



Smarden WI

Newsletter for July

Doesn't time fly! Even when you're not doing very much. Amazingly we are now on our fourth newsletter and in the second half of 2020. Lockdown has eased a great deal since last month and many activities are starting, gradually, to return to a new normal. Many of us will now see nothing unusual in queuing to get into a supermarket and then finding it pretty empty when you do get in. Perhaps, by the time you are reading this, you may even have managed to get your hair cut or coloured, or both, or at least have an appointment to do so.

We will get there eventually, although I doubt no-one can predict when we will have a "proper" WI meeting. In the meantime, our newsletter will continue albeit with a much-needed break for the month of August. So please continue to forward any items you may wish to have included in the September issue.

And don't forget too, please contact any of us – about anything – if you would like to do so.

Hoping the summer weather returns as soon as possible!

Carol Chandler



Wishing a very happy birthday to the following ladies who have birthdays on the horizon:

Lynn Carmichael	2 July
Marina Hope	18 July
Eleanor Bliss	20 July
Judy Hollis	5 August
Jane Fleet	17 August
Fran Lester	18 August
Stephanie Atkins	18 August
Veronica Johnson	27 August
Monica Harding	29 August
Geraldine Dyer	29 August

*Many happy returns,
Ladies*

The President's table

July's flowers are Sweet William grown in Smarden, by Gill's brother, Andy Batt. The meaning of these flowers is Gallantry and Finesse. Sounds somewhat like the WI!

Joint First Place

Hilary Smith



Honor Ferris



COMPETITION FOR JULY
A PHOTOGRAPH OF A SINGLE
ROSE
(OR BLOOM)

Our competition for a photograph of a rose or bloom produced 17 entries – 16 of roses and 1 of a water lily. Jean Boorman, Chairperson of the Smarden Gardeners, had the unenviable task of judging the competition, surely more difficult a job from photographs than from real blooms:

“Thank you for asking me to judge the entries, which I must say was a tough job as there were so many excellent exhibits. I have based my criteria on perfection of the petals, form and colour and on imagined scents of which there would have been many and, where seen, health of the leaves.

In the Garden Society shows, judges will award more than one First where they feel this is warranted and you will see I have done just that as I simply couldn't decide, as they are both perfect. I have also awarded two Highly Commended.

Many congratulations to the winners and a huge well done to all those who entered.

Best wishes”
Jean Boorman

Second Place
Jacque Shakleton



Third Place
Stephanie Atkins



Highly Commended

Carol Chandler



Jenny Mowatt



Treasure Chest

Last month's treasure chest on items that evoke special memories for us led to some further entries for inclusion this month. Hope you enjoy them!

Stephanie:



Aunty Dot's Pink Lady: This Royal Doulton ornament was amongst the treasured possessions of a spinster aunt (born 1912) who thoroughly spoilt myself and two sisters, her only nieces. After her death 25 years ago, almost all her possessions were distributed to charity shops. In deference to her memory, and remembering how fond she was of the ornament, it was felt it should be kept. Both sisters backed off! When the Rye Harbour caravan was bought 8 years ago, one sister suggested displaying

the pink lady there on the basis a casual user might break it! This never happened! I now have it in my living room - not my style, but in loving memory of Aunty Dot. The wooden 50s-style calendar next to it was on my Dad's desk for all the decades he worked in the city.

Alison:

As a very small child, before I could remember, my dad made me a rocking horse, although not the one in the photo - a much simpler one. I would ride on it often, making it rock so hard it lifted off the floor sometimes. I have many happy memories of riding it. Then, when I had my first born, my dad decided to make this carved rocking horse for my children and another similar one for my sister's children. Our children spent much time riding the rocking horses as my sister and I had. My dad died three years ago but it's so lovely to have something not only that he made but enjoyed making, and which will continue to give many hours of pleasure in the future.



Honor:



My treasured item is this picture of all my boys at the end of a wet walk in the mountains in Scotland a few years ago. Our older son showed his mountain leader skills when we stopped for lunch and he decided that we should turn back rather than carry on as some of us had got colder than we'd realised. It reminded us that he was as good as his dad at making the big decisions in such a situation. We all still look back on it as a great day and laugh about it being a good time to be adult even if it was in an unusual

situation to show maturity.

