

President's Introduction

Hello, I hope you are all keeping well and are looking forward to joining in our Centenary Celebrations. It is fascinating for me to be looking through the archives and finding out more about our Institute. I think I am beginning to find my feet as President and am extremely grateful to all members for their support, friendliness and sense of fun. We have a really good committee and I rely gratefully on their help and support.

The committee and the Centenary Group have been very busy planning the Centenary year and I do hope you will all enjoy the activities. The Deputy Mayor and his consort, the President and Vice President of Cheshire Federation and both our advisers are all coming to join in the festivities. There has been a flurry of dressmaking, visiting charity shops and checking in wardrobes for appropriate dress for the Centenary Tea. For anyone who doesn't want to dress up/hasn't the pieces in her wardrobe, please wear a banner, ribbon or flower in green and/or purple. I am sure we are all looking forward to this event.

Although we are not having a stall at the Marple Carnival, there will be other opportunities during the year to promote ourselves. I was asked by Jean Harding (President of CFWI) to attend the Annual Council Meeting at Sandbach on Saturday 10th March. This was in order to receive a certificate from NFWI celebrating our Centenary. I was honoured to receive this on your behalf and asked Jean to present it again at our Celebration Tea. She was delighted to agree.

I was a bit hesitant about attending as the programme looked a bit dry. What a misapprehension! The first speaker represented a charity, Independent Age, which befriends the lonely by phone and personal visits. The second, Chris Lubbe, had been a bodyguard to Nelson Mandela. What a truly inspirational man! He told us about his life under apartheid which, at the age of 8, led him to take up an anti-apartheid stance. What that man lived through was horrific and so humbling to those listening to his life history. If you ever get the chance to hear him speak I would grab it.

Do enjoy our celebrations.

Sheila Maguire

May Meeting

As a bit of fun at the May meeting, we would like everyone to bring along their favourite kitchen gadget! It might be an old and faithful piece of kit or a new discovery you could share with the rest of us. Just attach a label explaining what it is.

Diary Dates

**Thursday April 12th
Centenary Tea**

**Wednesday 6th June
NFWI Annual General
Meeting**
at the Motorpoint Arena,
Cardiff

**Tuesday 19th and
Wednesday 20th June**
Cheshire Show at Tabley

**Thursday 20th
September**
Lunch at Shrigley Hall
Tickets go on sale at the
April meeting
£21 for lunch plus £10
for transport there and
back (optional)

**Recipe
Easy Salted Caramel
Truffles**

Whizz 1lb of Medjool dates in a blender with half a teaspoon of sea salt. Roll the mixture into balls and place in freezer for 30 minutes. Top each ball with a teaspoon of natural peanut butter and put back in freezer for another 30 minutes. Melt dark chocolate with a teaspoon of coconut oil. Dip the balls in the chocolate and freeze until set.

2018 WI Garden Renovations

Spring has sprung, and so will the garden in our Centenary Year. You will notice that some of the shrubs have been removed from the bed by the front door, these will be replanted soon.



The refurbishment of the flagstones at the side of the hall (road facing) is scheduled for March, as is the felling of one tree opposite the front door. We await final council permission before the go ahead.

The half barrel tubs you voted for are scheduled for planting up at the end of March and are purchased and stowed in my garden. Along with pink (yes!) daffodils which are popping their heads up in pots, ready to go.

Finally my thanks to fellow garden enthusiast Jane Thatcher who is always ready with advice, plants and trowel in hand. Rumour has it she has pansies lurking in her mini greenhouse just for us.

Best wishes

Marilyn Henderson

Annie Get Your Gun

Our theatre group started the evening at Zizzi's restaurant at the Red Rock centre in Stockport, Marilyn joining us a little later as she had just flown in (!) from the south. After some very nice Italian food and the odd glass of wine, we walked to The Plaza Theatre. It was a very entertaining show and, it has to be said, the lead singer, Annie, was superb. She could easily take the stage in London's West End. Unfortunately we did not get a programme so we don't even know the names of the two stars! Judging by the cheering and hollering that was going on after each number, they had quite a fan club. It was a good story with Annie being the best shot against her man at every shooting competition they attended before realising that he was never going to propose to her when she beat him every time. Of course there was a happy ending!

It was a very nice evening, enjoyed by us all.

Sue Shonfeld

A Visit to Marple WI

It's always good to have a look what our neighbouring WIs are up to. Marple WI members were out in force at their February meeting when Adam Partridge of "Flog It" fame was the guest speaker. As visitors, we received a warm welcome from the President and heard that eighty members were expected. Happily, we'd arrived early and bagged seats right on the front row!

For those of you who don't know, Adam Partridge is an auctioneer with his own auction houses in Macclesfield and Liverpool and has appeared regularly on BBC's programme "Flog It". He is a very entertaining and fun speaker and shared some amusing stories with us. He said that, in his experience, rare and valuable items were more likely to turn up unexpectedly in a small terraced house than a Cheshire mansion. One such example was a small Jewish prayer book that turned up in a house clearance in Bolton. This turned out to be a very rare book and realised over £100,000 at auction. Adam also spent some time doing a quick assessment of items brought in by members on the night. All in all it was a very enjoyable evening and great value for money. As well as seats on the front row, Caroline also won a signed antiques book in the raffle!

Elaine Fisher