

1. May 20th 2020



COMBERBACH WI RAMBLINGS MAY 2020.

Edition 2

We have had some lovely feedback from members following the first edition of WI ramblings which I will include at the end of this edition.

We may be by now accustomed to the requirements of the Lockdown – but it still does not make the isolation and segregation any easier. So here are a few tales and snippets from our members which should help to pass away the time a little.....

The Covid Chronicle by Janine Hampton.

Hi everyone, I am happy to say that I am just about fully recovered, although there are days when I feel tired. I can assure you that Covid-19 is every bit as horrible as you have heard - I still don't know where I got it, but obviously did, before the lockdown even started, so probably caught it when shopping. I can honestly say that I ticked off all the symptoms, including the loss of smell and taste, but only realised this in hindsight.

I had a big tub of hyacinths flowering right by the patio door. The scent would normally be overpowering, but hardly smelt them at all, which I thought was strange at the time and put it down to the tub of bulbs being waterlogged for most of the winter. I do remember cooking a meal and thinking that I probably had made a rubbish job of it as it tasted of nothing!

I am just relieved that I managed to stay out of Leighton when it affected my asthma. The GP put me on a short course of steroids which got me over the worst.



I have kept on with the crafts and the gardening, taken some lovely walks as I have felt better, as I love seeing all the wildflowers and photographing them.

My felt Llamas – or are they Alpaca?

Sometimes I will do a drawing or watercolour from the photo, and sometimes I pick the odd leaf or flower, press them and make these into cards or pictures. Baking has occupied me as well, and I have been lucky enough to obtain a supply of flour.

I took advantage of the ordering scheme at Marbury Nurseries for plants, so the garden is looking nice too. It is always nice to receive phone calls, and there have been some kind offers of help. I am certainly going to need a holiday after all this, so just hope I will be able to book something before long - I am happy to stay in the UK - there are so many lovely places over here. I look forward to seeing WI members again...hope the Groups may be able to re-start if we get the go-ahead to meet in "Clusters"! Janine.

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Hello ladies from Rosie at Cedar Cottage

As I am sure you can imagine, I have been very busy in our challenging and large garden. At this time of year everything grows at a tremendous rate, especially the weeds, but I can say for once that we are on top of most of it. We have been delighted with a spectacular show of tulips, although some did not last long because it was too hot. I now

have one or two rose buds opening, a little before their usual allotted time.

Enough of gardening, I was amazed and delighted to see “Rosie the Riveter” on the front cover of our WI Magazine this month. I had never come across this cultural icon of the United States until my husband bought a rather saucy depiction of her on one of the metal posters that are so prevalent at car shows nowadays. She adorns the inside of our garden shed and always makes me smile! She was of course the “pin up girl” encouraging women to work in, up to then, taboo industries during WW2 and the



attributes and character she depicted in those dark days are very apt for our current situation, we women are very good at adapting and coping. I also feel a little bit of affinity with her being a metallurgist, I was the only female in my year at university and although I never did any riveting, I did do quite a bit of welding, swaging and rolling of metal!!

I hope this finds you all well and safe, especially those of you who are alone and do not have the luxury of others in their home. If ever anyone wants a chat, please call me on 01606 784858.

“Locked Down” by Ida Meakin

No nipping off to Sainsbury’s

Not stopping for a chat

No visitors to entertain

No Emmerdale to watch

No weddings to dress up for

No news that’s any good

No church, no clubs, no callers

It isn’t looking good

My kids do all the shopping

A neighbour cooked me lunch

My friends are often ringing

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Just to keep in touch

The birds have taken over

They sing a lovely tune

And once a day they let me out

To see the flowers bloom

And strangers say hello to me

They never used to do

I've jigsaws to unravel

And crossword puzzles too

Books to entertain me

And knitting to peruse

I got to church on Sunday

Not even getting wet

A grandson taught me how to Zoom

Oh joy, it's the net

You'll note this verse is longer

Than the one I wrote before

I'm trying to be positive

And not some sad old bore.

Loss of a past member :-

Sadly, we have been informed that a very special former President Margaret Barron passed away on 8th May 2020. Margaret was president from 2000 to 2002. She was a valued member of the Drama Group and the WI Choir. She is especially remembered for the most wonderful flower arrangements with which she helped to win many cups and trophies at the Cheshire Show. Margaret had been in a Care Home for some years latterly, and is survived by her husband Ian, who lives in the village.

VE Day celebrations

I am sure you all had your private thoughts and memories on 75th anniversary VE day, which was such a strange day in the current circumstances – Nice to see that Margery celebrated in style with husband Richard . The cream tea looks delicious.



Margaret Jefferson says – Its lovely to hear what members are up to in Lockdown.



A recent craft project - a machine embroidery, worked for a friend's golden wedding. I found the frame in another cupboard that needed clearing out. Best wishes, Margaret Jefferson. A beautiful embroidery,

I am sure the photo does not do this work justice – we will have to have a display of art and craft produced over the Lockdown.

“We are fine here in Weaverham. The days are punctuated by food deliveries, gardening, my usual craft projects, Zoom meetings of family, choir and church and random clearing out sessions.

Only yesterday, sorting and clearing out old press cuttings, I came across an account in the local newspaper of the Comberbach WI craft and produce show, probably around late 1970s, early 80s. Details of who won each class! The photograph evoked lots of memories of past, and a few present members. Stay safe and best wishes.

