesting afternoon for our bakers.



Our next meeting is Friday 24th February and we are preparing for the Cheshire show. We are keen to enter this year so we are having a practice run making ginger bread people using the recipe provided on the schedule.