Gill:

This is my treasure. It's a friend Blanche in an Australia- the Remarkable Rocks on We met Blanche, who lives in this trip and have retained a since, enjoying over 20 holidays Canada. Sadly Blanche has pancreatic cancer since has meant that we've had to year. I am continuing to raise Cancer Research Fund although mornings, afternoon tea etc are on hold. Thank you to WI friends who have supported me since my swim in the sea in January.....something I aim to repeat in December (anyone welcome to join me).



photo Les and I with our great shaped frame. It was taken at Kangaroo Island in April 1997. Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on very special friendship ever together in the UK, USA. and been suffering from September; this and Covid19 miss her trip to England this money for the Pancreatic all my plans for coffee



How is yours? 8 feet tall? Dinner for slugs? Dead? Please let us know. Photos welcome.

JAMS, JELLIES & CHUTNEYS



Following on from last month, now is the time to start making jams, jellies and chutneys. We will sell them at the end of October, at the Christmas Fair if it goes ahead, or via other channels if not, so please carry on jamming throughout the summer and autumn.

If you have never tried making jam etc, this is a great time to give it a go. I had never made it until 2 or 3 years ago and now I'm hooked! There are also loads of great recipes online from the BBC and Good Housekeeping.

Contact Gill via gillbrom57@btinternet.com or 01622 890214 if:

- * you have surplus fruit or veg that you would be willing to offer to jam and chutney makers
 - * you need or can offer clean empty jam jars with lids
 - * you would like to borrow the jam maker which was kindly gifted to Gill by Jenny Mowatt
- Meanwhile, I am all geared up and raring to go....the little booklet is by the National Federation Of W.I.s and was well used by my mother, Nora, as you can see from the rather mucky cover. I still use it!



Wish we were there.....

No doubt over the past few months, you have dreamt of being somewhere, anywhere, other than where you actually were, stuck at home. Here are some of our dreams:



*A trip of a lifetime on the Rocky Mountaineer Train from Vancouver to Calgary!
(perhaps another year?)
Best wishes
Eleanor*



*Anywhere Greek will do,
But Rhodes in particular
would be lovely. The sun,
the sea, tsatsiki and pitta
and a cold glass of white
wine. Ymmas! Carol*



A trip to Paris - Creme de la Menthe! Early start to catch the train from Ashford. Moved a sleepy passenger out of my allocated seat - pot pourri! Oh well, no fuss, mange tout. First destination is the Sacre Coeur. Climbed the steps all the way to the top and enjoyed the fantastic view of the city - bonnet de douche! We followed on with a delicious lunch of moules and frites in the Montmartre area, surrounded by talented street artists. One or two glasses of Poet Champers went down well. In the afternoon we took a boat trip down the Seine, climbing aboard by the iconic Eiffel Tower. Plume de ma tante - what a magnificent structure that is! Had a wonderful view of the river from my window seat but - menage a trois! - how sad to see the destruction of the Notre Dame cathedral. Later, strolling along the banks of the Seine we passed the enormous queue for the Louvre - Chateaufneuf du Pape! After an evening meal in my favourite restaurant - Le Petit Zinc - the sun went down and we headed back to the station for home - Bonjour Paris! Lynne X

Apologies to any serious students of French – expressions borrowed, of course, from Delboy.

Translation: *the very best; I don't believe it; no problem; excellent; Moet champagne; Gordon Bennett!; my goodness; it's all gone crazy; Goodbye.*

A recommendation from Gill Bromley:

*"I'd like to recommend the NFWI website and Facebook pages. They are sharing loads of things to do during lockdown including live Denman Lectures and Cookery Demonstrations via Zoom for just £5 per session. I recently attended one on a Tuesday about the D-Day landings. The East Kent Federation Facebook page shares ideas and they also host a weekly Coffee Morning via Zoom every Monday."
(see overleaf for more information)*

Did you know that the Smarden WI has a Facebook page? If you would like to be added to the list of members who have access to it, please send an email to Jenny Mowatt on oastpost@btinternet.com and she will register you. There are lots of photos as well as other information on the site.



