January 2021

Christmas & New Year are over and what a different festive season it was. Most of us will have had a quieter festive season than usual. Perhaps though it has given us time to reflect on the past year and appreciate more than ever what we do have.

So let us welcome 2021 and look forward. We can start by wishing happy birthday to our January ladies: Gill, Jeanne, Rosemary (Hooper) and Julie.

We hope you are all well and still keeping safe. Some of you may be invited to take the Covid vaccine over the next few weeks. We understand these are being done at Upton. If you have been invited but have transport difficulties, please let us know; whilst we may not be able to offer lifts in all cases, we might be able to support you seeking advice in how to safely get there.

The news of the latest lockdown will affect us all in different ways but keeping in touch is going to be vital. Your Committee will be meeting (virtually of course) soon to discuss ideas on how to do this and an update on plans will follow that meeting.

In the meantime, we are planning to resume our Zoom chats with our first for the year being Tuesday, 12 January. Invites will be sent over the weekend. If you have not tried zoom, please give it a go as it does open more opportunities for you. Barbara can give you some guidance on this so please email us for help.

For those of you who already Zoom, don’t forget WFWI hold quizzes. The next one is Monday 13 January at 2pm. Email [events@wfedwi.org.uk](mailto:events@wfedwi.org.uk) to register and get your Zoom invite. A further email will follow shortly with some other Zoom events being organised by County so look out for that (don’t forget to check your Junk/Spam email box in case it gets pushed there).

We normally prepare this newsletter as a separate attachment as we often have some photos to share. As we have nothing this time, we are sending this newsletter within an email (or as a letter for our non email members). For our next newsletter though, we would appreciate some photos to share – perhaps of your completed cards, brooches and cookies from the goodie bag; we did share a couple of photos of completed cards last time but more would be appreciated.

Has anyone done a WI stone for the Ecki snake yet? It would be good for WI to be included in the snake so please think about doing one – even just a simple one. It doesn’t matter how many WI stones we have there! Let us know if you are doing one and send a picture of the completed stone for us to share.

We have received the members’ book of discounts and this is enclosed.

Finally a reminder about subscriptions. NFWI have extended membership from 2020 to March 2021; this means your subscriptions will not be due till April 2021. From 2021 onwards, the subscription year will run from April to March annually. Full membership for 2021-2022 will be £44 and dual members £21.60 to their second WI.

New members joining the WI after June 2021 for the first time, or who have not previously been a member of any WI in the **past year**(this was previously 10 years and has just been amended by NFWI), will pay a pro-rata subscription depending on the quarter in which they join.

Wishing you the best for the rest of January. As ever, if you are unwell or need support or know of a member in need, please let us know.

Your committee

Email: eckingtonwi@gmail.com

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