



Bainbridge WI Events

Saturday 4 October – Lino Printing Workshop

10am – 3pm Bainbridge Village Hall

14, 15 or 17 October - Walking Group

Meet 10am Bainbridge, car share to Ribbleshead

Wednesday 15 October – Book Club

7.30pm Sycamore Hall

Thursday 16 October – Garden Group

Yorkshire Arboretum

Thursday 16 October - Monthly Meeting

7 for 7.30pm, Bainbridge Village Hall

Wednesday 22 October – Lunch Club

12 for 12.30pm The Sandpiper Inn, Leyburn

Monday 27 October – Soup and Sweet

Bainbridge Village Hall

Wednesday 5 November – Theatre Group

Bowness on Windermere, matinee, Earth Angel by Alan Ayckbourn.

High Dales Events

Thursday 23 October – Cookery Demonstration

1.30 – 4.00pm, Carperby Village Hall

BAINBRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President: Sue Stokes

07816 955723

Sue.stokes@qualitar.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Nicola Robinson

07490 656007

bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com

Federation Events

Thursday 9 October – Autumn Lunch, Threshfield

11 October – Pub Themed Talk, Food Demo and

Afternoon Tea, Gargrave

14 October – Christmas Applique Workshop

17 October – Quiz finals

4 November Dabble Day, Masham

13 November – Food and flowers, Darley

3 December – Carol Service, Ripon

Events at Sycamore Hall

Monday 9am - 11am Post Office

Monday 2pm - Knit and natter

Monday 2pm - Dominoes

Tuesday 10.30am Quiz or Bingo

Wednesday 9am - 11am Post Office

Thursday 10.30am - Coffee morning

Thursday 2.00pm – Bridge

Friday 11am - Gentle exercise

Friday 11.30am – Fresh fish van

Intro

Looking back on September we all had an emotional roller coaster last month.

We had such a swing from joy when we were celebrating the 110th birthday of the first WI in the UK (Wales). We have a banner which is in the early stage of production which we launched at our Garden group Open Garden scheme visit at



Jervaulx Hall. Watch out over the year as we add appliqué to represent our various groups eg flowers for garden group, boots/map for walking, etc Thanks go to Anne Izard for sewing the banner at short notice 😊

We then had our emotional drop as we all had our own way of grieving for our friend and fellow WI member Margaret Reynolds. On Thursday the 18th September in the afternoon 12 of our WI members joined Margaret's family and friends at Maple Park Crematorium in Thirsk to celebrate Margaret's life.

We were all asked by her daughters to wear bright colours, which we did. Hearing about her earlier life and family stories among the welcome, poem and eulogy sparked our own memories of Margaret and her time spent with us as a committee member and with the walking, crafting, book club and at many other events. Whenever we hear The Magic of Love by Lionel Ritchie and Luciano Pavarotti it will remind us of happy times with our friend. Following on from the funeral at our monthly meeting the same evening we all showed our respect to Margaret by holding a 1 minute silence to reflect on her life. We will miss you Margaret and your name is now in our Federation Book of Remembrance.

As we all know – life itself is a privilege, but to live life to the fullest well, that is a choice. It's a choice many of our WI members are making and joining in

our many and varied activities and events. Long may it continue for us all 😊

More about our monthly meeting later but a special thanks go to Nicola for creating our 110th anniversary cup cakes – which were a beautiful



design and taste which we all enjoyed along with our glass of Prosecco or Nonsecco.

Reflections of our many other activities and events are to follow and in October we also have a wealth of more opportunities to join in with us and have fun in the build up to our **AGM in November**.

November AGM

In preparation for our AGM please can we have any WI member who is willing to stand on the committee for next year to come forward and let our communications secretary Rachel Newall know. It would be helpful for Nominations to be submitted by Thursday 6th November but they can be accepted on the night.

We will then follow the WI procedure and Rachel will create ballot papers listing the names of those who have accepted their nomination in alphabetical order. The ballot will be opened early on the evening of our AGM so that voting for those on the committee and the subsequent role of President is completed. We will have Sara Baldwin-Cole present as our Adviser and Teller. The current president chairs the AGM, only handing over the chair to Sara for the election for a new President. If a new President is elected she doesn't take office until after the current President proposes "I propose the adoption of the Annual report for 2025" Members vote by a show of hands and the Annual Meeting has ended.

