

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome

I hope you all enjoyed a very happy Easter - wasn't the weather glorious? Our Easter Extravaganza was a most enjoyable success (see below), and wasn't it a pleasure to see members from Gee Cross, Marple and the Rolling Scones WIs joining in and thoroughly enjoying our festivities. Congratulations to all who contributed in any way to the success of the afternoon.

You may have noticed some subtle changes in our procedures and the layout of the Hall for meetings. Elaine and Sandra have done an excellent job of looking into our Health and Safety Policy and the Committee is looking into changes that need to be made to comply with Fire Safety guidelines. As a result you will have already noticed the change to the serving of the teas. Another change is to the layout of the seating - there are now only three seats in the row on the right hand side of the Hall. This is in order to comply with both Health and Safety and Fire Safety policies. Please bear with us whilst we introduce the necessary changes in order to comply with current regulations. This is a substantial piece of work and it will take time to implement all aspects of the legislation. Please be assured that we have your safety in mind at all times.

Sheila Maguire

Diary Dates

Thursday 23rd May

Ladies Who Lunch
Brookside Garden Centre
12.30pm
See Audrey if you would like to come

Friday 28th June

Pennine Group Quiz
High Lane Village Hall

Monday 21st October

Autumn Council Meeting
Mere Golf Resort at
11am
Speaker: Rev. Kate
Bottley
Tickets £14
See Caroline

Easter Extravaganza Tea Party

A new member's point of view:

I'm glad I bought a ticket to the Afternoon Tea held in early April in celebration of the Easter Bonnet. By 2.15pm the Hall was awash with the most exuberant creations of bonnets large and small, all embellished with everything Easter and spring - flowers, rabbits, ribbons, chickens, even fairy lights. For less millinery-minded members, a decorated egg competition produced some talented artwork and added fun to choose a worthy winner.



Last - and in my book certainly not least (!) - the tea, served in a dainty way and delicious. Many thanks should go to the Committee for giving us an egg-cellent way to spend an entertaining and very jolly afternoon.

Jean Parrish

Francis House Hospice

Ludworth and Mellor WI craft group, along with some members, recently knitted 99 chicks and rabbits to be sold to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause. They were one of the 700 kind hearted groups from across the UK who sent their knitted creations to be sold to help raise the £12,800 per day needed to fund the hospice. Last year's appeal raised £50,000 towards the cost of running the hospice which provides care for children and young people who have life limiting conditions, and supports their families.

The knitted, egg-filled chicks or rabbits sold for £1.00 each at schools and other establishments.

Molly Fowler

CFWI Centenary

A reminder that the Cheshire Federation is holding several competitions to design items to commemorate its Centenary in 2020. Details are pinned up in the Hall. We have so many talented members and it would be wonderful to see one of our designs being chosen as the winner!



Centenary Trophy Presentation

Jean Harding, the Chair of Cheshire Federation, contacted me in March to ask if she and her deputy Selina Prescott could attend our meeting on 4th April as they had a surprise for us. I replied that of course they could, they are always welcome and I was intrigued. Even after much undercover work, I could still not discover the surprise.

At our meeting, Jean explained that she and Selina had really enjoyed our Centenary Celebration and they felt that, although the NFWI had presented us with a certificate, Cheshire Federation had not marked the milestone. With other WIs approaching their centenaries (as well as the Cheshire Federation themselves) it was decided to commission a trophy. Jean presented ours to us at the meeting and it will be displayed at future meetings. *Sheila Maguire*

The Trials and Tribulations of the Cheshire Show Competition

The Cheshire Show judges are extremely pernickety and yet every year we bravely put forward for their scrutiny a display consisting of a cake and three crafts, "we" being team leader Caroline, Elaine T, Marilyn, Sheila, Wendy and me. The theme this year is The Silver Screen and, after some discussion, we decided to go for a film from yesteryear, Top Hat with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. It will be no surprise that the chosen cake will be a black top hat that will sit on top of a series of stepped silver cake boards. After hours of YouTube surfing, Marilyn had a practice run with a pink top hat for her Mother's Day cake. (I can confirm it was delicious). She learnt a few things from this e.g. make two brims because at least one will break; you need three cakes to get the height and they need to be supported with lots of Matchmakers otherwise they will topple.

Wendy is fashioning a corsage with mixed materials and possibly some beads. We know that whatever Wendy makes it will be perfectly exquisite. She is amazing.

With Marilyn's help I have made an Art Deco-inspired silver pendant. My first attempt at a piped treble clef was an absolute failure so I reverted to my fairly reliable block of silver art clay. Before firing, this is so fragile that it's like working with a shortbread biscuit. I panicked when this delicate pendant snapped in two but I took a deep breath and glued it together with clay slip. I am happy to say that it held together beautifully during firing.

Caroline has taken on the crocheting of a lace collar from a 1930s pattern she found on the internet. Sounds easy but it's turned into quite a project. I think she's on version three. The first was too small, the second too clunky and the third is just right. It's a lovely beaded white collar this time.

Although, in past years, Elaine has painted objects for the display, this year she is helping Sheila with the setting up of the display. It's no good just plonking things on the table- it has to be staged to make a cohesive display. Elaine has painted a billboard and Sheila is making the circular table cloth and we are still making decisions of how things will finally look. This is teamwork at it best.

Althea Walker