

1. July 15th 2020



COMBERBACH WI RAMBLINGS JULY 2020.

Edition 4

Dear Member

Presidential Ponderings.....

It must come as a relief to many that the lockdown is now being eased, but I know that many of our WI members are still understandably wary of being out and about, some of whom have vulnerable family members to consider.

We are all very aware that new freedoms can lead to new infections, and I have read that infections in Cheshire West/Chester are on the rise again, so we are not out of the proverbial woods yet. Advice remains confused...are we still limited to groups of 6 outdoors, or is it now 30?

The fact that diners and drinkers can now congregate outdoors would suggest the latter, albeit, socially distanced,(or as often is the case, not). I await clarification. Until then, WI meetings are not going to happen, although some of our members have had groups of 6 in their gardens for tea/coffee, weather permitting. Our Groups - Craft, Books and Ramblers - are free to meet up as outlined, and I have left that to Mary Tilley, Sara Smith and Ursula Ryder to reinstate, as they feel able to do so.

The Book Group is certainly back up and running, and maybe the Ramblers can now walk and be refreshed with the re-opening of pubs and cafes again.

I would imagine that many of our WI members have continued to do their own thing, be it art, crafts, gardening, baking....my words last time must have been prophetic when I said that nothing stops Margery Hall from baking, as she is now unwell and receiving hospital care, and we are all in a state of shock about it. Margery IS our WI!! At least she is not missing much and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

I know, too, that other WI members have been unwell themselves or have family members they are concerned about - we wish them all well and are thinking about them.

We have had one Committee meeting, courtesy of Zoom, with another scheduled later this month. Whether we can get all or most of our members to do Zoom is another matter and a challenge! Sian is our Media expert and maybe she can persuade some of our less technically minded...it would be nice to get a group of sorts together, so anyone who fancies the idea, let us know!

In the coming weeks, we shall be keeping an eye on the weather to see if we can have a "pop-up" garden party of sorts, that is, if up to 30 is allowed. Somewhere between 10 and 20 would be workable, I feel. It would be a case of bring a chair, mug and a mug. Cakes and biscuits would be of the packaged variety and all socially distanced. When we are ready, the word will go out and it will have to be booked with the person hosting. We would like all our members to be able to attend one. In the meantime, keep calm and carry on!!

Janine Hampton.

2. July 15th 2020

Margery Hall

You most probably know by now about devastating news about Margery's illness. We are keeping in touch with her family via phone and facebook, The family are relieved to say that Margery has started to make a little progress at Leighton Hospital. The family would like to thank all the WI ladies who have sent their well wishes, cards, and offered their support, which will be passed on to Margery in due course. Of course, not being able to visit Margery in hospital is extremely frustrating for all concerned.

If you would like to send a cheerful video to Margery – please e mail to Sara (daughter) at saraheriley69@gmail.com

We all wish Margery a speedy recovery – you are so missed!

Margery recently celebrated her 80th birthday with her family. Here is a photo of a WI rose called 'Jam and Jerusalem' which was a birthday gift. And with some very shiny balloons.



Cheshire Show 2020

This year was a virtual show - if you would like to see a 'Virtual Cheshire Show' on line go to www.royalcheshireshow.org/virtual-show-2020/ If you click on the WI page there are some great photos of the entrants and winners of 2019

Cheshire Show 2019 featuring all the entrants from Comberbach WI after the event. It was a great achievement.



3. July 15th 2020

BOOK CLUB

W.I Bookclub members. Ellen Buckhurst, Lindsay Entwistle, Heather Morris, Elaine Perry, Sara Smith, Lesley Smith.



I expect many of you have been reading during lock down. My W.I. friends have swapped or lent me some good books.

Four W.I. readers met on Friday 19th June on Sarah's patio with a weather proof canopy. It was lovely to meet up. We took our own mugs and observed social distancing.

Our last library group read was 'The Hunters' by Kat Gordon was set in Kenya. One of the characters was Lord Delamere who inherited the Vale royal Estate in Cheshire as a 17year old ! Lord Delamere was one of the first and most influential settlers in Kenya. He is credited with helping to found the so-called ' Happy Valley set'. They

were a clique of well-off pleasure-seeking British colonials; some of the main characters in the book were based on this set.