We are providing a hot meal for your supper so please do book on the sheet at the October meeting or by contacting Rachel to confirm you want to

attend, also please note any food allergies so that we can let the caterer know and avoid food waste. Thank you. Don't forget to bring your own crockery, cutlery, and if you'd like to bring your own drinks (and glass) that is fine. Tea and coffee will be provided as usual.

As usual there will be a fun activity for you to participate in.

Sue Stokes

October and November meetings

In our October meeting we'll be having an update talk by David Mason from the Woodland Trust about Snaizholme and the White Rose Forest planting. I'm sure it will be interesting to hear about progress on the project.

Sadly our meeting is on the same evening and so in competition with the Julia Bradbury talk at Tennants so we're not expecting quite as many members to attend this month.

However, who could believe that we are coming up to our AGM in November. Please can anyone interested in joining our committee in any role please register your interest by contacting Sue Stokes m) 07816 955723 or sue.stokes@qualitar.co.uk

Yes – it will be time for the formalities of voting for your President and Committee members once again. I have to say that I have really enjoyed my time representing Bainbridge WI and working with an amazing team of Committee members. I can't say a big enough Thank You to everyone who has worked hard to deliver not only our monthly programme of events but all our other events and activities too.

Rachel has been preparing for our voting and we have our Independent Teller arranged so we can ensure we follow the correct procedure. We have also planned time for supper and another activity so it is not all business.

Sue Stokes

WI Christmas lunch

This year we've booked to go to the Middle House in Askrigg for our December meeting/**Christmas lunch at 12 for 12.30 on Thursday 18th December.** There will be a choice of traditional roast dinner and a varied menu of lovely food to choose from. John, their chef is on a Himalayan trek and won't be back until the end of October so we'll get to choose from the menu in November. We'll have some entertainment and booking is essential so please look out for the sheet at our October and November meetings.

Sue Stokes

Christmas Craft Fair

It is just over 5 weeks to our Christmas Fair (Saturday 8 November). We are hoping to repeat the success of last years Fair, which was down to a number of things:

- The quality stallholders who attended
- The fantastic publicity campaign that Rachel led (we had many more visitors than we could ever have hoped for)
- The volunteers who put up posters and delivered flyers around our villages
- The volunteers who helped set up the day before to decorate the hall which made it very festive and welcoming
- The donations of baked goods
- And the volunteers who helped on the day.

Linda has recruited great stallholders again and I am about to start the publicity campaign – please do look out for posts on Facebook and share these with your friends, family and other groups.

We could do with a few more volunteers for the day so please let me know if you can help. And if you can bake for the refreshments or cake stall that would be wonderful.

With many thanks in anticipation.

Nicola Robinson

September Meeting

We had a busy meeting in September with lots to get through in a short time!

The meeting opened with a minute's silence in memory of our member and friend, Margaret Reynolds, who died very unexpectedly after our August meeting. Earlier in the day, 16 of us had made the journey to Thirsk for Margaret's funeral which was a lovely celebration of her life. We were comforted to hear from her daughters that she had really valued the friendship and opportunities she had gained through joining our WI. She will be missed.

We then took a vote on the new WI Constitution which is to be adopted.

Our speaker for the evening was Rowena Lee, who came along with her very obliging husband, Stephen, to talk to us about her life in service in the 21st century.

After working in IT for 26 years, Rowena decided she needed a new challenge and, having seen an advert, responded and found herself in service! Over the next 12 years, Rowena worked in three very impressive places, including a castle in Scotland.

Her roles as Housekeeper came with live-in accommodation, ranging from attic rooms to a cottage in the grounds.

Rowena was responsible for maintaining the house

- dusting,
polishing,
dealing with
the linen,



catering etc. In some of the properties, Rowena was responsible for feeding the family, but in others there were also bed and breakfast guests, wedding parties and large dinner parties to manage. We heard how her day started early in the morning and generally didn't finish until late at night. If there was a dinner party, Rowena was responsible for polishing the cutlery and preparing the table. In one of her roles, she discovered that the crockery she

was using was very old and each plate cost in the region of £1,000! Needless to say, everything had to be hand-washed which must have been terrifying after learning the value!

