

Bainbridge WI NEWSLETTER

**November 2020**

**Editor - Karen Prudden**

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Now, I don’t know about you, but I am finding it rather scary at the speed with which the months are passing. Mind you, this year it is perhaps a good thing! I am sure none of us will be sad to see the back of 2020, but it would be rather nice to know that what follows will be better. Unfortunately, none of us know that, so we will just have to hope for the best.

I tend to feel that once you get Bonfire Night out of the way (and this year, I doubt that is actually happening!), it is only a ‘sneeze’ until Christmas is upon us, and although things may be quite different this year, I am sure that feeling will still remain.

So, with the clocks now having gone back an hour, the days are much shorter and we are now all cocooned in our homes, keeping the wild weather at bay. Hopefully, this won’t stop us from keeping in touch with each other in whatever way we can, as this is always a particularly difficult time of year, even without a pandemic to throw into the mix. As good WI members, we would urge you to remember others at this time of year and show some kindness when you can. A telephone call, letter or visit can make the world of difference!

***AUTUMN AT THORP PERROW***

On 10th October, seven of our members went along to Thorp Perrow Arboretum to check out the trees as autumn took a colourful grip. Luckily, the weather was good (not quite the same at home though!) and everyone stayed dry. The colours of the trees were wonderful and it was lovely to be outside and enjoying a different environment for a while. Unfortunately, we happened to choose a day when the place was heaving with children, all eager to follow the Halloween Trail, which meant we had a long queue to get in, but once we were in, we stayed away from the children and instead concentrated on the quieter bits of the arboretum. All in all, it was a lovely day out, and definitely worth another visit.

***OCTOBER MEETING***

On 15th October, eight members and five ‘visitors’ from local WI’s enjoyed a ‘virtual’ talk by Professor Charlotte Roberts on the Scottish Soldiers Project. Having purchased our own ‘Zoom’ licence, we were not restricted to time and it was also possible for Charlotte to share her screen with us to illustrate her talk, which was really interesting. The Scottish Soldiers Project was the excavation and analysis of skeletons discovered below the site of a proposed cafe extension near Durham Cathedral and Castle. The skeletons were found to be prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar in September 1650, who were marched from Dunbar to Durham as captives and imprisoned in Durham Cathedral (the largest secure building south of the Scottish Borders, empty since 1640). It is believed there were 3,000 prisoners!

The skeletons were discovered in 2013, when excavating for the new cafe (archaeological excavations are a legal requirement prior to building projects), and it was soon obvious that these were not Christian burials as the bodies were tightly packed in two mass graves and the bones had all become mixed up. They were all carefully removed, washed and taken to the laboratory for each bone and tooth to be studied. In all, there were over 1,000 bone fragments to analyse. However, during the analysis it was established that there were only 28 complete skeletons and we were told how various investigations revealed that they were mainly male, with 42% believed to be aged between 13 and 17 years old, and 38% between 18 and 25 years old. It is believed that two of the skeletons were brothers. This all reinforced the theory that they were the prisoners from the Battle of Dunbar. Charlotte told us how there were signs of rodent damage on some of the bones, either because they were in shallow graves, or because they had been thrown in and left uncovered (awaiting further bodies)!

The teeth were able to give clues of stress experienced during their lives, as well as what they may have eaten and where they may have lived. Amazingly, this evidence came from the plaque found on their teeth (perhaps an argument for not brushing your teeth, if future generations are to learn anything about our lives?!). It had also been established that 75% of the men suffered with sinusitis! We were all fascinated to hear just how much information can be gained from all the investigations and were amazed that it had been possible to do some facial reconstruction and a 3D print of the skeletons for an exhibition of this project which has toured the country.

Once the research was complete, the bones were sensitively re-buried in the Elvet Hill Road Cemetery in Durham, which was the nearest cemetery to the site of the excavation. A gravestone was placed at the burial site commemorating the men and Charlotte was honoured to be able to create the flower arrangement for the burial. There is also a plaque inside Durham Cathedral and on the wall of the new cafe (which was eventually built over the excavation site).

This really was a fascinating talk and one which we would recommend anyone to listen to again, if you get the opportunity. If your interest has already been piqued, further information is available on the Durham University website ([www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology](http://www.durham.ac.uk/archaeology)) and there is a book available entitled ‘Lost Lives - New Voices’.

***BOOK CLUB***

Our keen bookworms are still enjoying their books (‘The Wench is Dead’ by Colin Dexter and ‘The Salt Path’ by Raynor Winn). A successful ‘virtual’ get-together was held on 22nd October via ‘Zoom’ for the members to discuss their reads, and that went very well. The next meeting will be on **17th December**, again via ‘Zoom’. If you wish to join the club, just get in touch with Susan for details.

