



Smarden WI

Newsletter for May

Perhaps a month ago, when lockdown began, some of us believed that it wouldn't or couldn't go on for too long. Yet, here we are, a month later, still at home with nowhere much to go and unable to visit anyone. Hopefully, therefore, May's edition of the Newsletter will keep you interested and occupied for a little of that spare time most of us now have in abundance!

Your WI committee has tried once again to put together a mixture of inspiring ideas, comments, puzzles, plus, of course, the limericks received on being at home. These are dotted throughout the newsletter for your amusement.

We hope you will enjoy the read!

In the meantime, if you do feel in need of a chat at any time, please do not hesitate to ring any of the WI committee - we would be delighted to hear from you.



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

Lynda Embleton	12 May
Margaret Twort	16 May
Jocelyn Craig	20 May
Angela Wilson	21 May
Barbara Speak	4 June
Jan Barnes	9 June
Deidre Harrop	10 June
Judith Hardy	12 June

*Many happy returns,
Ladies*

The President's table

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Gill Bromley currently has the vase used for flowers on the President's table at each meeting. Here is her arrangement for May.

Beautiful, Gill, thank you!



“What you need is a onesie Grandma!”

Last month’s article prompted by Lynn Carmichael’s granddaughter inspired a number of onesie photos:

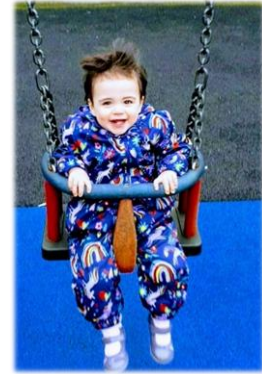
From the Young.....



*Honor’s granddaughter
Maya in Vancouver*



*Geraldine’s grandchildren
who love sprouts!*



*Kathy R’s granddaughter
Imogen on a swing*

... to the Young at heart!



Margaret’s Meal – with a difference! –

Note the date - Friday 15 May.

As Margaret is unable to organise her usual six-monthly outing to a local restaurant, this will be a meal you can join in on and celebrate together with our friends in WI. Everyone will be invited to take part without leaving the comfort of your own home (I think we can safely assume you will all be at home without a prior engagement!) An invitation with more details will follow nearer the time.

Lynn Carmichael

COPING WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY

- ☑ Cultivate gratitude
- ☑ Begin and end each day with a prayer, or meditation, or reflection
- ☑ Breathe deeply, and often
- ☑ Laugh often
- ☑ Always opt for comfort
- ☑ Nurture friendships
- ☑ Approach problems as challenges
- ☑ Set achievable goals
- ☑ Savour beauty
- ☑ Exchange security for serenity
- ☑ Cherish your dreams

Eric and Barbara from Smarden
Have plenty of time for their garden.
They got out a rake
But soon learnt their mistake
When their muscles began to harden!
Barbara Spear



A Cutting Garden...

I don't know if you are like me, but I don't like taking flowers from my border to put into vases, so here are a few ideas.

Now that all your pots of daffodils and narcissi are finished, don't throw them away, but find an empty space and start a "cutting garden" like Sarah Raven's. Plant out your bulbs in rows and let the foliage die down. This will look really untidy so sow some annuals all around, such as cornflowers and Nigella, and they will produce summer colour. In the autumn, think of transplanting a few flowers like Rudbeckia, which last in a vase for a week. Oh, and in the summer, don't forget the gladioli and perhaps a few left-over sunflowers. What a bright patch you will have as well as several vases of flowers for free!

Jenny Mowatt

.....and.....Betty's garden

As most of you will know, Betty Bromley is Smarden WI's oldest member at 93 and she still enjoys hearing about the WI even though she was unable to get to many meetings last year due to ill-health and now because she is in isolation. Betty has appreciated and welcomes phone calls; she particularly wishes to thank Lynn Carmichael. Here are just a few pictures of flowers from her beautiful garden.



And With thanks to Pam Ayres

Time for us girls

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates.
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside,
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!

