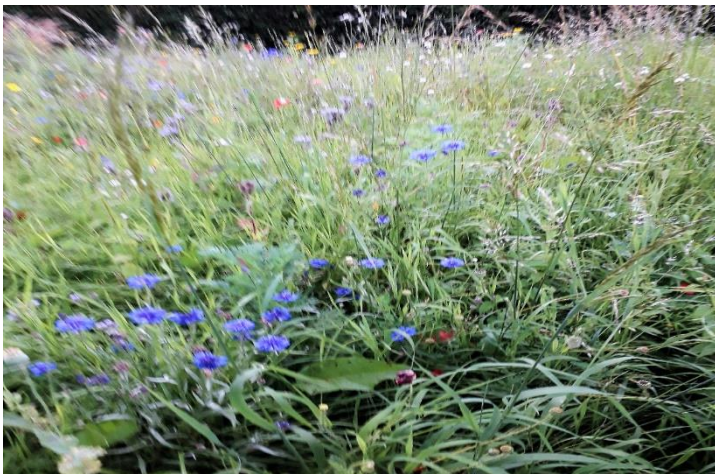


## COMBERBACH WI RAMBLINGS August 2021 Edition 17

Janine's jottings.

It was so nice to return to our "home" in the Memorial Hall at the beginning of August, and even nicer that there were 31 of our WI there, and we could sing "Jerusalem" again (which I nearly forgot about after such a long time, so thank you Margery, for the reminder!) The meeting was purposely low key and informal so that the ladies could just sit and chat and catch up. We were able to welcome a new potential member, Louise, and it gave her the opportunity to settle in and chat to other members. The atmosphere was relaxed and happy and we spent a couple of hours before heading home.

Diana Jones invited me to view her wildflower meadow at the bottom of her garden, so Rosie and I accepted the invitation and went on the Wednesday afternoon following the meeting. We had to walk through Diana's lovely garden at the side and rear of her cottage to reach it, but it has the Wow! Factor as the area is full of lovely colourful wildflowers and grasses. So pretty!



2. August 15th 2021

We were also sorry to learn that our lovely Cynthia has had a fall at home and was taken to Leighton Hospital. Luckily, there are no broken bones, but she must have been very shaken up by the fall, and Leighton want to improve her mobility before allowing her to return home – she will probably be at home by the time she reads this. We all wish her a speedy recovery. We will send you the card this time Cynthia!

We have a speaker scheduled for our September meeting, and we look forward to seeing everyone again on the first Monday, which, I think, is the 6<sup>th</sup>. The Speaker is going to tell us something about “The Birds and the Bees” and I have no other details, so you will have to let your imagination run riot! I have decided to keep the small tables so it will be more informal. Please bring your own drink/snack again, until we can work out the best plan for refreshments, as disinfecting everything we touch in the kitchen will be a nightmare. Thank you.

The October meeting will welcome Bernice Philips, who lives in the village will speak on her experiences volunteering in Africa. She is an accountant and helps women in African communities to set up businesses. We have the A. G. M. in October so no speaker. In December the craft centre at Winnington are demonstrating the making of Christmas Crackers.

Sian has reorganized the pub lunch at the Spinner and Burgamot in the village for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August. We should be able to sit outside if the promised heatwave materializes - see you at about 12.30. pre orders required.

Lindsay has been busy organizing outings for us. For those of us still bemoaning the loss of Northwich M & S, the first one is to the huge Marks and Spencer by Cheshire Oaks. This is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Leaving the Memorial Hall at 9.30am, returning at 1.30pm. 30 seater coach, 18 bookings so far. Cost approx. £12. Still room for more. Please contact Lindsay directly to book your seat. mobile 07976877043**

Please note this is not the discount M&S at Cheshire Oaks, but the huge store just near it.

Lindsay originally planned it because she wanted to buy some new underwear, so it became dubbed “The Knicker Run”! You don’t have to need new knickers to join the trip but please tell me or Lindsay if you wish to go and you haven’t put your name down just yet. There is a much wider range of goods available here, and don’t forget the Food Hall too.

The second outing is a Christmas themed one. Lindsay has organized a trip to Trentham Gardens and Shopping Village on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We went there a couple of years ago and since then, some new shops have been added. Don’t forget there is also a very large Garden Centre run by the same group which own the Fryers Garden Centre near Knutsford. A walk through the Christmas lights has also been booked. This is similar to the display at Dunham Massey. Please note – Lindsay had to complete the bookings for the light show tickets last week, so if you want to see this, we will have to make another application for tickets which may or may not be successful, as it is over-subscribed.

Please speak to Lindsay if you are interested since the number going determines the transport needed. Please spread the word to those who do not receive emails or missed the meeting

Leaving Comberbach Memorial Hall at 12.30 for Trentham shopping village, returning after we have seen the lights timed for 4.30 start, so hoping to be back on the bus by 6pm.

We have decided that “Ramblings” will stop after this edition. Sian has done a fantastic job putting everything together, but we shall put the occasional News-sheet out, so our members know what is going on. Slowly, we are returning to “normal”. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the pub and at our September meeting.

Janine

3. August 15th 2021

### **In Memory of Rena Bradley**

As mentioned in last month's Ramblings, it was my sad duty to report that Rena Bradley who had been on the Memorial Hall Committee for many years, sadly passed away a few weeks ago. At our August Committee Meeting we looked for an appropriate way in which to remember her, as she had always been supportive of our WI. Sian, who is now a member of the Memorial Hall Committee told us that they are proposing to put a new bench with a plaque in the Memorial Hall Garden in her memory. As a committee, we concurred that it would be a lovely tribute to Rena and that it would be appropriate for us to support the Hall Committee by contributing £50 towards the purchase of the bench and plaque. This was put to the members present at our first face-to-face Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and it was unanimously agreed that this would be an excellent idea.