The contrasting political outlook, cultures and attitudes of locals and settlers are explored through the central characters in this book. The author describes the stunning landscape and development of the railway within the context of the time.

Good feedback from all readers. We enjoyed getting together again. Our next read suggested by Lesley is by Ann Bronte The Tennant of Wildfell Hall. We are going to source copies ourselves as the library is still closed.

If you fancy joining the book club – please contact Sara.

Regards Heather Morris

Comberbach Fete 2020



Once again this was a different event to the usual extravaganza of Comberbach Fete. Due to the new format the WI did not have a stall but we did manage to display the banner in a prominent position at the end of Sara's drive.

4. July 15th 2020

The village looked great – with some fantastic bunting, garden decorations and scarecrows. It seemed that people had gone to a great effort to make the best of a different sort of fete day.



The Scarecrow Competition proved to be fun for me – and I managed to win first prize! This was my first attempt at entering the spirit of the Scarecrow competition – and I loved it! My husband Richard, set his stall by our gate to make sure the animals behaved themselves throughout the day- even the showers of rain did not put him off!

Summer fruit delight.

Having been to Kenyon Hall Farm to pick some very juicy ripe Strawberries I have made Strawberry Jam –isn't it tricky to get a good set? Think I mastered it by the third batch. It tastes delicious whatever its consistency!



Sian Chandler

All Creatures Great and Small – Vet on Call...

5. July 15th 2020

NFWI 2020 RAFFLE From Sara, Secretary.



If anyone would like to buy some raffle tickets for the NFWI annual raffle could you please email me on saram.smith@yahoo.com telling me how many you would like to buy and then either write a cheque for the relevant amount and send it to Rosie or send the amount directly by bank transfer. I will then put your name address etc on the tickets and send them off to County.

They are £1 a ticket or £10 a book.

As you can see from the picture the first prize is £10,000.

They need to be sent off by the 25th September for the draw on the 9th October so please let me know as soon as possible if you want to purchase some.

Hello from Anne Saville

I am inspired by what fellow members have achieved during Lockdown. For my part, I have gardened, done a bit of 'touch up' decorating, been introduced to Zoom - my new Best Friend, and done lots of reading, but I thought I would share with you, two things that I would not have done without Lockdown.

I sometimes read the lesson at Great Budworth Church, but there are no Services at present so I read for the on-line Service. I had no idea how it worked. but if they needed a Reading, I was happy to do it. Jenny, one of the Curates, came round to our house in Senna Lane, and found a suitable location in the back garden. I read from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew and she videoed me on her mobile phone resting on a small stand.

I still don't understand how Jenny incorporated it into the Sunday on-line service, but it worked - modern technology!

I like cooking, but it's not my favourite thing, but Olivier, the Owner/Chef of the French Restaurant, La Boheme, in Lymm has written another cookery book. As we sometimes eat there and are on their list, I received an e-mail, asking if I would like to test one of his recipes. I was given a choice and decided on a fish dish. PAN-FRIED HAKE WITH SPINACH CAKES, WILD MUSHROOMS AND TARRAGON SAUCE. It had to be made exactly to the recipe, to ensure it worked before going into the book. You had to report back to them on what you thought.

It was great fun, quite exciting, I have never before wilted spinach with such passion, I felt a bit like Nigella. Fortunately everything worked well and the only adverse comment was that Mike would have liked more tarragon sauce. !

So back to clearing out the garage and preparing for our Golden Wedding Anniversary.....to be continued!

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH. Its great to have had your contributions for this edition – keep them coming.. To contribute to the next RAMBLINGS, please contact Sian on sianrc@hotmail.co.uk or ring on 01606 892157 or 07770863170

Looking to share things you have been up to during the lockdown, any good reads, films, TV programmes you have enjoyed or recipes – or any craft items you are proud of and of course things you are still looking forward to.

Useful links - facebook – Comberbach WI
<https://www.facebook.com/wicomberbach> Comberbach Community Support

6. July 15th 2020