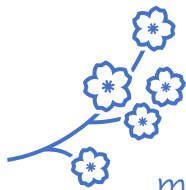


Wednesday May 6th

Hello everyone and welcome to our virtual meeting. We hope you & your family are all well and keeping your mind, body and spirit safe.

First for you is a message from our President, Jenny:



Dear Ladies,

I hope this letter finds you all well and not suffering too much from cabin fever. Like many of you, I am missing meeting with family, friends and all of you and although I have seen many of you walking around the village during our 'permitted daily exercise hour' or we have spoken on the phone, it is not the same as sitting for an hour chatting in the local pub putting the world to rights or catching up with each other at our meetings. Whilst not being able to travel far from home, I have been walking the local footpaths, some of which I had never been along before, and have been delighted to watch spring unfurl before my eyes. Children are great at noticing what we as adults just take for granted. When I was working and taking children into woodlands and wild areas I was always amazed at how much the children noticed and taught me. One four year old, looking at an emerging bluebell, said 'It looks just like an asparagus spear Jenny'. It did but I had never made the connection and yet every year as bluebells emerge, I think of that little girl, now a young woman in her twenties. The weather, on the whole, has been very kind to us and gardens are blooming. What a shame we will not be able to have a good mooch around during Open Gardens this year especially as many have spent so much time tending their patches whilst spending more time at home.

Enough of my reminiscing and so to business. Our May meeting would have been our Annual Meeting when statutory business would have taken place. We will cover this business, formally, later in the year probably during a planned monthly meeting. In the meantime;

- 1) Your present committee are prepared to continue for the time being. However two members of the committee wish to step down and so I ask all of you to consider joining the committee for the coming year. If any of you would like to discuss what this may entail please do not hesitate to contact one of the committee. Our phone numbers are on the back of the old programme or email

eckingtonwi@gmail.com. This is your chance to shape the future of your WI.

- 2) This year's resolutions. Two resolutions were voted to be taken forward to the Annual Council Meeting in June. This meeting has been cancelled and so the Board of Trustees will make a decision on how to take the proposed resolutions forward, or not, at their next scheduled virtual meeting later this month. In the meantime there is plenty of information on My WI <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/resolutions-201920>
- 3) 20/21 programme. The new programme is attached. This will be subject to change as none of us know when or how we will be able to resume normal meetings. Lark, our April speaker, has been provisionally rebooked for August. If other speakers have to be postponed, we will try and reschedule to either an extra meeting this year or move to the 2021/22 programme. As ever if you have any recommendations for speakers, demonstrations or a social evening, do please let us know.

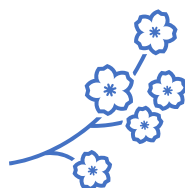
With meetings, courses, talks and outings all on hold for the time being there is very little to share from NFWI or WFWI. I hope you are all receiving County news and WI life which keeps us up to date at a local and national level.

In the meantime 'look to the horizon'. Things will get better and we will be able to resume normal life, albeit different before to long.

Stay safe, stay well and don't forget to contact one of the committee or Eckington volunteers if you need help.

With very best wishes from Jenny

Eckington WI President



Well what have our members been up to since our last newsletter? The phone buddy system is still going well and we remain connected with each other. Members have been busy making bags, masks etc for the NHS – we really ought to keep a count of how many have been done by our members. Someone has done over 40 bags – I wonder if you can guess who it is? Certainly not me – my sewing skills are as good (or as bad) as my cooking skills.



PHOTOS SENT BY OUR MEMBERS:

NHS bags for nurses

More decoupage bottles with lights



The clay dog is not strictly one made during the lockdown, however, it has been 're-discovered' during this time. One of our new members has not long moved to the village and so is taking this time to unpack those boxes which have laid dormant for the past few weeks/months. Whilst unpacking the boxes, she came across this clay dog that she made herself some time ago. Isn't it lovely?

MEMBERS' NEWS

- ❖ No birthdays this month to celebrate.
- ❖ Although she was not able to join us this year, you will be pleased to learn that Joan Green is now at home.
- ❖ Arthur Ore has had a fall at home and Jeanne has been looking after him.

We send our best wishes to Jeanne & Arthur and Joan.

For our next newsletter or our next meeting (whichever comes first), do you have an anecdote, news, ideas or thoughts to share. If so, please let us know.

An idea that has been suggested is each member should note their best, their funniest and/or their worst memory of the lockdown. Write it down and we will look to ways of sharing these – perhaps a memory board at our first meeting?

By the way, WFWI are not producing hard copies of the County Newsletter during lockdown; they are only issuing electronic copies. Those of you who have access to email, please check your mailboxes as we have forwarded these by email. Those of you who do not have email contact, you should be getting a printed copy of the Newsletter that either I or Jenny will have printed off for you. The May edition of the County Newsletter was forwarded to you all by email on 23 April. Worth checking your Spam/Junk emails in case you have not seen it or perhaps check with your partners that they have not deleted it in error! It has been known.

Remember Sue Edwards is our well-wisher so please let her know if anyone is poorly or needs support. Tel: 750636.

And finally, we have the next quiz from Lindsay. Answers will be released next week. We also have a funny, and occasionally racey, poem about lockdown that has been sent by one of our members to make you smile.

Until we meet again, be safe everyone.

Barbara

On behalf of your Committee x

Email: eckingtonwi@gmail.com

With Compliments from ECKINGTON WI

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CRYPTIC CITIES all these clues should lead to the name of a European city

1	Shylock's place (6)	
2	The home of the gnomes (6)	
3	Looks like the angry have been banned (6)	
4	Nein Kennedy! Poor grammar (6)	
5	Chinese man says Hades has fallen (8)	
6	Top of the bottle (4)	
7	Alone and mixed up (4)	
8	Sweet smell of Germany (7)	
9	I love it in the springtime (5)	
10	Sounds like a naughty religious statue (8)	
11	Sounds like a corner house (4)	
12	What happens to a fat lady's jeans (5)	
13	Is this the most hated place at Christmas?(8)	
14	Humorous poets love this place (8)	
15	Sort out the planes in Italy (6)	
16 or bust? (5,5)	
17	Well – do you know her? (5)	

THE POEM

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, 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!

So here you find me stuck inside for 4 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 flippin' 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 whiskey, even gin if I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown, to recovery and health
And hope this wretched 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!