*There was an "auld wifey" from Smarden
In the CRISIS she took to her garden
She pruned and she seeded,
She mulched and she weeded..
The plants all cried out for "Pardon!"
Eleanor Bliss*

So here you find me stuck inside
For four weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

*When we first had to lockdown at home
We wanted to scream and to groan
But now we get by
With the WI
And friends at the end of the phone!
Kathy Reynolds*

de Jager's of Ulcombe In praise of a Former Sponsor

Back in 2018 I was a member of the Smarden WI Centenary Planning committee. Another member, from memory Monica Harding (apologies if I'm wrong) was tasked with asking local bulb suppliers, de Jagers, if they would sponsor some daffodil bulbs for us to plant outside the Charter Hall. This would be a gesture to mark, hopefully for several years to come, our centenary. Their response was immediate and positive. Not only did they say "Yes", but when a number was given by us, they said "Is that all? Have more". When the bulbs were delivered, in the autumn, they proved to be top quality. Each bulb was the size of a small globe.

Arrangements for a group of WI volunteers to plant in October hit a snag. A lengthy dry spell had rendered the ground impenetrable! Roping in some husbands, and after some rain to soften the ground, the bulbs were finally planted in November 2018. There were sufficient for:

- Round the Charter Hall sign;
- Sprinkled across the grass opposite, at the start of Chessenden Lane;
- All down the window side of the Charter Hall.

As you may have observed, not only was there a magnificent display in March 2019, this was repeated this March.

Partly out of a sense of gratitude, and also to support the Smarden Gardeners' Society (newish) Spring Show, I ordered about £50 worth of daffodils, tulips and alliums. Planted last September/October they have provided a brilliant display, and I can kid myself they would have won awards at the Spring Show – scheduled for 4th April 2020 but obviously cancelled! The bulbs are initially slightly more expensive than those in regular garden centres, but this has to be off set against no failures, or no distorted plants. There has been 100% germination and flowering.



Stephanie Atkins
6 April 2020

A Lady was all on her own
With only her cat and her phone
I'm a WI member
So if it lasts 'til September
I'll never be lost or alone.
Gill Bromley

There once was a virus called C
That meant end of life for poor me
I do not mean Death
I still have my breath
But lock-down, forever, d'ye see?
Jenny Mowatt

Charter Hall Lottery

Thank you very much to all those who gave their generous support to the Charter Hall lottery. The amount raised, £2,090, is an amazing sum, half of which will be given in lottery prizes. Such generous support is especially important this year, as the Hall is not bringing in any revenue, all events having been cancelled.

Two draws have already taken place using video conferencing. I am really hoping that there will be some winners among fellow WI members.
Best wishes

Geraldine Dyer
On behalf of the Trustees



Supporting the Charter Hall: *Stephanie Atkins*

A Valuable Community Resource

In one of my last conversations with Angela Wilson at a Monday "Drop in" session at the Charter Hall (before "Lockdown"), she mentioned the drastic drop in income being felt by the Charter Hall, as – at that time – about half the bookings for the current week were being cancelled. This was the last week before everything shut down. Currently the income of the hall must be nil. Yet they still have ongoing costs like gas, electricity and rates to pay.

My view of the hall is that it is a fantastic resource for the Smarden community. I have attended WI meetings in Bethersden, Egerton, Westwell and Swan (Ashford). Egerton comes close in quality to our hall, but all the others are of far inferior quality, mainly due to their age. Almost all of our speakers comment on how attractive our venue is, and stress how fortunate we are.

Something to consider, when all this "shut down" is over, by our committee and then membership, is making a donation to the Charter Hall to keep it viable. Our outgoings, for the next few months might be (approx):

April	£90	Speaker + travelling + hall fee
May	£30	No speaker – resolutions
June	£90	
July	£0	Garden Meeting
Aug	£90	
Total	£300	

Against this, there would have been some income generated:

