



Smarden WI

News letter for April

In just a mere few weeks, life for everyone has changed dramatically. Our WI speaker for April, Suzannah Mayer, who would no doubt have kept us entertained with her talk on Ellen Terry and Smallhythe Place, was cancelled - "just in case". Sadly, it became apparent all too quickly that it would probably be necessary to cancel all meetings and other WI activities for the foreseeable future. Rest assured, however, that when life returns to "normal", our activities will recommence. Already Suzannah and other speakers have been rebooked for 2021.

In the meantime, we thought a little newsletter might amuse you for a while. If you have any comments, news items, trivia, photographs, or whatever, that you might like to have included to share with other ladies in a future edition, please do let any of the committee know. Perhaps something on how you are coping, or not, during this period of enforced isolation, things that have cheered you or driven you to despair. Anything really. All feedback, good and bad, will be appreciated.



Many birthdays in 2020 will probably be memorable for all the wrong reasons but, despite that, many happy returns to the following ladies who have birthdays coming up soon:

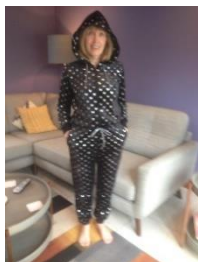
Elizabeth McLeish	4 April
Kathy Reynolds	15 April
Lynda Embleton	12 May
Margaret Twort	16 May
Jocelyn Craig	20 May
Angela Wilson	21 May

Happy birthday Ladies



As you know, we always have flowers on the President's table each meeting and, for April, the willing volunteer to provide the flowers was Gill Bromley who duly took home the vase to fill. Having recently joined the Headcorn Flower Arrangers and the April meeting being cancelled, Gill decided she needed all the practice she can get so, using flowers from her garden, here is one of her first arrangements. As she has the vase, Gill will probably have to do the flowers for the next newsletter too!

“What you need is a onesie Grandma!” That’s what Lynn Carmichael’s granddaughter, Ella, said to her when she explained she would be at home a lot more from now on. What a good idea, thought Lynn, sending away to Freeman’s online for a cosy black version with a little bit of sparkle. Ella’s style is a bit more sporty, hence the camouflage fashion for all things on the theme of



onesie, and Remi currently loves the unicorns.

If you have any pictures of your Lynn and we will put them together for

families in onesies, send them to lynncarmichael25@yahoo.co.uk everyone to enjoy next month.

Customer review: recommended! Just the thing for lounging around the house or puzzling over the WI quiz.
Warning: allow extra time to get to the loo!

One day, all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That is faith.

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That is trust.

Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but we still set the alarm to wake us up.

That is hope.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That is confidence.

We see the world suffering but we still get married and have children.

That is love.

On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence “I am not 80 years old. I am sweet 16 with 64 years’ experience”.

That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.

Remember – good friends are the rare jewels of life:

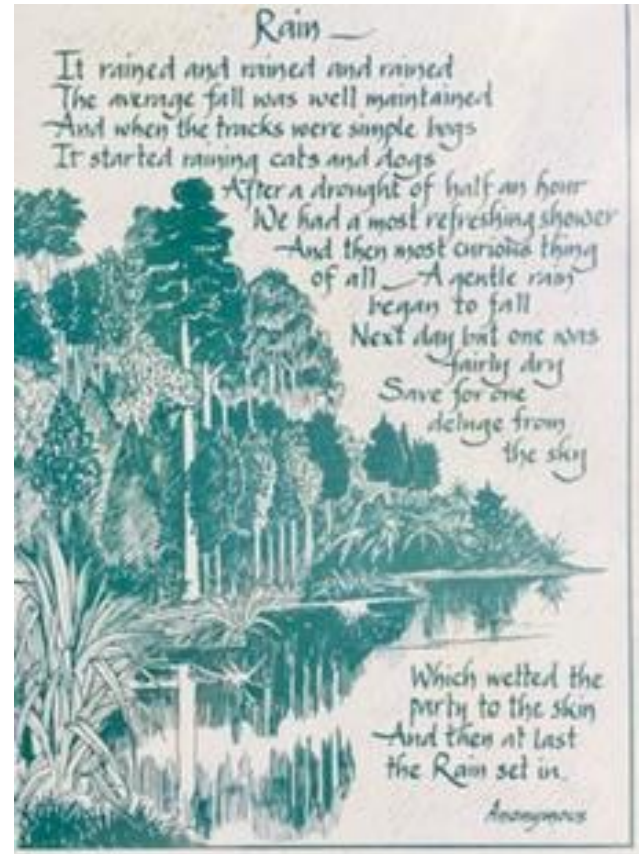
difficult to find and impossible to replace.