***GARDEN CLUB***

The visit to Thorp Perrow was the last outing for our Garden Club this year and we now need to look forward to 2021 with the hope that we will be able to get out and about to enjoy some wonderful garden visits during the spring and summer months. Venues already on our list to visit include:-

* RHS Bridgewater near Manchester
* Thornton Hall near Darlington
* Breezy Knees at York
* Norton Conyers near Ripon
* Littlethorpe Manor Gardens

Fingers crossed that not only does 2021 bring some good weather but also that the pandemic is under control and we are free to enjoy ourselves a bit more. If both those things coincide (a minor miracle, quite honestly!), then we very much hope you will join us on these visits.

***CAKE STALL AT SYCAMORE HALL***

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, it was necessary to cancel the cake stall we had planned for 30th October at Sycamore Hall. We will look to hold this at some point in the future and apologise for the inconvenience.

***ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL***

Like many other things, this year’s Poppy Appeal has been affected by the pandemic and this means that there will be no door-to-door collections this year. However, many of our local businesses have kindly agreed to have poppies available for their customers and we hope that you will be able to obtain yours from one of those. If you have any problems obtaining your poppy, or making a donation, please get in touch with Karen who is our local Poppy Appeal Organiser.

***OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

As you know, our AGM is being held on **Thursday 19th November** at **7.00 pm**, via ‘Zoom’. We will start with the business of the meeting and then intend to hold a fun quiz. Once again, if you have access to a computer/tablet and would like to join us, please let Susan know so that we can ensure you are sent the link to join. Hopefully, by the time you receive this Newsletter you will also have received the annual reports of our President, Treasurer and Secretary as well as nomination forms for the position of President and Committee Members. We hope that you will all have taken the opportunity to submit nominations and we will obviously update you on the evening (and in the next Newsletter) of any changes to our officers.

All forms should be returned to Susan (or any committee member to pass on) and she will then approach anyone nominated to check that they would be happy to take on the role. If there is more than one nomination for President, then we will need to hold an election and you will be sent a voting form to complete and return. This all sounds very complicated, but hopefully it will work quite smoothly.

We hope that you will make the effort to join us on the evening from the comfort of your own home, and enjoy a bit of light-hearted quizzing!

***CHRISTMAS COOKERY***

We are delighted that we have managed to persuade Elizabeth Fawcett to give us a cookery demonstration via ‘Zoom’ on **Wednesday 2nd December** at **7.00 pm**. Elizabeth will be showing us how to create some delicious festive dishes from her Humble Pie Cookery School which we can then re-create for our own Christmas tables - possibly! We really hope that you will be able to consider joining us for this great evening of entertainment, all from your own home, although clearly there will be no tasting involved! Further details will be issued shortly, but please let Susan or Anne know if you would like to join us.

***CHRISTMAS PARTY***

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, it is unfortunately not going to be possible to hold our Christmas Party this year, due to Covid restrictions. Consequently, the Committee have discussed ways in which they can keep in touch with members at this festive time of year and, without giving away any secrets, we suggest you stay at home on the afternoon of **Sunday 20th December** - just in case you receive a surprise visit! Of course, we are not going to tell you who may visit, but we might suggest that you get a good pair of ear plugs and perhaps some dark glasses - just in case! However, if you were expecting George Clooney, you will most definitely be disappointed! (Visits subject to Covid restrictions at the time.)

***2021 DIARIES***

Hopefully, everyone who ordered a WI 2021 diary has now received it, but if not, rest assured they are with the Committee and will be distributed as soon as possible. Payment of £5.10 per diary should be sent to Gill Flowers as soon as possible (or given to any Committee member).

***FEDERATION NEWSLETTERS***

Please don’t forget to let us know if you wish to receive a copy of the Federation Newsletter from next April (when WI memberships will now renew). As we mentioned before, we have to pay for every copy we receive (whether that be in paper format or via email) and we are conscious that after a year with no fundraising, we do not want to waste money if our members only discard this publication upon receipt. If you wish to receive newsletters from next April, please contact Susan, or any Committee member, as soon as possible. Thank you.

***REPORTING FROM THE LAKES***

So, I guess the question on your lips is ‘did she, or didn’t she’ finish her charity walk? Well, the answer is a resounding YES! Our very keen Janine was successful in completing her walk around the Lake District over the course of five days back in October and in the process she raised £240 for the British Heart Foundation.

