

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

COMBERBACH WI RAMBLINGS May 2021. Edition 14

Janine's jottings – The Great Escape!

We are nearly there! We can now officially hug one another! (But according to Boris, we have to hug carefully!) I'm sure many of us have missed being able to hug our grandchildren and other family members we haven't been able to see very often. We will also be able to meet in small groups indoors, which is very welcome, having spent some chilly moments in gardens.

Meet up at Marbury

After the 17th of this month, we should be able to meet up in larger groups, and to this end, we hope for some decent weather so the planned meet-up in Marbury can go ahead. **This is on Wednesday 19th May** We hope as many of you as possible will come to the covered picnic area between 12 and 1, with your own snack, drink and possibly blanket, stay a while and have your lunch, a chat and maybe a walk. It is lovely to just be able to have some form of normality. You realise then, just how much we have had to change our daily lives over the past year.



I spent a day at Crosby recently, the weather was glorious and despite the cold wind, had a long walk along the beach, and afterwards just sat in the car, staring at the sea. I have missed being able to do just that. I also like beachcombing for sea glass and pottery pieces to use in my crafts.

Future meetings

The Hall has been booked from the beginning of July, so we shall be able to restart our WI meetings then, on the first Monday of the month as usual, unless it is a Bank Holiday. We shall endeavour to get full details out to all our members as soon as we have everything in place as there obviously has been no programme printed this year.

Lesley is working on booking speakers for the rest of the year. I can now confirm that Louise has finally returned my calls and emails and we are booked in at Winnington on Wednesday December 15th for a Christmas Meal – unless of course, the unthinkable should happen with Covid again. It will be nice to give the party clothes an airing! During lockdown, I have concluded that I have worn 2% of my clothes 98% of the time! Time for some of these to hit the bin!

2. May 15th 2021

Appeal for a volunteer – or two!

We still need someone to book speakers/entertainment for our WI after Lesley moves to her new home, but haven't had any offers...do you fancy making the decisions over what we do at our forthcoming meetings? Form an orderly queue! It doesn't need to be a Committee member, just someone who likes being involved, without having to attend meetings. Please think about it – it can all be done from the comfort of your armchair!

I am certainly looking forward to getting out and about again. I look forward to seeing our WI members again! Janine.

From Sara

Why have I included a grotty photo of my garden? Well, I decided I could not manage a vegetable patch this year as my back is not too good so I am going in for "No Mow May" and sowing a few wild flower seeds as well.

Actually, it has been raining so much I have not had the chance to mow the lawn so I thought I would just leave it to the insects so that the birds can feed on them. I have a wren in my bird box but no sign of any young yet. If any of you have been watching the swans on the lake near the Salt Barge, they are no longer sitting on their nest and I saw them both on the far side of the lake but I could not see if they were with a batch of cygnets. (I have spotted at least four signets there this week – Sian)

At least it is warming up a bit now and we can hope that the weather will be kind to us on the 19th when we are meeting in Marbury Park. My last walk round Anderton Nature park resulted in me returning home covered in mud as I slipped on the very muddy paths and landed in it. How embarrassing!

I am sure a lot of you are now planning to go and visit family. I am heading off to see my grandchildren who look from their last photos as if they have grown so much they are not much smaller than me. I will have to wait a bit longer before I can see the French contingent.



My husband has already booked an inside table at The George for the 20th some weeks ago so I will have to look out some clothes that are not work or dog walking clothes, the moths will have had them by now.

Looking forward to catching up with you all. Sara

From Sian

Its difficult to appreciate that this is the 14th Edition of our monthly newsletter – Ramblings. When I proposed the idea at the beginning of the first lockdown in May 2020, little did I or anyone think it would be still needed and going a year later – we naively thought it would be all over in a few months!! We will need to decide how long this is needed for now that meetings will recommence in July– and we will discuss this at the next committee meeting. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please let Janine, Sara or me know.

3. May 15th 2021

It's surprising how we have all kept ourselves busy over the winter months, although some days have been very dreary – where the TV, books, jig-saws, craft, wine and chocolate have helped the pass the hours away!

I am so pleased that I was lucky enough to have my Hip replaced in January as I am now doing very well and have recently been able to climb up and down a step ladder stripping wallpaper – yes we have started a big building project – which is now in full swing. So, as I write this the house is vibrating from jack hammers knocking our walls down. It's an ambitious project – which we have been told will be completed by the end of June! So far so good – its all on plan. Since yesterday, we are without a working kitchen – so a little camping stove and the microwave has to suffice for the next few weeks. I keep reminding myself that it will be great when its done!



