

# WHITLEY W.I. News



## FUTURE WI MEETINGS

### Thursday 5th Sept

Main meeting 7.30pm  
WVH.

Our speaker is Sharon Harris from The Walton Lea Partnership, talking about the activities taking place at this local charity for adults and young people with learning difficulties. Competition is for '*An upcycled item*'

### Thursday 3rd October

Main meeting 7.30pm  
This is Member's night when your regular committee take a back seat and enjoy the evening courtesy of the member's night committee.

The competition is for '*A childhood toy*'

Wednesday 9th October  
7:30pm WVH Group meeting. Tickets £10

## From your President

The days are feeling a little more autumnal as I write this but I think we can all that say we have enjoyed some lovely summer days in the recent month. I was sorry to miss the August outing to the Cider Barn - Pat Sharp has provided the the article overleaf about the evening which seems to have been enjoyed by everyone. Thank you Pat for organising the visit and the meal at the Jolly Thresher, no mean feat for 30+ members!



I am also going to miss the September main meeting but am leaving you in the very capable hands of Vice President Jean Waite. I will catch up with you at the various sub-group meetings throughout September.

As our Annual meeting approaches please consider joining us on the WI committee. It is a great way to get to know everyone and we do have fun organising the Whitley WI calendar of events during the year, If you would like more information please ask one of our committee members for more details or drop me an email.

Melanie Barber

**CFWI Dates for your diary** - all the following activities have imminent closing dates so please sign up and pay Pat at September's meeting if you would like to go.

Autumn Craft Workshop - Sat Oct 12th 10-4pm Middlewich £25 including all materials

Chester Ghost Tour - Fri Oct 25th 6.30pm £14

Autumn Meeting at Chester Storyhouse theatre Wed 13th Nov £15. See sign up sheet for the list of speakers.

More details on these events and more will be available at September's meeting.

## Diary Dates

### September

**Thursday 5th** - main meeting 7.30pm WVH - The Walton Lea Partnership , Competition is for 'An upcycled item'

**Monday 9th** - Book Club WVH 10-12pm discussing 'Girl, woman, other' by Bernadine Evaristo

**Wednesday 11th** - County bowls final at Winnington - good luck to Whitley Bowls team!

**Art group** - planning a visit to the Art exhibition at CFWI headquarters, either **Mon 16th** or **Sat 21st**, see sign up sheet at meeting

**Tuesday 17th** - Walking group - meet at WVH 10am to share cars for a walk on Little Budworth Common - no stiles! Lunch at Tarporley Garden Centre.

No craft in September

**Monday 23rd** - 10.30-12 WVH Community coffee morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support - contact Pat Sharp if you would like to bake a cake for us!

**Friday 27th**- Baking Beauties WVH 1.30-3pm Autumn fruit bakes

### October

**Thursday 3rd - Members Night**

Darts practice to start on Oct 7th - see Ann Tolson for more details



## WHERE THE CIDER APPLES GROW!

On what proved to be a very popular venue for Whitley WI's August Outing, 35 members headed off to The Apple Barn at Dunham Massey, to learn how apple juice and cider are produced, as well as sampling the produce. There was a warm welcome from owners Chris and Alison Hewitt, where samples of two varieties of apple juice were enjoyed - Jazz and Smiths. During the sampling, owner Chris talked to the group about the history of this 'hidden-away' apple farm. His family have had over 100 years' experience of growing apples there. Grandad Kenneth started fruit and vegetable farming on the Sawpit Street site early in the last century. Chris and his dad Alan continued restoring the land to traditional orchards. They now grow 76 varieties of apples on land



which now covers 33 acres. Full encouragement has been given to the business by their landlord who is the National Trust. Following the apple juice sampling, members headed

outside to view a small section of these orchards. The richly clovered grass surrounding the trees brought back happy memories to one member of her childhood, where she grew up on an apple farm in Herefordshire. It is demanding work being an apple farmer, especially during harvest and pruning times, where these tasks are undertaken by hand, not with machinery. The next part of the visit took place in the huge shed where the apple press was located along with the cider fermentation equipment and bottling plant. All processes were explained to members, who listened with interest, whilst enjoying samples of two varieties of cider. The shed was more like a party room than a working business, due to the presence of a bar lit up with fairy lights and bunting.

Following a quick visit to the shop to buy bottles of apples and cider, members then headed back through the narrow lanes to the Jolly Thresher Public House in Lymm.

A two-course evening meal was served, this was enjoyed by all, as well as a chance to chatter. Thanks were given to the staff at the Thresher for their excellent service.