For most of the time, Rowena worked on her own, but eventually gained a 'daily help' which must have been a relief, with all that needed to be done.

We heard about some of the people she worked for, including one rather eccentric hoarder! We also heard that Rowena had never encountered any ghosts, although she had been told that one of the properties was haunted.

Eventually, Rowena retired and moved to Settle. However, after being in service for 12 years, she and her husband had no home to move into so that meant a whole new start for them.

It was all very interesting and, although not quite Downton Abbey, fascinating to hear that there are still people working 'in service' in modern times.

After this talk, we were all offered a glass of Prosecco and a special cup cake to celebrate 110 years since the first WI meeting. A photograph was



taken to mark the occasion. We were shown a banner which will be decorated with memories of our activities in this special year. Anne Izzard had prepared the basis of the banner which had already made an outing to Jervaulx Hall gardens! Thanks were expressed to Nicola for baking and decorating the delicious cupcakes, which had been arranged as '110' (she didn't make 110 of them!).

All in all, a very busy evening, rounded off with a special raffle where the first prize was one of the commemorative Emma Bridgewater 110th anniversary mugs (won by Gill).

Karen Prudden

Soup and Sweet

We held our latest soup and sweet on Monday 22nd September. Luckily we had marvellous volunteers who made our soups and sweets: Alyson Jones, Gwen Clarke, Gill Flowers and myself for soups plus Sheryl Willis, Gwen Clarke, Susan Freer, and myself who made puddings for the sweet element. So to our magnificent volunteers on the day who all deserve a mention: Rachel Newall, Alyson Jones, Diana Hartley, Gill Flowers, Sheryl Willis, Gwen Clarke, Karen Prudden and myself backed up by Tim who delivered the cash and carry order .



Thanks to Alyson for our preprinted menus and order sheets which made our service a lot smoother from the kitchen to the table. Karen knows all the locals and ensures their names are down and payments made. Everyone else happily “mucked in” and helped where needed to ensure all the many tasks were done. Great teamwork everyone and many delighted customers. The 35 plus servings were for 26 locals, 2 take aways plus our 9 volunteers. Sorry we were too busy to take photos this time!

Please look out for a sign up sheet to volunteer at our next soup and sweet. It is good to give back to our local community. The next soup and sweet is planned to be on: Monday 27 October.

Lunch Club

On a glorious Autumnal morning we car shared as usual to get the few miles along the A684 to West Witton. One of the most local venues for the Lunch club. We were all prepared for a Fish/Seafood lunch menu and prices on the higher side. When we arrived, we were greeted by friendly staff and taken

to our table. We soon settled in and admired the Lucy Pittaway artworks while perusing the menus.



We made our choices which when they arrived as starters some looked like a main course! Others had chosen the traditional battered fish options which looked crispy and light with a Tempura batter.



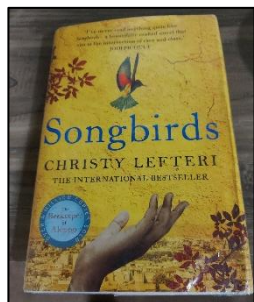
As always we chattered about WI and world events as well as catching up on local news. Then we were dazzled by our desserts. Some chose a traditional crème brûlée while others chose banana splits, simple scoops of ice cream, Knickerbocker Glories or the cheese board. There were smiley faces from most of us and “Mmmm” from Grace and Anne at the front. Quite a striking picture in the background!

For our October lunch club we are heading off to The Sandpiper in Leyburn 12 for 12.30 on Wednesday 22nd October. If you'd like to join us there will be signing up sheets at our October monthly meeting on 16th or if that's not an option then please email Rachel or Anne Harrison directly so that we can include you in car sharing.

Sue Stokes

Book Club

Nine members attended this month's meeting. The book under discussion was "The Songbirds" by Christy Lefteri. The book is set in Cyprus. A country which two of our members had visited. The narrative is told from two people's perspective, Petra and her lodger Yiannis. It is the story of the disappearance of Nisha, Petra's maid and secret lover of Yiannis. The story highlights the plight of immigrant servants and their exploitation. Yiannis is involved in the illegal hunting of wild birds which are sold on the black market as a delicacy. This book was well researched and is based on true events. The characters are well drawn and it was a thought provoking read.