Denman at Home

We're delighted to announce the very first Denman at Home online courses. These are Denman courses taught from the comfort and safety of your own home! If you follow us on Facebook you'll have seen we completed a number of trials with enormous success. Thank you to everyone who took part.

I have just booked five WI lectures via the Denman website. I have spent many a happy hour at the NFWI College in Denman, Oxfordshire, learning crafts, enjoying history courses, visiting Oxford, walking by the Thames and even one on dress and make-up with confidence (with my Mum). The meals are excellent and there is a bar as well as stunning grounds around the Georgian mansion which is the College, with modern teaching school and very comfortable accommodation. Jocelyn and I were due to go there in June to make garden panels in stained glass. Hope we can get there in 2021.

I was delighted when I saw that Denman was putting on lectures and cookery demonstrations via Zoom. They cost just £5 per session which all helps Denman make a little bit of income during these tough times. You have to book via <https://www.denman.org.uk/whats-on/?search=online>. All courses are listed including future residentials (for when Denman re-opens) so scroll through the list and look for the sessions priced at £5. You can book two weeks ahead to be assured of getting a place. As those who have been to Denman will know, the lecturers are first class, including Kent's own John Vigar who has talked to our WI in the past.

We have so enjoyed Simon's lectures on London, First World War memorials, D-Day etc that Les and I hope to book on one of his European tours when we are allowed to travel.

The lectures and demonstrations last an hour, including questions via chat, and take place at various times of day and days of the week. They update the listings every week. In June they offered many cookery demos including Lamb Pilaf, Fudge Cake and Fruit Frangipan, as well as a Chill-out evening for wellbeing and another on Scrapbooking. As I write this, the July lists are not complete but they include Needlefelt Garden Birds on 8 July.

Today I've booked John's Talk on Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches; Simon's Talk on the General History of London; John's Talk on Bedrooms, Banquets and Balls; John's Talk on Britain with Betjeman; and Simon's Talk On The City Of London (Evening).

Gill Bromley

Also of interest, perhaps:

A talk by Jennifer Godfrey about her book, Suffragettes of Kent, recorded under lockdown. Hear about Kent women like Ethel Violet Baldock born in Maidstone and their campaigning for votes for women. Learn who was imprisoned and force fed in Maidstone Prison and how badly Mrs Charlotte Despard (founder of the Women's Freedom League) was treated on her visit to the town. Jennifer is a first time author. She enjoys listening to and learning from other people's stories. Having previously been a solicitor, she trained to accurately convey accounts of an event or situation. Whilst working at a mental health charity, Jennifer listened to stories and experiences and used these to create resources for young people. Writing Suffragettes of Kent has enabled Jennifer to become an advocate once again, but this time for historic Kent voices. Come and learn about the many stories and journeys of hope, determination, courage and sacrifice of those involved in the women's suffrage movement in Kent.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=2BMrOhQivg4>

Kent Archives have recordings of lectures on a wide range of topics, given over the past couple of years, at the Kent History and Library Centre. A list with details can be found here:

<https://www.kentarchives.org.uk/lunchtime-talks/>

Fairly topical at the moment,
and with thanks to Hilary Sutton



Quiz Corner

A Monochrome Quiz

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign of surrender 2. The teacher writes on it 3. Salix Alba 4. This box of chocolates could be harmful 5. The beluga mammal 6. Expert in martial arts 7. African river 8. Leopard with melanism 9. Just a little fib 10. A dangerous spider 11. Animal on the Kent coat of arms | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Gateau in Germany 13. Person employed in an office 14. Sausage of dried blood 15. Owners of the Titanic 16. The plague 17. Alloy of gold and nickel 18. Spice native to South India 19. Bing sang about it 20. Inland body of water between Europe and Turkey 21. 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue 22. Seaside resort with a famous tower | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Flag flown on Trafalgar day 24. Fruit cooked with apple 25. Alice followed it 26. Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland 27. You don't want one of these! 28. Mountain range of South Dakota 29. Pale chess piece that must begin on its own colour square 30. Illegal buying/selling |
|--|---|---|



Located on Park Lane, what is this exclusive 5 star hotel?



A philosopher or footballer?



Which 1994 romcom?



