

COMBERBACH WI RAMBLINGS June 2021. Edition 15

Janine's (rather lengthy) jottings – We're back!

It was lovely to have our first proper Committee meeting before the end of May. Zoom meetings leave a lot to be desired and we were constantly running out of time as you only get 40 minutes free of charge. We met up at Lindsay's so we could spread out, clutching masks, with some of us having done a quick lateral flow Covid test beforehand. Committee meetings aren't supposed to be an enjoyable social event, but this one was! We spent time planning our next moves, so please read on!

Marbury Meet Up



15 of our WI members turned up at Marbury for a chat, catch-up and packed lunch, along with 2 dogs, both called Sam, which belong to Sara and Lindsay, and we were able to leave the covered area and sit out at tables in the sunshine, but it was still a little too chilly to jettison the coats. We all enjoyed just being out with friends and not being rained upon!

2. May 20th 2021



The Two Sams!



Garden Party (with a difference!)

We had another meet-up on Wednesday, June 9th from 2.30pm onwards, this time it was not at Marbury, but in Lesley's lovely large garden. Lesley was very keen to host this gathering as she will be leaving us during the summer months, and this was to be her "Farewell" to our WI. Food and drink were per the Marbury arrangement, with ladies bringing their own refreshments and a chair! Lesley, however, provided a glass of Pimm's, which was perfect for a warm afternoon.

3. May 20th 2021



We shall all be very sorry to see her leave, but she has promised to keep in touch, and it is hoped that we might even establish links with her new WI at Rowland's Castle. The village seems to be a draw to our ladies, as Sara is headed there too. She is also heading South for family reasons and will be missed. She has been an excellent Secretary – and yes, we will be needing another Secretary!

Lesley and Sara were presented a WI rose by the Committee to plant in their new gardens to remind them of our WI.



4. May 20th 2021

We had planned a pub lunch in the village, at the Spinner and Burgamot for the 23rd June – as we decided we would like to support the new landlord. As re pandemic it would be a case of just turning up and sitting with a small group of your choosing and having a relaxed lunch. We would hope to keep our WI ladies in the same area, though, whether it is indoors or out.

Unfortunately, due to the new government Covid guidelines and the weather forecast being for rain, we have decided to postpone this until all the restrictions have been lifted, so that we can be seated inside or outside as we wish.

Future events

Lesley has organised the programme until January, more or less replacing the one we had to cancel, (please see your old programme) and looks as follows:

June 26th – Comberbach Fete – Elaine Perry has offered her drive so we can sell some WI produce – jam, curd, chutney, pickles, vegetables, cakes?? Please bring any contributions on the day or pass to Elaine, Sara, Margery or Sian in advance, as they are in the village.

For your information: Arley is holding a Garden Festival the same weekend **26/27th June**. It will be a nice outing – tickets are £14.50 in advance or £18 on the day. It will be like the Cheshire Show but without the animals, with a food fair, crafts, plants etc. Tickets bought can be used on either day. There is plenty of information online. We are not planning a WI trip as such, but it is local and a nice day out for those who will be pining for the Cheshire Show!

July 5th – *“Independence Day” A celebration of the end of restrictions and a return to some sort of normality. **This was planned as our first meeting in the Memorial Hall. But seeing the restrictions are in place we have to cancel.***

August 2nd – Tasty Evening, probably in the Hall, again with small tables to seat 4, so you can choose who to sit with. Not the usual format, so please bring your own party food and drink along with the usual plate, glass etc. to avoid the need to wash up and disinfect the kitchen.

September 6th - Even the birds and bees do it – (originally booked for last April)

September – date TBA – trip to the biggest M&S in the country! Transport will be in cars, not on a coach and it is near Cheshire Oaks, so you will be able to go there as well if you like.

October 4th - Out of Africa – (originally booked for October 2020, so only a year late!)

November 1st – AGM (and something else?)

December 6th – A Christmas cracker – a demonstration of a Christmas craft and a chance to make your own, followed by some Christmas fun.

December 15th (Weds) – WI Christmas meal at Winnington.

January 2022 – Beetle drive.

We welcome any suggestions you may wish to make regarding other activities or outings we might be able to do. In the Hall, we plan to make more use of the small tables which can be well spread out but will enable you to sit with those you feel most comfortable being in proximity with. It will also enable you to have somewhere to park the tea or coffee. We do have to respect the wishes of the speaker though, if they wish for the room to be set out differently. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Janine .

5. May 20th 2021

A note from the Treasurer

Ladies, I thought it was about time to give you an update on the "State of the Nation" as we slowly inch towards Liberation Day, maybe the 19th July? By then it will be 16 months since we last met in the Memorial Hall, if, when the committee meets next week, we defer having a meeting till August at the earliest.

Despite the lack of face-to-face meetings and the inevitable drift away from human contact, which I am sure we have all missed, I am delighted to say that the vast majority of our membership have re-joined us for 2021. Our membership stands at 47 Full Members and 4 Dual Members, giving us a total of 51 Members. Last year we had 52 Full Members and 3 Dual Members, giving a Total of 55, so we have only lost 4 members over the period. I have spoken to those who have chosen not to re-join and have, of course, told them that I understand their personal reasons for not re-joining and have assured them of a very warm welcome back should they decide to re-join us in the future.

