

Book Club

The Book Club continues to meet via 'Zoom' and the next meeting will take place on **Friday 12th March at 7.30 pm**. Our new book has been chosen by Christine and is 'Christmas Shopaholic' by Sophie Kinsella. That will get you thinking about the next lot of Christmas shopping you need to do! Please contact Susan if you wish to join in the meeting.

March Meeting

Our March meeting will be held via 'Zoom' on **Thursday 18th March at 7.30 pm**. This will be an interactive session with Janet Seymour guiding us in some simple seated exercise that we can do from the comfort of our own home. It should be great fun, and very entertaining to watch on 'Zoom'! Hopefully, you will try to join us, using the guide to 'Zoom' that we provided with the February Newsletter. Even if you don't feel able to join in with all the exercises, you can laugh at the rest of us doing them!

Springing into March



Thank goodness the snow has gone! Let's hope we don't see any more of that until next winter. Although it has been good to actually have a proper winter, the novelty of the snow wore off very quickly, especially when it was combined with a lockdown too! Fingers crossed that this month will see some much warmer, drier and sunnier

weather to welcome the lambs, and to allow us to get out of our homes and into the great outdoors - and particularly the gardens that need some TLC after the hard winter.

YOUR WI NEEDS YOU!

So, membership fees for 2021/22 fall due on 1st April!

We are delighted to be able to tell you that **your committee** have taken the decision to subsidise our WI's share of the membership fees this year, acknowledging that 2020 has been an exceptional and difficult year which has significantly affected many of our members who have been unable to enjoy the benefits of their WI membership. We are disappointed that neither National nor the Federation have made the same effort to support their members, but we do hope that the decision your committee have made will allow you to continue your membership this year.

Answers to the February Newsletter Quiz

1. 23rd March 2020
2. Dr Jill Biden
3. Edward Colston
4. Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas Johnson
5. Nicola Adams & Katya Jones
6. Glastonbury
7. The Netherlands
8. No Time to Die
9. Princess Beatrice
10. Joe Wicks
11. Finding Freedom
12. Boris Johnson
13. Gwrych Castle
14. Captain Sir Tom Moore
15. Wuhan
16. Eat Out to Help Out
17. Tik Tok
18. China
19. Twelve
20. Marcus Rashford

How did you do? Hopefully, you didn't need to phone a friend!

With this subsidy, your fees for 2021/22 are reduced from £44 to just £30. This represents a significant discount and means that our WI will only receive £7.60 per member instead of the £21.60 set by National.

We are very keen to encourage our members to renew their subscriptions and indeed to encourage new members to join us. We are also hopeful that once Covid restrictions are eased, we will be able to hold fundraising events to make up this shortfall and increase our funds which have been depleted during 2020, allowing us to provide a range of activities for our members as well as support to our local community.

The committee already have lots of interesting and exciting events and activities planned for the next year, in addition to our monthly meetings, and just need Covid restrictions to be lifted in order to get the wheels turning on these. We really hope you will join us! Next year will see the 90th Anniversary of Bainbridge WI and we are already planning celebrations to mark that significant event.

To renew your WI membership for 2021/22 please make payment of £30 either by cash or cheque direct to a committee member, or via bank transfer to the following bank account:

Sort Code: **40-23-23**

Account Number: **70132020**

Account Name: **Bainbridge Women's Institute**

Please use Reference: SUBS



Cheques should be made payable to 'Bainbridge WI' and can either be passed to a committee member or posted (no cash please) to our Treasurer, Gill Flowers, at East Netherbar, Appersett, Hawes, DL8 3LN.

A Chance to Meet up

With lockdown restrictions easing, we are planning a get-together on Bainbridge Village Green on **Saturday 27th March at 11.00 am**. This will be an opportunity to meet up with members for a socially distanced chat and enjoy some refreshments at the same time. To reduce the risk of infection, we would ask that you bring your own drinks - and chairs, but we will be offering homemade cakes/biscuits to enjoy. Obviously, this will be totally dependent on good weather, but we hope things will have improved by then and we can wrap up warm and enjoy the opportunity to see friends again. Fingers crossed it is a nice day!