After our discussion we enjoyed a "bring and share" supper. It was Liz Beresford's birthday. She treated us to a very generous slice of her amazing and delicious Chocolate Orange birthday cake.

Our next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER, 7-30pm at Sycamore Hall. The book we will be discussing is "The Pull Of The Stars" by Emma Donoghue.

Susan Freer

Craft Activities

Craft club met on 6th September, bringing along our own projects to work on while we had a natter ☺ During our chat Sue took the opportunity to share her idea of creating a banner to celebrate the WI's 110th birthday. Inspired by a visit to Keighley Cliffe Castle museum where there was a WI banner on display. We sketched out a few ideas. Fabric from our stash and



a logo from a WI tote bag were used by Anne Izard to create the background of a banner. You'll have seen the photo of our banner with the garden group. Our plan is to add appliqué items over the next few months to represent our various groups. Some ideas are flowers for the garden group, books obviously for the book club, boots for the walking group etc. Any ideas are welcome and we'll look forward to our banner developing.

The Quilting sisters returned to Bainbridge on 20th September and shared their amazing expertise with us. In this session we had the opportunity to create another cushion cover or a table runner. Ann Izard showed her ability to judge how long these things take to make and actually finished her placemat on the day. Most of us took ours home to finish in our own time, especially those who chose to create a table runner which is three times as long as a placemat!

Here's work in progress on the Christmas star table runner:



Crafting activities coming up are:

Weds 1st October with Federation 10.30 at Alma House for a wire workshop which Anne H. Nicola and Sue Stokes are attending.

Sat 4th Oct 10-3, WI members are doing Lino printing at Bainbridge Village Hall

Fri 17th Oct 10 -3, Follow on quilting workshop at Bainbridge Village Hall

Sat 18th Oct 10 -12, Craft and Chat at Sycamore Hall. Free and everyone welcome.

Sun 19th Oct 10 -12, Repair café at Richmond Town Hall – Donations for repairs

Sat 8th Nov 10-2, Bainbridge WI Christmas Fair at Bainbridge Village Hall

Sat 6th Dec 10-12, Christmas coffee morning at Sycamore Hall

Sat 6th Dec 2 -4 , Christmas wreath making workshop at Bainbridge Village Hall

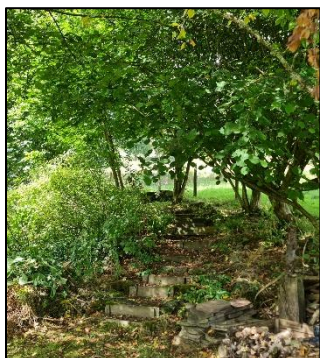
Linda Cameron and Sue Stokes

Garden Group

Visit to Nicola Robinson's Garden, Countersett

The weather forecast was not good for our Saturday morning visit to Countersett. Nicola told us to come even if it was raining as she had taken photographs of her garden and we could view these on her television, however this was not necessary as the weather was dry, bright and sunny.

When we arrived Nicola explained that the name of her house "Li'le Foss" means little stream or waterfall and both of these are a feature of the garden. The stream runs from the top of the garden it disappears under the pebbled drive and reappears and runs down the side of the house. It has attractive stream side plants along its length. The stream did not dry up during the drought and water from it was used to water the garden. At the



front of the house there are log steps leading to a wooded area which includes a beautiful white barked Silver Birch, a Hazel and a Wild Cherry. Away from this "wild" area Nicola has made

a vegetable and fruit garden. She has a row of white raspberries. The idea for planting these was to deter them from being eaten by the birds which visit the garden. Other visitors to the vegetable patch are rabbits. We admired a fruiting Artichoke which Nicola had protected from her furry visitors by growing it through an upturned bottomless ceramic planter. The garden is full of Nicola's clever ideas. To the side of the house beyond the stream there is a lawned area surrounded by flower borders and



containing young fruit trees. We made our way to the rear of the house where

there is a wild life pond surrounded by a variety of



interesting plants. From here we took a step up under an arch and came to a courtyard garden which is sheltered by four walls. Here there is a formal raised pond surrounded by

interesting stonework and raised beds containing sun loving plants. In a sunny corner there is a large Fig tree with fruits ready to be picked. Nicola has plants in different containers including some of which have been re-purposed. She has used two old shoe-racks to support strawberry plants

After the tour of the garden Nicola invited us into her new extension room where she served us with tea and coffee and a variety of delicious cakes. Thank you Nicola for showing us your beautiful garden and for your hospitality. We had another great Garden Group visit.