(If you would like to get in touch with any of your WI friends and do not have a way of contacting them, let a member of the committee know and we will help.)

An update from Eleanor Bliss on the Foodbank. Items for the foodbank can no longer be put in the church. If anyone HAS any items for the foodbank, they can be put into a green crate behind the hedge next to Eleanor’s driveway at Halfways Cottage, Pluckley Road. There’s a convenient lay-by just opposite. If, you google Ashford Family Foodbank, there is a link to making an online donation. As you can imagine, the foodbank is now a very important feature in many people’s lives.



It doesn't seem so long ago that all we had to worry about was how much it was raining (if only that was all we had to worry about now!). On a trip down under some years ago, when all it seemed to do was rain, Carol Chandler found this little ditty to purchase. Very apt for the first couple of months of 2020, don't you think?



Many of you will be aware that Gill Bromley is currently raising money in aid of The Pancreatic Cancer Research Trust. Gill's friend has just completed six months of monthly activities, some of which, teas, coffee mornings and cheese



hold for obvious reasons, so she is now trying other ways. Blanche, who lives in Pennsylvania, chemotherapy for this disease and She has been doing so by holding such as plans for afternoon cream and wine events are currently on

You may also remember that, last year, WI Member, Joan Mortley taught some of us how to make rose brooches out of felt at the craft event. Well, Gill has been making these brooches throughout March and is selling them in aid of the Fund. She sells them for £3 each or £10 for four and will be happy to donate 10% of any sales to WI Members to Smarden WI.

Orders can be placed via Facebook Messenger, by email to gillbrom57@btinternet.com, by text to 07543 644911 or by phone (and have a chat too) to 01622 890214. You can choose whatever colour flowers you like. Leaves come in dark green, bright green or lime green.

For our next newsletter, please put your thinking caps on and devise a humorous limerick to do with being stuck indoors for such a long time. It could be about activities carried out (crafting, painting, gardening, cooking etc) or about your relationship with someone else in the house and how it is holding up (or not!). Please email your entries to carolm.chandler@btinternet.com or text to 07796 687495. All entries will be included in the next edition for everyone to vote on.

**Competition
Corner**



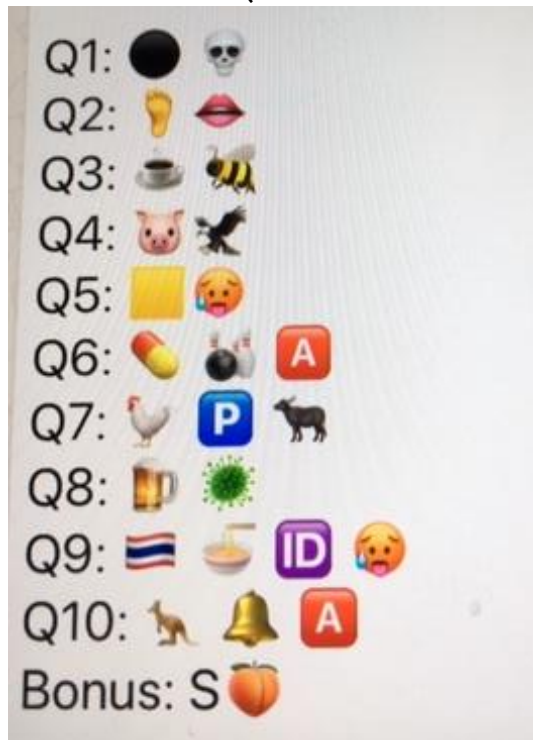
I've seen some weird washing but nothing like this.
Perhaps the tumble drier was broken!

“

This quarantine has made me realise why the dog gets so excited when something moves outside of the house, goes for walks or car rides. I think I even just barked at a squirrel!”

And, finally, a little quiz to test your brain power

(hint: all the answers are diseases)



Answers:
1 Black Death, 2 Foot and Mouth
3 TB, 4 Swine Flu
5 Yellow Fever, 6 Ebola
7 Chicken Pox, 8 Coronavirus
9 Typhoid Fever, 10 Rubella
Bonus SARS

And finally, finally, from Kathy Reynolds:

While we're all marooned in the UK, I thought we could introduce a Carnival Cavalcade of **Colour** from more exotic climes ~ Some **Llama Drama** to include in the next newsletter – let's have an entire vibrant **Alpaca** of them! I've sketched out an outline picture if you want a starting point, but you can modify it, add to it or use another llama/alpaca image! Send your images to Kathy Reynolds at katrey15@hotmail.com. The more hearts, flowers, bunting and joy, the better. Have fun!