March Birthdays



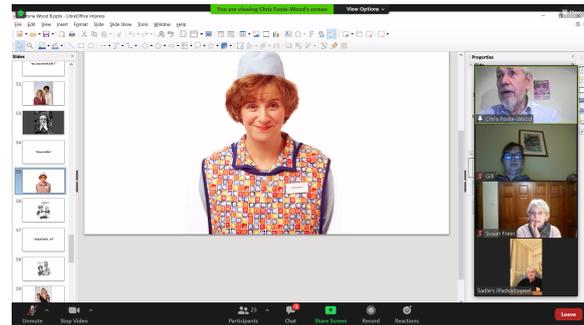
This month, we send our Best wishes for a very **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following members:-

Ann Deans
Mary Halton
Janine Preston
Marjorie Spence

February Meeting

Twelve members and seven guests enjoyed an evening via 'Zoom' when we were entertained by Victoria Wood's brother,

Chris Foote-Wood talking about his famous and much-missed sister.



Chris told us that Victoria was the youngest of four children, born to a very talented musician and script-writing father and a driven mother. Their father wrote a musical of Lancashire life called 'Clogs' and was also a script-writer for Coronation Street.

Victoria showed her talent at an early age and when the family moved to a big house in Lancashire where all the children had their own bedrooms, Victoria had a piano in hers. She had been taught to play the piano by her father and followed this up with lessons, but she didn't enjoy those, so in the main was self-taught.

Victoria was a happy and cheeky child. She had been top of the class in primary school but found the move to secondary education at Bury Grammar School for Girls a bit of a shock. She soon 'switched off' and her annual reports would say she 'could do better!' During her teenage years she was a lonely, shy, unhappy girl who struggled to control her weight. Consequently, she spent much of her time alone, writing and performing in her bedroom, even taking a bow to her imaginary audience! She had a sugar allergy and had been on diet pills since the age of 12, but this did not stop her from being happy to portray herself as a larger woman on stage later in her life.

The defining moment in Victoria's life was when she met Joyce Grenfell backstage after seeing her one-woman show. Until then, Victoria had never realised it was possible for one woman to stand on a stage with a piano and entertain people.

At the age of 15, Victoria went with one of her sisters to the Rochdale Youth Theatre where she found her niche, and also her first boyfriend! She went on to study Drama at Birmingham University but was disillusioned that all the good parts went to 'tall, willowy girls from the Home Counties'!

In 1974 she appeared on the TV programme, 'New Faces' but nothing really came from this. She continued to perform in pubs and folk clubs as well as on local radio. She then did a performance at the Edinburgh Festival which proved successful and eventually moved to the Bush Theatre where the show was reviewed and Victoria was described as 'a gem'. Following this, the BBC went to see her and asked her to write a play which was performed initially on stage and then as a BBC play.

Eventually, Victoria made it to television and formed a great working partnership with Julie Walters who was to be seen in many of the shows and plays written by Victoria. Her first TV show was entitled 'Wood & Walters' as she was keen that there was equal billing for both herself and Julie.

She then met her future husband, Geoffrey, to whom she was married for 24 years, although it took Geoffrey four years to eventually persuade Victoria to marry him. She finally agreed, provided it was to be totally secret, and the only way her parents found out was when she sent them a

postcard from her honeymoon! Geoffrey taught her how to present herself and she was soon filling theatres around the country. She still holds the record for filling a theatre for fifteen consecutive nights!

Despite her success, Victoria was keen to have a family, but this had to fit around her work, so Geoffrey was 'on standby' for when Victoria was fertile and was able to rush home from her tour to 'make babies'!! They eventually had two children - Grace and Henry - and Victoria was determined to be a very hands-on mother. She was determined that her children should not be 'showbiz kids' and they were kept out of the public eye. Victoria was always 'mum' at home. Her children have since grown up and Grace is now an opera singer and Henry is a musician and song-writer.