Our last two meetings of the year are a visit to the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard on Thursday October 16th, for a guided talk and walk ,and an Afternoon Tea at Whitegates Garden Centre on TUESDAY 11th November

Susan Freer

The Learning Hub

Craft : Felicity's Christmas Crochet Jar Toppers Part 1

I took the chance to join Felicity in continuing her festivities with these fabulous Jar toppers which are perfect for Christmas fundraising or for presents. You can create a range of seasonal characters to fit any sized jar. In part one which took place on



Thursday 25th September we created the base and in part two we will learn how to make the characters.

Depending on how quickly I can make them we may have one or two of these cute characters for sale at our Christmas Fair on Saturday 8th November ☺

Sue Stokes

Walking Group

For the first time this year we had to cancel our monthly walk due to very wet weather in the first two weeks of September. We had planned to walk around Coverdale, but will keep this one for another month.

In October we are scheduling our walk to coincide with the Wensleydale Cheese Festival combining the walk with cheese themed refreshments at The Station Inn at Ribbleshead. We plan to walk on Tuesday 14th October, and we have pencilled in two alternative dates in case of rain – Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th. We will leave Bainbridge at 10am. There will be a choice of a shorter and longer walks. Please let me know if you would like to join us, I will send out more details of the walks when I have checked out the routes this week.



Nicola Robinson

Theatre Group

September's theatre trip to see the National Theatre live screening of **Inter Alia** at the Savoy Cinema, Catterick was incredibly thought provoking. 'Inter alia' is the Latin for 'among other things' and Rosamund Pike gave an amazing performance as the working woman who was busy juggling all the many 'other things' that women work so hard to achieve, treading the fine line of motherhood, marriage, their professional lives and the pressures of just being a woman in society. I think we all could identify with her attempts to manage it all, especially the competing expectations that are often overwhelming.

As the writer of the play, Suzie Miller says: 'Jessica's character is a 'judge' but so too is the character of Jessica being judged: for her parenting, her choices, her work hours, her femininity, her feminism, her role as a life partner, and more. Like so many women trying to meet so many competing

demands, Jessica also judges herself.' I found myself feeling suitably guilty after the play for having done a bit of judging of her myself!

Our next planned trip to see **Earth Angel** by Alan Ayckbourn on Wed 5 Nov 2.30pm at the Old Laundry Theatre, Bowness on Windermere, should be a lot more light-hearted.

There is also the Richmond Operatic Society's production of **Sweeney Todd** at the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond from the 11th-15th November so do let me know if you fancy going to this. Sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting or you can email alysonjones@hotmail.com.

Alyson Jones

ENGLAND ARE YOUR WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP 2025 CHAMPIONS!

'After a thrilling, record-breaking Final performance in front of a world record 81,885 fans at Allianz Stadium, England are crowned Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 Champions. Putting in a dominant performance full of guts, flair and passion, the hosts secure a historic victory and the title of World Champions for the third time.' World Rugby.

The WI have supported England's red roses by using their crocheting skills to make supporter's red roses. I took a bunch with to the opening ceremony and first match. Yesterday after supporting fellow WI members at Thornton Rust coffee morning I watched two matches. Firstly the match for the bronze medals where New Zealand beat France. Then the match we'd be waiting for England versus Canada. A truly thrilling game with England winning 🏏 by 33:13.

All the players, officials and everyone involved with the sport have made us proud.

A proud English woman 🇬🇧

Sue Stokes

High Dales Cookery Demonstration

by Tristan Prudden from Bainbridge – A seasonal three course meal

Date: Thursday 23rd October 2025

Venue: Carperby Village Institute

Time: Arrive 1.30 pm

Cost per person: £7.00

Tristan will prepare three dishes during his demonstration which will last approximately one hour. After this, he will take questions and there will be the opportunity to sample the dishes. This will be followed by a Cream Tea (scones and tea).