As you know, the Committee took a great deal of time to consider whether to reduce our element of the subscription fee for 2021 and decided that, on balance, it was appropriate for this year to reduce the fee, not least because we had, and continue to be unable, to provide the activities that we so much wish to organise and put on. However, we did give members the opportunity to donate extra funds to the WI to help maintain a healthy balance on our accounts and I am delighted to be able to report that 29 members have given a donation and that the sum raised is £248. All of us on the Committee are humbled that so many of you felt able to add a donation which we will use to the benefit of us all.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you for continuing to support our WI and, in particular, all of you who sent me such lovely messages of support along with your subscriptions, it was a real joy to open the post!

Rosie

Walking Group

Hi everyone. It was good to see everybody at Lesley's on a lovely sunny afternoon last week. The Ramblers have now finally met up. It was good to be back together again. Last month, May, we met at the Legh Arms, first for a walk along the river and then lunch.

June will see us back at Barbara's in Arley for coffee, and then walking to the George +Dragon for lunch and no doubt to the ice cream farm for afters!

With have no firm plans, we are going month by month, but at least we are getting back to more normality. Long may it last.

If you would like to join the group contact Ursula on 891827

6. May 20th 2021

Lindsay's Recent Outing.



David and I enjoyed one or two escapes after the lockdown was eased. The first was at a really old hotel near Wem called Soulton Hall built in around 1500 and run by descendants of the same family. A magnificent house on a 500 acre arable farm.

In the summer it hosts outdoor plays. In one of the fields, they had built a long barrow the first in this country for 5000 years. It is lined up as Stone henge to catch the summer solstice.

Local people can have their ashes interred there.

The next jaunt was to see the Laburnum arch at Bodnant Gardens, North Wales. Incredible in the morning sunshine.



7. May 20th 2021



We were beginning to enjoy our freedom by now, so it was a long trip up to Blairgowrie to stay in a fishing lodge on the River Erich in Perthshire for three nights. Fantastic weather and scenery. Home now to the garden but the break did us both good.



Janine's bacon and spinach cheese tarts.

These are perfect for a summer lunch, snack – serve hot or cold. Easy to make.

1 teasp. Olive oil for greasing.

Plain flour for dusting

1 pack Jus-rol ready to roll out puff pastry

200g spinach

200g crumbled Cheshire cheese (other cheese will do)

Back bacon – 1 decent sized piece per person

Seasoning

Beaten egg or milk to glaze the pastry.

1. Pre-heat oven to 200deg C
2. Line and grease a rectangular baking tray
3. Lightly dust board or worktop and unroll the pastry.
4. Dust a rolling pin and roll out further so the rectangle is large enough to make 6 squares – don't roll it too thin! Cut the 6 squares.
5. Lightly cook the spinach 1 – 2 minutes until soft and drain well.
6. Divide the cheese between the squares, leaving the edges clear.
7. Top each one with some spinach and some bacon. Cut the bacon up if you prefer.
8. Season.
9. Fold the edges of the squares inwards. Pinch the corners in.

8. May 20th 2021

10. Brush the edges with beaten egg or milk.

11. Cook 12 -15 minutes until the pastry has puffed up and the bacon is crispy

12. Serve hot or cold – nice with a salad. Great for picnics and lunchboxes.



Makes 6 tarts. The recipe can be varied with different cheeses, adding an egg or anything else you fancy. You can make smaller tarts by dividing the pastry into 8.

Janine's crafts – beachcombing at Crosby.

I mentioned in a previous edition of "Ramblings", that I love to go to Crosby and scour the beach for treasure at low tide. There was once a brick factory on the shore, just by where the lifeboat station is now situated. Tiles were made as well, but since the factory was abandoned, it has been gradually washed away by the sea, but the beach nearby is littered with bricks which have been eroded into all sorts of shapes, and pieces of tile as well. I have been collecting these to make a mosaic, and I finally had enough pieces to complete it. The whole thing is made on a tin tray on legs, which I bought very cheaply. It now makes a nice Bistro table to go with two chairs I have had for a long time.

It still needs the grouting touched up and varnishing to keep it in a decent state from the weather, but the photos show the nearly finished article.



9. May 20th 2021

A little note from Sian



As I explained to you in my recent e mail, I have been rather busy over the last few weeks, looking after my USA family and little grandson, Rowan.

We had an amazing three weeks of fun, laughter, adventure and getting to know each other. We were blessed with wonderful weather – as I am still without a kitchen or dining room – so dining in the garage was kept to a minimum..... Some days it actually felt too hot to eat outside, but we managed it with parasols opened.

Little Rowan was rather wary of our four hens at first – but by the time he left he was confident with them – and was excited to collect the eggs each day – I did buy some artificial eggs, so that he could handle them without incident!

They have now safely returned to the States. The house feels so empty. Builders still here, so plenty to keep us occupied – and looking forward to a well-earned rest!!

Please submit any articles for the July Ramblings to sianrc@hotmail.co.uk by the 10th July.

More photos of the garden party on the website www.comberbachwi.org.uk and [facebook](#)