Raffle + Sales table (approx)
£30 x 4 months
Total £120

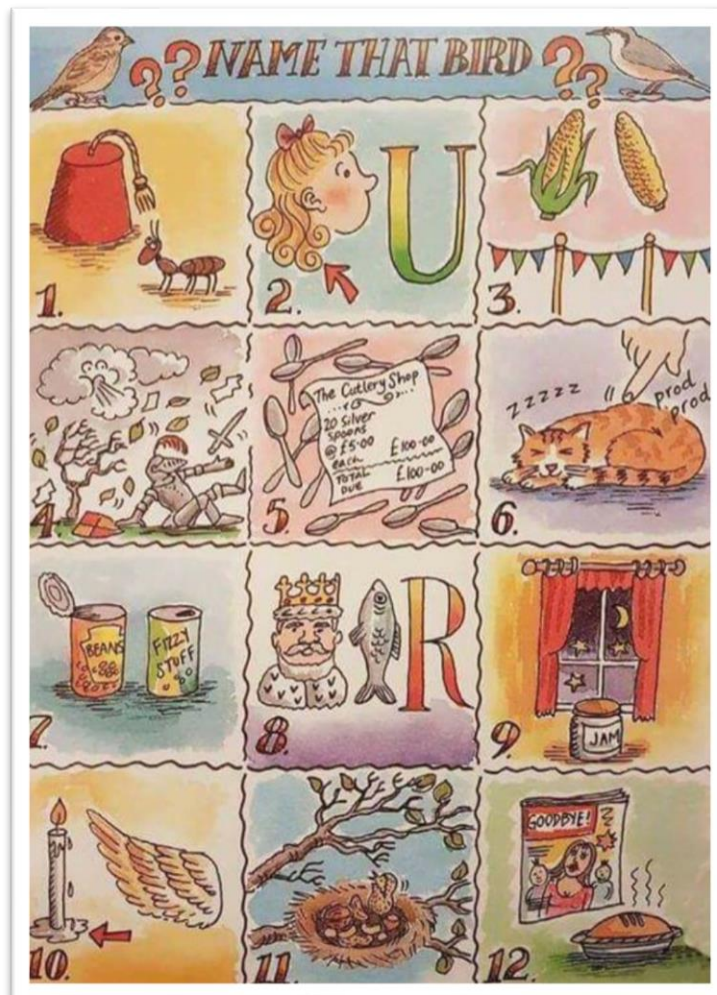
Even on these very rough figures, our WI should have £180 in hand. Could we not donate a modest amount to our landlord (Charter Hall), to keep it viable? You could argue why we are paying for meetings that never took place. The counter-argument is to take the broader view, and consider the inestimable value of the resource in our midst. Other clubs could (should?) follow our lead.

Quiz Corner

Film Anagrams

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Frostier dumb (1993) | 7. Brendan rule (2017) |
| 2. Sketching sheep (2010) | 8. Broths gusset (1984) |
| 3. Info mending (2003) | 9. Blank mince (1997) |
| 4. Mopy parsnip (1964) | 10. Diane knight (1956) |
| 5. Ailey racoons (2006) | 11. Hotel inking (1994) |
| 6. Tawney trompe (1990) | 12. Sooty try (1995) |

(answers at the end)



(answers at the end)

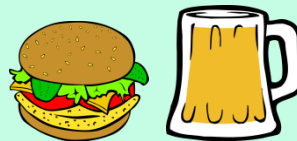
A WI member who tweeted



**In lockdown, was feeling defeated.
The man that she'd wed,
Spent all day in bed,**



And tweeted for all that he needed.



Geraldine Dyer

Books....



and DVDs

Did you know you can get free e-books via the Library Service and you can join online too? Members of Kent libraries can download ebooks for free and obtain accurate up-to-the-minute information on any topic via the Ask a Kent Librarian service. Use this link to find out more:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

KCC libraries offer a vast range of modern novels, classics, and non-fiction titles. Whatever your interests they will have books for you. If you've never tried an e-book now is the perfect time to give it a go.

Gill Bromley

With more time on your hands, perhaps you would like to catch up on a classic book title you have always wanted to read. You may have lost, but would like to reread, an old favourite. In addition to the idea of the county library link enjoyed by both Gill and Eleanor, the WI and village book clubs continue through lockdown so I am sure we could source something to loan you. Equally there are those of us with great DVDs we have watched which are now gathering dust.

Email to: lynncarmichael25@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01233 770846 with any recommended books or DVDs you could loan for, say one month. Register with me if you have particular titles you would like to borrow or if you would like to know what's on offer. I will try and put you in touch with one another and circulate the group for requests. That way we could keep the conversation about good books and films going between us.

Lynn Carmichael

And finally:

With Lockdown thanks to Kathy Reynolds for the final limerick:

The present is filled with calamity
We need help with our health and our sanity
We revere our front-line
NHS – so sublime
True protectors of everyone's family.