Tristan attended The Wensleydale School and then got a scholarship to the highly acclaimed Tante Marie School of Cookery in Woking, owned by Gordon Ramsay. There he undertook an intensive training programme, graduating as Student of the Year with a Cordon Bleu Diploma in Professional Culinary Arts.

Since graduating in 2010, Tristan has worked in many different establishments around North Yorkshire and Cumbria including The Aysgarth Falls Hotel, The Garden Rooms at Tennants, The Devonshire Arms at Bolton Abbey, The Little Three in Thirsk and The Grantham Arms in Boroughbridge. He was Private Chef to the Wyvill family at Constable Burton Hall for several years where he honed his interest in game cookery and catering for shoot parties. Tristan is currently Head Chef at the Thimbleby Shooting Ground near Osmotherley where he is working with the owners to develop a range of culinary offerings, including private functions and events.

Tristan has demonstrated at numerous shows and events across North Yorkshire as well as to various local groups and schools. He is keen to pass on his knowledge of how to use ingredients to their best effect and without too much fuss. He likes to let the ingredients speak for themselves.

Tristan has a particular interest in game cookery and has been awarded the Eat Game Awards Game Chef of the Year for two consecutive years. He is passionate about good quality, seasonal ingredients and locally sourced produce.

The signing up sheet will be out again at the September and October meetings or you can contact Rachel Newall if you want to add your name to the list. The last date for bookings is Thursday October 16th. Please pay by this date.

Karen Prudden

Bainbridge WI Holidays

There has been a tradition that some Bainbridge WI members have enjoyed going on holidays together that have been organised by local travel agent Robert Sturdy. I've been asked if we can come up with some holidays to choose from with time for us to save up if we need to. Here are the options that have been selected with Robert's expertise, there will be signing up sheets at our next few meetings with a chance to choose your favourite(s). There's a link to the website for each hotel to help you decide.

Bainbridge WI holiday options 2026

All are 4 nights and include transfers. Prices for a shared twin room. Single supplement available.

Nice: Hotel: [NH Nice](#) Bed and Breakfast

11 May Leeds – Nice 1250 arr 1610

15 May Nice – Leeds 1655 arr 1820

£772.00 per person

Naples Hotel: [Royal Continental](#) Bed and breakfast

11 May Newcastle – Naples 0600 arr 0950

15 May Naples – Newcastle 1140 arr 1355

£825.00 per person

Istanbul [Home - Levni Hotel & Spa](#) Bed and breakfast

11 May Manchester – Istanbul 1035 arr 1650

15 May Istanbul – Manchester 1355 arr 1605

£624.66pp

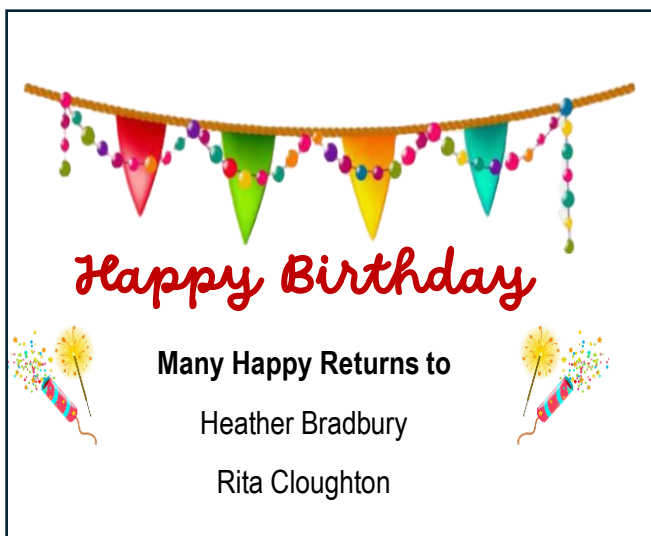
Croatia: [Hotel Eden Rovinj – Istria](#), half board

5 May Manchester – Pula 0610 arr 0930

9 May Pula – Manchester 1205 arr 1745

£684.00pp

Sue Stokes



Programme Correction

Please can you make a note of the following correction on the printed programme:

The December meeting is on the 18th, NOT the 19th.

Thank you

Newsletter entries

If you wish to have an article included in our newsletter, please send it by email to bainbridgewinewsletter@gmail.com. If you do not use email, then please pass your entries to one of the committee members.