Our extension and ex kitchen!!!

Our son and daughter in law and little Rowan – now 14 months old, are visiting us in June for a few weeks from the USA, I can't put them off – as this was arranged a long time ago – I am just not sure how we are going to manage to live around the builders!

Pray for me that the weather will be kind and we can spend most of our time al fresco! It will be fabulous to see them once again, but it will also be chaotic. I think I will need a pamper break once this is all over!

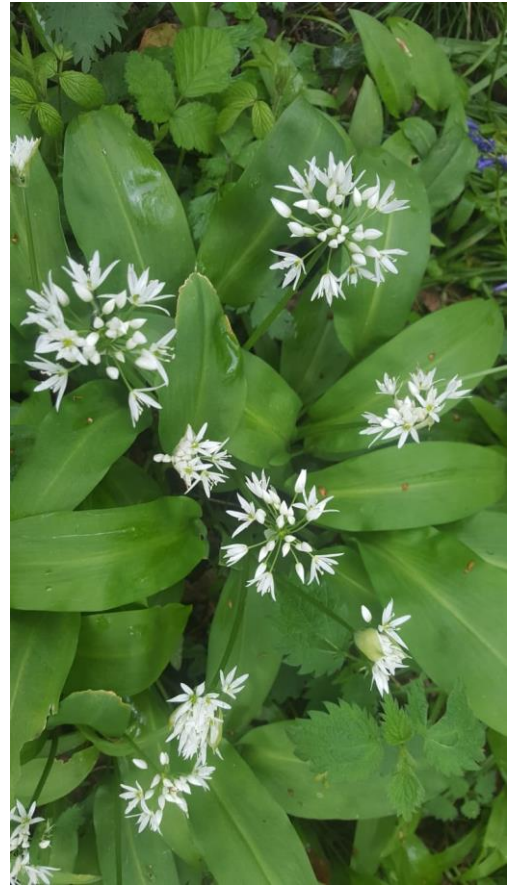


The garden has once again sprung into life after a long winter and cold spring. The potatoes are now shooting up, but the beans are still a little stilted from the cold nights we have recently experienced, in spite of covering them with a duvet every night!

4. May 15th 2021



Heather is hoping everyone is enjoying blue bells, wild garlic and green spaces in Marbury Park.



Guess who this is behind the very fashionable mask.....?

I have made Wild Garlic pesto for the first time – so easy to make and its quite delicious.

Wild garlic pesto

100g Wild Garlic (make sure you know the plant you are picking) Use the leaves and a few flower heads.

40g Blanched Hazelnuts

6tbs Rapeseed Oil and extra for storage

3 tbs Lemon Juice

2 tbs grated Pecorino Cheese

Blend the garlic, hazelnuts, rapeseed oil and lemon in a blender until Pesto like consistency.

Scrape down side of blender and add the cheese with a good pinch of salt.

Pot in sterilized jars and cover the top with a generous layer of oil to keep it fresh. Will keep for 2-3 weeks in a fridge, or up to 6 months in the freezer. I have not tried any of the frozen batch – so can't vouch for that! Scrumptious... Sian xx



5. May 15th 2021

Nature at its best and worst by Rosie

At this time of year, you can almost see plants growing in front of your eyes and in a matter of weeks the landscape changes from dove greys and dowdy browns to tree canopies of every shade of iridescent green, silver, yellow and red underplanted with a rainbow of colourful bulbs and newly shooting shrubs. Oh, yes, and the weeds!

This spring has been remarkably different to last year. It has been dry but very cold for weeks with nightly frosts and now it is cold and very wet. Nevertheless, nature just gets on with it and we have been blessed with sparrows nesting in our porch, blue tits and sparrows nesting under the eaves, great tits in the bird box on the oak tree and blackbirds and robins nesting around the hedges. The first great tits hatched on 1st May and the parents started their devoted feeding duties after sitting quietly on the nest for weeks. The two pairs of robins, one at each end of the garden, have entertained us with their synchronised flying and acrobatics. They are known for their bravery but have surpassed themselves this year by appearing almost by magic as soon as I have turned a sod of earth, hopping in front of me and picking out a beak full of insects that my eyes can't even see. However, the highlight so far came the other day when we spotted one of them feeding a fledgeling, all mouth and puffed-up breast, not yet red.