Janine reports …

We walked in a group of six ladies, who all got on really well without any arguments. We have now set up a WhatsApp group to share our photos and experiences of the adventures.

The weather was good on two of the three days of actual walking. On the first day, walking around Buttermere was enjoyable but climbing the fell after lunch was a bit less enjoyable and I wished that I had saved my lunch until I reached the top of Rannerdale Knott!

Day two saw a circular walk on the coffin path to Watendlath which, thankfully offered several ‘resting stones’ which were well used (but this time, not for coffins!). It was interesting and we really got a feel for how difficult it must have been to carry the coffins between the villages.

Day three was wet, but we had a circular walk to do, visiting Crummock Water, Loweswater, Holme Wood and Langthwaite Wood. I felt a lot healthier being out on the fells and also learned a lot about the flora and fungi in the area. Luckily, I only got two blisters which didn’t cause me too many problems. On the last day, we celebrated our success in the pub at Loweswater. I would definitely do it again, but next time I would put in more preparation by walking more miles each day.

What can we say? We are suitably impressed! Well done Janine!

***POSSIBLE TRIPS FOR 2021***

In the hope that life returns to something nearer to ‘normal’ next year, the Committee have been trying to plan ahead and are contemplating some trips. These are group trips, organised by Bibby’s of Ingleton, and will no doubt be extremely good. Some of you may already receive the Bibby’s brochure and have picked out some trips you may be interested in, but we have highlighted the following:-

* The Royal Welsh Show - 20th to 22nd July - £299 per person
* The Malvern Autumn Show - 24th to 26th September - £275 per person

If you think you would be interested in joining one, or both of these trips, please let Susan know and we can make enquiries via Bibby’s. Obviously, these wouldn’t be exclusive WI trips, but we would be joining with others and could potentially make some new friends.

***BAINBRIDGE WI WEBSITE***

Despite running around the Lakes, and studying, Janine has still managed to find the time to update our new website with photographs from some of our recent events. This is obviously an ongoing job and we are very grateful to Janine for the time and effort she puts into this. We do hope that you are able to check it out and use it as a way to keep in touch with our WI activities.

***FEDERATION ‘ZOOM’ EVENTS***

You may already have seen this in your Federation Newsletter, but our Federation have been busy organising events and activities for you to get involved in via ‘Zoom’. Clearly, this is reliant upon you having access to a computer or tablet but, if you do, Anne recommends that you sign up to some of these activities. She herself has participated in a session run by Rachel Hutton which she tells us was great fun, so go on … why not have a go yourself? Each activity costs £5 (payable to the Federation).

So, that is another month done with and now we really are lurching with speed towards the end of the year - hoorah!! Please do remember your friends, neighbours and fellow WI members at this time of year and make contact when you can. We do not want anyone to feel lonely or isolated during the dark days of winter.

***With every best wish from your President and members of the Committee.***

**TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE!**

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***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:-***

**Thursday 19th November - 7.00 pm - Bainbridge WI AGM & Quiz**

**(via ‘Zoom’)**

**Wednesday 2nd December - 7.00 pm - Christmas Cookery Demonstration by Elizabeth Fawcett (via ‘Zoom’)**

**Sunday 20th December - Afternoon - A Christmas Visitor!**

To make a difference in someone’s world,

You don’t have to be amazing, rich, talented,

Beautiful or perfect.

You just have to be You … and care.

**THIS MONTH’S QUIZ**

**A little bit more General Knowledge this month.**

**Good luck!**

1. What is the capital city of Switzerland?
2. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
3. How many of Henry VIII’s wives were called Catherine?
4. If you have cryophobia, what are you afraid of?
5. How many permanent teeth does a dog have?
6. How many chukkers are there in a polo match?
7. In what year did The Beatles split up?
8. Which two country singers sang on ‘Islands in the Stream’?
9. What are the five colours of the Olympic Rings?
10. Who is the longest serving presenter on Blue Peter?
11. From which country does the cheese Gouda originate?
12. What number is associated with varieties on Heinz products?
13. What is the capital of Finland?
14. At what temperature centigrade does water boil?
15. Who plays comedy character Alan Partridge?
16. How many planets are there in our solar system?
17. How many keys are there on a piano?
18. Who are the five Bronte sisters?
19. Where is the smallest bone in the human body located?
20. What is the name of the pub in Emmerdale?

**Answers to Last Month’s Quiz**

1. Rodney Bewes

2. John the Baptist

3. Charlotte

4. Paul Eddington

5. The Beaver

6. Kathy Staff

7. 1926

8. A Charm

9. Brasilia

10. Queen Victoria

11. The Collar Bone

12. Through the Looking Glass