And heartfelt thanks also to

Lynda Embleton, who along with other clever ladies in the village including Maggie Lennie (who is almost a WI member!) has been working her fingers to the bone making scrubs for the local NHS.

Well done Lynda & Maggie – we know your hardwork will be much appreciated.

Answers to Film Anagram Quiz

- 1) Mrs Doubtfire
- 2) The Kings Speech
- 3) Finding Nemo
- 4) Mary Poppins
- 5) Casino Royale
- 6) Pretty Woman
- 7) Bladerunner
- 8) Ghost Busters
- 9) Men in Black
- 10) The King and I
- 11) The Lion King
- 12) Toy Story

Answers to Bird Quiz

- Pheasant
- Curlew
- Corn Bunting
- Nightingale
- Spoonbill
- Kittiwake
- Either Toucan or Canary
- Kingfisher
- Nightjar
- Waxwing
- Nuthatch
- Magpie

And finally finally:



Here is your lovely LLAMA artwork: a cornucopia of colour, lovely ideas and flair. Your artists for May were Geraldine, Gill, Lynn and Kathy. [Terrible joke alert!](#)

Q. What do you get if you stand between two llamas? A. LLamanated!

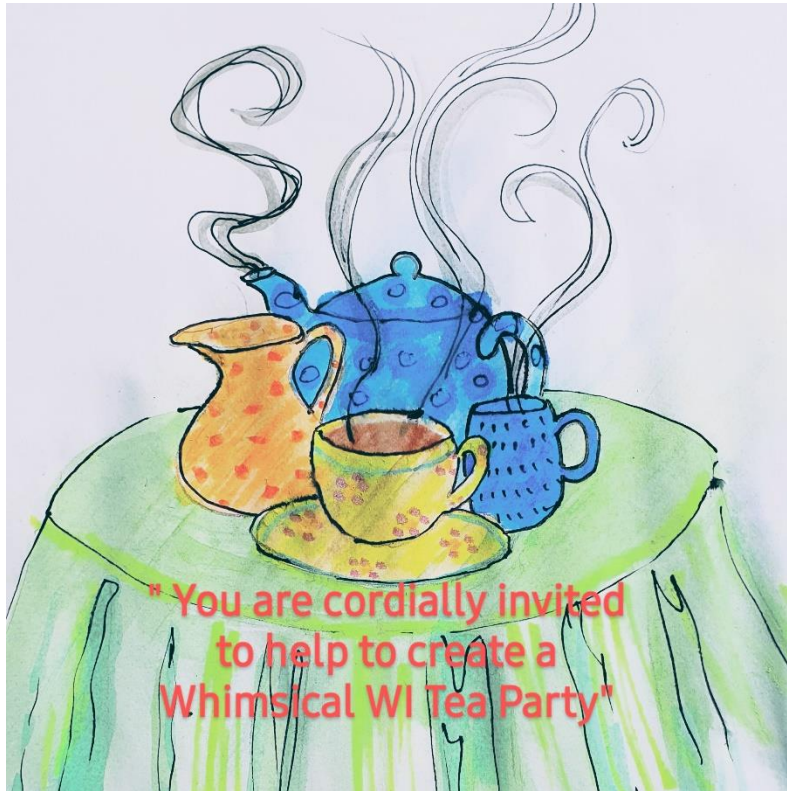
For our June Newsletter Art Project let's compile a

Whimsical WI Tea Party

Please send your interpretations to Kathy Reynolds at katrey15@hotmail.com

Ideas:

Teapots,
cups &
Saucers,
milk jugs,
mugs,
flowers, tea
cosies,
sugar bowls,
sugar cubes,
sugar tongs,
coffee pots,
teaspoons,
cake forks,
cakes, buns,
doilies,



biscuits,
bunting,
finger
sandwiches,
scones,
cream, tea
strainers, tea
caddies,
meringues,
strawberries,
jam, muffins,
champagne,
hot cross
buns,
flowers;

PS: Your own ideas also very welcome!

Try all (challenge!) or one – any contributions will add to a great picture.

Feeling very hungry now, for some reason so I'm off to raid the biscuit barrel....did I mention a biscuit barrel?

Kathy Reynolds