All of this was delightful and so good to see especially after the dreadful storms and wind over the last few days. After the weekend storm, I surveyed the garden to find that one of our old plum trees had literally snapped in half and crashed to earth, a nice big job for us getting that sorted! However, what I found most perturbing was last Monday when I woke up at about 5 am conscious that there was something not quite right, there was no dawn chorus. I wonder how many nests were damaged or destroyed by the ferocious winds? Perhaps the birds were just exhausted and traumatised by the storm because you will be pleased to know, they are now back in full voice, which I can testify to from 4.30 this morning.



Although our garden is a full-time job and joy at this time of the year, we have managed to venture out and see other people's gardens. We viewed Four View Farm's garden, next to Curbishley's Roses, open under the National Garden Scheme which was an absolute delight (picture attached) as well as visiting Arley where we were introduced to "The Glade" by friends. We have often been to the formal gardens but had no idea that this woodland area was there and open to the public. We were so impressed we went again last week especially as the rhododendrons are coming to the fore. As we were walking through one of the slightly more open areas my eye caught sight of a bird taking off from a branch, a blackbird perhaps? No, it was an owl. It swooped down to about three feet off the ground and passed within 5 feet of me, silent and magical. Nature at its best.

6. May 15th 2021

CFWI ZOOM EVENTS

These event are for CFWI members only so please don't share with non-members

Arts & Crafts Sub-Committee Zoom Workshop

Thread catcher – a super-useful little gizmo for collecting those annoying threads that get everywhere.

Materials 1 x Fat Quarter of 100% cotton (about 18" x 22")

1 x ½" deep hoop from Pringles tube Small piece wadding

Matching thread, needles and straight pins

Card / cereal box from which you cut: 1 circle (Radius 17 /8"), 2 circles (radius 13 /8")

Join our Zoom Meeting at 7:30p.m. on Tuesday 25th May 2021 when Tricia Jones will show you how to make a thread catcher.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88124694848?pwd=QmJQbUk3aFV0WWVZemlJMHdwcGI3UT09>

Meeting ID: 881 2469 4848 Passcode: 680414

On **Thursday the 27th May** at 7pm for a 7.30pm start we have the pleasure in welcoming three women from **Syrian Women Across Borders** - Samera Zeitoun, Samara Atassi and Bara'ah al Dalati,. All are Syrian born women now living in the North West. Each have a different story to tell but what unites them is the work they have and continue to do to help women and families who are refugees due to the war in Syria. Samera and Samara are two of the five founding members of SAB, Souriyat across Borders, a charity they set up in Jordan to provide rehabilitation, education and empowerment to women and youth with disabilities. Bara'ah was a humanitarian worker in Syria before she had to leave her family behind and is now the Programme Director of SAB in the UK. Much of their work is in Zaatari, Jordan, currently the largest camp for Syrian refugees.. What will be interesting is to hear of the many shared values they have with the WI but also how these women will inspire you with their stories. This will surely be an interesting evening for us all.

Souriyat Across Borders Time: May 27, 2021 07:00 PM for 7:30pm start

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81839557377?pwd=ODV1OXk2YWdyanRJR0xITUtLY1drZz09> Meeting ID: 818 3955 7377 Passcode: 144127

On **Wednesday the 9th June** at 7pm for a 7.30pm start we have the pleasure in welcoming Dr Ailsa Holland co-creator of the feminist history Twitter account @OnThisDayShe and co-author of **On This Day She: Putting Women Back into History, One Day at a Time (2021)**. She is a poet, artist, writer, TEDx speaker and activist. Have you ever thought about where all the women are from history and will our 'Inspiring Women' ever appear in the history books? Ailsa will hopefully show us how she is trying to redress the balance. Ailsa's poetry pamphlet Twenty Four Miles Up was published with Arts Council England support in 2017; she was Manchester Cathedral Poet of the Year in 2019. Ailsa's word-art has been exhibited in locations around northwest England, including St Ann's Church in Manchester and the pavements of Macclesfield. Her Library in the Landscape is a much-loved feature of Tegg's Nose Country Park, Cheshire.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89876886011?pwd=Q2dBQU1vcHd3ekNxRXNBcU1jUmgrQT09>
Meeting ID: 898 7688 6011 Passcode: 031453

Articles for the June Ramblings in by the 10th June please.... Thank you. sianrc@hotmail.co.uk