Paying for Events and Activities

Please make payment promptly for any events and activities you have signed up for. We are only able to confirm bookings after payment has been received. Please make sure you have read the conditions regarding cancellation and refunds.

Our preferred method of payment is BACS (online payment) to:

Account name: Bainbridge WI

Bank: Virgin Money

Account number: 25405645

Sort Code: 05 09 94

Reference: the name of the event/activity

Alternatively, you can pay by cheque: please write on the reverse of the cheque:

- your full name
- details of the event/activity the payment is for

If you wish to pay by cash, please put the money in a decent sized envelope and write on the outside:

- your full name
- details of the event/activity the payment is for

We thank you for your cooperation with this, it enables us to keep a proper audit trail of moneys received

Hold the Back Page by Karen Prudden - Technology

Oh, the Irony!

I am not a great fan of technology. I know I should be as we have some fabulous inventions these days that help us with most aspects of our lives.

From my personal point of view, it has been said that if I had to lose my sight, now is a better time than a generation ago, as there are many technological advances that can help the visually impaired.

However, it is the unreliability of some technology and the daunting thought of how some developments seem to be taking over from humans that bothers me.

I won't linger on all that as I don't really understand a lot of it, but what I do know is that it must be dangerous to give 'computers' the ability to pretend to be humans and to make decisions for us. Once we have opened that box, how do we put the lid back on?!



Anyway, there is one thing that has been bothering me recently and I am struggling to resolve it in my head.

It wasn't so long ago that it became a crime to use a mobile phone whilst driving a vehicle. This came about after some pretty horrific incidents where people were killed by drivers who were distracted by their phones and quite honestly, it seems to make sense.



Having said that, I am not so sure why it is still a problem to use 'hands free' in vehicles where this facility can be set up quite easily and doesn't really need much input from the driver/phone user. What is the difference between a driver talking on a hands-free phone or talking to passengers in the car? If we are saying that talking on a phone distracts the driver from concentrating on driving, then the same must surely apply to that same driver talking to other occupants in the car!



Anyway, that aside, I guess I approve of not using a mobile phone whilst driving because the driver needs to have their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel.

So, with that in mind, who on earth thought it was a good idea to fit modern cars with a laptop/tablet as their main method of control?!?!?



We have a modern electric car (that's a rant for another day!) but instead of having lots of knobs and buttons on the dashboard, this car has a tablet which is the size of a laptop screen!! When I first saw it I wondered what film it would be showing next!

Perhaps someone can explain to me the difference between being distracted by using a mobile phone and using this tablet which is now the only way we can control many of the features of the car?! For me, there is no difference - in fact, if anything, the tablet is worse than the phone!

Imagine this ... my husband is not technically minded at the best of times. He struggles to use a

mobile phone and gets very frustrated when it doesn't do what he thinks it should. So, now he has to do battle with this tablet in order to get the car to do what he wants it to!

The tablet is a touch-screen thing where there are icons for all the numerous features of the car,



including the radio, heater/fan, satnav, cameras etc etc. It may seem like a simple idea to have all these icons available but you first have to

find them! Once you have done that, you have to check out the options available to you and press on the right one. Don't forget that whilst you are doing all this, you are supposed to be looking at the road - NOT at a tablet on the dashboard!

For a 'techno-phobe' this wonderful invention is the source of endless stress and arguments! Why isn't it doing what I want it to do? Why can't I find the icon I need? What on earth does that mean? And then,

just as you think you have got to grips with it, there is an automatic update which changes everything! It just goes on and on!

Even worse, I can't actually see all these icons so I am no help whatsoever and have learned that the best option is just to stay quiet and ignorant!

Obviously, I can no longer drive, but I could still operate the various systems in the car if that was still done via buttons and knobs, but I stand absolutely no chance with a screen! So, there I sit having to listen to some dreadful radio station (or none at all - and then we have to talk to each other!), shiver in the cold and boil in the heat because I would rather endure all that than go through a crash in the car!!

So, is there anyone out there who can explain this to me because I really cannot understand the logic! Should we expect that at some point in the future, these tablets will also be deemed to be dangerous and then we can return to the knobs and buttons? I hope so, but I also hope that no-one has to die in the process of establishing this obvious fact!

Bring back the buttons!!