The Crafty Ladies -



Front row: Gail Woodcock, Margaret Jefferson, Mary Preston, Margaret Barron, Ena Plant Back row: Edna Jones, Thelma Woodcock(mother of Alison Horton), Gladys Howard



COMBERBACH
 Women's Institute last week held their produce and handicraft show when the overall winner (with 22 points) was Mrs. T. Woodcock. Second with 21 was Mrs. E. Jones, with Mrs. M. Jefferson came third with 20 and Mrs. J. Thorpe fourth with 19.

Individual class winners were: Decorated Victoria sandwich, Mrs. J. Thorpe; treacle tart, Mrs. J. Thorpe; dale and walnut cake, Mrs. E. Plant; dale and walnut loaf, Mrs. T. Woodcock; whistling loaf, Mrs. M. Preston; quicheorraine, Mrs. M. Preston.

In the preserves section, winners were: Strawberry jam, Mrs. E. Jones; raspberry jam, Mrs. J. Thorpe; marmalade, Mrs. T. Woodcock; lemon cheese, Mrs. E. Jones; jar of jelly, Mrs. E. Jones; chutney, Mrs. G. Howard; bottle of wine, Mrs. M. Tolley.

In the garden produce section: Tomatoes, Mrs. E. Plant; runner beans, Mrs. T. Woodcock; onions, Mrs. E. Plant; lettuce, Mrs. C. Tweedie; beetroot, Mrs. E. Plant; cooking apples, Mrs. T. Woodcock; dessert apples, Mrs. M. Jefferson.

Flowers: Three roses, Mrs. F. Taylor; northwards spray, Mrs. M. Jefferson; sweet peas, Mrs. M. Anthony; pom-pom dahlias, Mrs. E. Jones; decorative dahlias, Mrs. E. Jones; petite arrangement, Mrs. M. Barron; arrangement in a kitchen glass, Mrs. M. Jefferson; arrangement for a wedding anniversary, Mrs. M. Jefferson.

Handicrafts: Any garment three or four ply yarn, Mrs. T. Woodcock; any garment, double knitting, Mrs. T. Woodcock; any pattern and yarn, Mrs. E. Jones; any garment, fancy yarn, Mrs. M. Jefferson; any garment, crocheted in wool, Mrs. F. Taylor; any garment, machine sewed, Mrs. J. Thorpe; embroidery any article, Mrs. G. Woodcock; picture collage, Mrs. D. Hillington.

● The ladies from Comberbach Women's Institute are pictured above

5. May 20th 2020



Hello from Elaine.

Hope you're ok, I'm sure you are still very busy even in lockdown! How's the hair doing? I've coloured mine once, it's nearly ready for another 'do', the length is becoming a bit irritating, I tie it back most of the time, long hair not a good look on someone my age!

I delivered a VE celebration afternoon tea made by Helena O'Byrne to Cynthia, it looked delicious and Cynthia enjoyed it very much. We had quite a chat on the following day covering all

sorts of subjects including some very interesting information about the village for a relative newbie like me.

'Did you know that bombs were dropped in the war very near where your house now stands?' was a surprise. They did not explode and fortunately no one was hurt. Cynthia is a font of knowledge about the village, having lived here all her married life and I could have listened all day! Elaine Perry

Lockdown at 50 Senna Lane - Continued

It has been a month since the last Comberbach ramblings. I hope everyone is still keeping well and sane. It may be sometime before we can meet again as per HRH. I have not progressed much in the last month but I have finished knitting my grandson's coat, I just have to work out where all the pieces go now. It is a bit like great British sewing bee.

My potatoes and seeds have all grown nicely. Growing potatoes here is like taking coals to Newcastle.

Talking of the North East, I have even finished one picture of Tynemouth Priory if anyone recognises it. My son wanted one to remind him of Tynemouth.

My husband has been busy most days baking. He is baking bread for the neighbours and cakes for the police as there is no possibility we can eat it all. The police have nicknamed him Mr Kipling. As all the flour has gone from the supermarkets a lot of people are probably doing the same. I know someone in the WI had a really good recipe for lemon drizzle cake which my husband would love to see. His last one sank in the middle.

That is a problem he has quite a lot, does anyone know why if he follows the recipe to the letter. Is he using the wrong tin or not getting it in the oven quickly enough? When things go back to normal some of the expert bakers could run a baking course. My cakes all collapse in the middle as well.

My 11th grandchild arrived on the 15th a little girl called Ava Rose. I am not sure when I will be able to go down to Salisbury to see her but I have finished her birth sampler so now I can add the name and frame it.



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I must now get on with some more painting and there are still plenty of DIY jobs in the house and the weeding is an ongoing job. I look forward to reading everybody's news.

Sara Smith



made very good reading and it's good know that we are all getting through these trying times. Stay safe Marian .

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 recipies – or any craft items you are proud of, and of course things you are still looking forward to.

Some of the thank-yous received for Ramblings Edition 1

*Thanks to you and the committee for keeping in touch. I enjoyed reading the email sent via Sian. You have all kept busy doing a range of activities showing talents and skills. It's so important to focus on what you can do. Hoping you continue to recover Janine. Looking forward to meeting up with everyone when we can.
Regards Heather Morris*

Thank you, Sian, I have enjoyed the first edition of 'Ramblings.' Best wishes Anne A

Thank you so much for your email, most interesting, and congratulations on your grandson! Hilary Totten

*Really enjoyed reading Ramblings. It's a very good idea. Thank you.
Alison*

Thank you so much for the ramblings! It was very uplifting with some lovely photos! Sue E

Thank you so much for your email and newsletter. The Newsletter is fantastic. Well done to all who contributed and put it together. It has

Useful links

facebook – Comberbach WI

Comberbach Community Support

7. May 20th 2020

A very healthy bed of Runner Beans kindly donated to Janine from Rosie – I wonder if they are magic beans?