Since then, I have passed the cheque for £50 to the Memorial Hall Committee and received a lovely message back from Nikki Lord on behalf of the Hall Committee. She is sure that our donation towards the bench will be very much appreciated by Jim and his family and passes on the heartfelt thanks of the Hall Committee to our WI.

I am sure we all look forward to seeing this lasting tribute to Rena when it is installed.

Rosie.



Several WI members lined the streets in the village for the funeral of Rena, who had done so much for the Memorial Hall and our WI. She will be missed in the village.

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### **Cynthia**

We were sad to hear that Cynthia Jones had a fall at home and was taken to Leighton Hospital by ambulance. I'm glad to repost that she sounds fine but they would like to improve her mobility before sending her home. ....We are now pleased to report that Cynthia is back home and doing well. Great news

Many thanks for all your enquiries and concern

Irene Robinson.... "

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### **Knitting**

I took 20 hats to Leighton Hospital today but could only drop them off with security at the desk but he said he'll get them to the ward and thanks to everyone! Fingers crossed they get to the right place.

Monica

4. August 15th 2021



We have 3 x 6ft scarves which together measure just a little bit more than the Marbury Lady sculpture was about 16ft high according to your measurements. The idea was to take a picture of her wearing the scarves (as part of the project) and then the scarves can be donated to charity! Someone will need to dress her and take the photos maybe someone can volunteer?



Thankyou Sian for all your hard work on Ramblings, let's hope we are all getting back to some kind of normality now!

Lindsay – showing us her impressive sunflower.

5. August 15th 2021

## A very Special Event

The 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 is a day that will be remembered in our household as a unique and very special day. It is surprising to think that the events that led up to the day started 51 years ago on 16 September 1970 when my husband Tony and another fresh-faced youth, Mark Stanhope joined Dartmouth Royal Naval College as Officer Cadets. From that day they have remained firm friends sometimes serving on the same ships and submarines but eventually taking very different career paths. Tony left the Navy in 1982 after the Falklands Conflict while Mark stayed in the Navy, rising through the ranks till eventually becoming an Admiral and finally the Head of the Navy a post known as “The First Sea Lord”. He retired from this post in 2013 and was honoured by HM the Queen, becoming Sir Mark Stanhope GCB, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.



Along with this honour comes your own coat of arms and eventually your own personal stall in the Lady Chapel of King Henry VII in Westminster Abbey. I say “eventually” because there are only 34 stalls in the chapel and more than 34 GCBs, so sadly one must wait for a stall to become vacant which only happens when a Knight dies. Mark fully expected to wait many more years before he was allocated a stall but along with 4 other GCBs he was invited to an Installation Ceremony on 19 July, also dubbed “Freedom Day” in England.

We were incredibly honoured when Mark invited us to be his guests at the Installation Ceremony, especially so as he could only have 6 guests. So, the day before we travelled to London and joined him and his wife at their daughter’s house in Wimbledon. On the day itself we dressed in our finery and with newly polished nails (for the ladies) we made our way to Westminster Abbey for 5pm. We were greeted at the Great West Door and while Mark got “robed” for the occasion, we, along with the guests of 3 other knights had Westminster Abbey to ourselves as it had been shut to the public. It was a blisteringly hot afternoon, but we had the benefit of 1000 years of stone keeping us cool. As an aside, one of the GCBs was unable to attend because his wife got pinged by the NHS app that morning, what dreadful timing!



After our wonderful private tour of the Abbey, we were invited to enter the King Henry VII Chapel beyond the main Abbey for the Installation Ceremony. The chapel was breath-taking. After the main Abbey with its hundreds of marble monuments and plaques, the chapel is beautifully ornate with spectacular stained-glass windows, intricately carved stalls and above the stalls, the banners of each individual knight. These banners remain in-situ until the knight dies when they are returned to the family. On the actual stall each knight has his coat of arms, and this remains forever, so each

6. August 15th 2021

stall encapsulates the history of the Order going back hundreds of years. The ceremony is steeped in history but essentially very simple with the Dean of the Abbey and the Bath King of Arms escorting the knight to his stall and asking the knight to confirm that he will continue to uphold all the promises that he made in the Oath that all knights swear when they first become a knight (at a different ceremony). After the short ceremony there were official photographs and time to enjoy and soak up the wonderful atmosphere before eventually leaving the chapel to be entertained by the Dean and his staff, accompanied by some rather nice champagne.

It was a very moving event and one not normally witnessed at such close quarters as guests before COVID sat in the main Abbey and watched on screens, not quite the same! For all that, the nicest thing for us was to see Mark so honoured after such a glittering career in the Royal Navy. That said, to us he is still just Mark, Tony's best mate.

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### **Au revoir Ramblings**

As we have mentioned before this will be the last edition of Ramblings in its current format.

We aim to keep you updated with current events, outings, meetings and other WI matters and business by e mails, website, Facebook page and by mouth.

I would like to thank you all for your support, interest and contribution. I could not have done this without you all. Let's hope that we can now look forward to an undisturbed autumn and winter Comberbach WI programme.

Take care, keep safe and see you at the meetings!

Regards Sian xx

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