Which capital city?



This boy band had 2UK No 1s & sold 100 million records



The venue of the 2021 Golf Open Championship is?



A childhood disease?



Volcano in the Aegean Sea



Know originally as Temasek, what is this country ?

Caring Society by Christopher Matthew (after The Good Little Girl by AA Milne)

Whenever I ring up, I get this reply;
 "Customer Services, How may I help you?"
 And when I have told them, they cheerfully cry:
 "Bear with me will you?
 I'll just put you through."

It could be the gas board, it could be BT,
 It could be the council concerning our tree.
 It could be the dealer about the new car,
 Or a medical query that's rather bizarre-
 "Bear with me will you, I'm putting you through."

It's always the same when they put you on hold:
 "Our lines are all busy,
 You're held in a queue."
 And, lest there be doubt, it's repeated tenfold:
 "Our lines are still busy, you're still in a queue."

And so I just sit and I fume and I fret.
 Is it worth hanging up? It's a pretty fair bet
That someone will answer, just as I do.
 And next time I'll go to the back of the queue.
 And once again hear that familiar coo:
 "Hallo... how may I help you?".....



How to give your cat a pill...

- 1 Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- 2 Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- 3 Retrieve cat from bedroom and throw away soggy pill.
- 4 Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- 5 Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
- 6 Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees. Hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
- 7 Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
- 8 Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat, with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- 9 Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink one beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
- 10 Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard and close door on to neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- 11 Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pout shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw teeshirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
- 12 Call fire brigade to retrieve the cat from across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence with swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

- 13 Tie the cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and put two pints of water down throat to wash down pill.
- 14 Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
- 15 Arrange for RSPCA to collect mutant cat from hell and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.
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How to give your dog a pill



- 1 Wrap it in bacon.
- 2 Toss it in the air.

New Habits

My newest habit, formed during lockdown, is to wander round the garden taking close-up photos of, well, everything really!! Little pictures to take my mind off the bigger picture. This will probably not persist if we ever get back to normal! - Kathy

My new habits are running and garden gym. We normally go to the gym and decided to replace it with these habits. Brilliant for mental health as much as physical health and better than baking and eating!! Honor

My new habit is to read the newspaper from cover to cover online every morning. Up to now I only ever read a newspaper on Sunday, and certainly not online! I will continue the new start to the day, although, if other activities intervene, I may not be able to be quite so thorough. Geraldine

My new habit is spending far too much time sitting at the table on a laptop. That will have to go! Carol



We are very lucky to live in an area which is picturesque and great for bike riding. My new habit is cycling to the village shop but, most importantly, wearing a bike helmet. Will this continue through the autumn and winter? Hmm...wait and see!. Lynne

Quiz Answers:

Monochrome

1. White flag
2. Blackboard
3. White willow
4. Black Magic
5. White whale
6. Black Belt
7. White Nile
8. Black panther
9. White lie
10. Black Widow
11. White horse
12. Black Forest
13. White collar
14. Black pudding
15. White Star
16. Black Death
17. White gold
18. Black pepper
19. White Christmas
20. Black Sea
21. White House
22. Blackpool
23. White Ensign
24. Black berry
25. White Rabbit
26. Black Watch
27. White Elephant
28. Black Hills
29. White Queen
30. Black Market

Emojis

Dorchester Hotel
Socrates
Four weddings and a funeral
Canberra
Beachboys
Royal St George
Rubella
Santorini
Singapore

More of Betty's flowers



And Finally:

We mentioned before those WI ladies who have made scrubs for the NHS. The numbers of such ladies has grown and now includes Lynda Embleton, Kathy Gibbs, Kathy Reynolds and Alison Townsley. Huge thanks to all of them.



CELEBRATING GARDENS

A big thank you to our 'Festival of Flora' contributors. Geraldine produced the lovely poster and Carol sent a delightful photograph of her garden with a beautiful hibiscus. On the second sheet we have Lynn's Oriental Blossom Garden followed by a delicate sketch that Stephanie sent. Finally, a watercolour and crayon garden scene that I made this week in the very hot garden!





Next time: Beach or Seaside themes please.....send to Kathy Reynolds katrey15@hotmail.com