Of course, Victoria is well-known for her television shows - not just the stand-up, but also her comedy shows which included 'Acorn Antiques' and 'Dinner Ladies'. She always wrote from life and carried a notebook with her everywhere to write down things she could use in her sketches. In preparation for 'Dinner Ladies', she spent an entire week working in a works canteen. Victoria was determined that everyone in her shows would have good parts so that they could all shine and she was known for taking scripts home after rehearsals and completely re-writing them because she didn't like how they had come over!

Victoria was also a serious actress and performed in 'Housewife 49', the story of a wartime housewife. For this, she was awarded two BAFTA's - Best Actress and Best Script. She also wrote, produced and

directed 'That Day we Sang' which starred Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton.

Tragically, Victoria died on 20th April 2016 at the age of just 62 and is much missed. Chris believes that there must be a piano in heaven where Victoria is providing music and laughter!

Naturally, Chris is very proud of his youngest sister and believes her 'Two Soups' sketch is the best TV sketch ever! After her death, he raised the money for a statue of Victoria to be created by the artist who designed the statue of Eric Morecambe and this now stands in the centre of Bury to celebrate the life of one our best-loved and most natural comedy genius's.

This was a really interesting talk and it was heart-warming to see how proud Chris is of his talented sister, but equally heart-breaking that she died at such a young age. Chris has now written a biography about Victoria entitled 'Victoria Wood - Comedy Genius'. This is available from all good bookshops and via Amazon and all proceeds will go to charity. It is probably a very entertaining read, given just how interesting Victoria's life was.

(Photo reproduced by kind permission of Chris Foote-Wood.)

Covid 19 Fraud Alert



We have been notified by NY Police that there are some unscrupulous people about trying to trick us out of our hard-earned money once again. This time, they have targeted Covid 19 vaccinations, which

is pretty despicable! However, just to make sure you don't get caught, please read this information and stay alert.

The latest email scam is very convincing and appears to originate from the NHS, using their logo. It asks that you book a Covid vaccination by filling in a lot of personal information, including your bank details. Advice from the Police tells you **NOT TO DO THIS!**

To re-assure you, please heed this advice:-

- ◆ THERE IS NO NEED TO BOOK A VACCINATION - YOU WILL BE CONTACTED BY YOUR SURGERY WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN.
- ◆ THERE IS NO NEED TO PAY FOR THE VACCINATION - IT IS FREE!
- ◆ YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHARE YOUR BANK DETAILS TO CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITY!

Catering Committee

In the hope that we will shortly be able to resume our monthly 'Soup & Sweet' lunches for members and the wider community, we are looking to form a Catering Committee.



This committee will be made up of people who are happy to assist with the

planning and catering for these events. That doesn't mean that if you sign up, you will need to help at every event, but we would plan to create a rota, particularly for the

'Soup & Sweet' lunches to share the responsibility. If you are interested in being part of this new committee, please telephone Susan to let her know.

We see these events as a vital part of our community support programme and know that they are very much appreciated by both local residents and visitors, so your help in allowing them to continue will be much appreciated. THANK YOU!

Looking Ahead to April

Our April meeting on **15th April** will be a talk by local youngster, Hannah Russell who created the 'Little Alf' books and has gone on to have success at numerous other business ventures. It is great to be able to celebrate the success of a local youngster and we are sure this will be a really interesting evening. As yet, we are unsure whether we will be back in the Village Hall and rather assume we will still be enjoying an evening via 'Zoom', but we will keep you posted on that.

Census 2021

Sunday 21st March is Census Day!

This will be a digital-first census, with everyone being encouraged to complete

their information online. If that is difficult, family and friends are asked to support others. Not quite sure how that works in a pandemic, but I guess we will find out!

Everyone will be sent a letter with an access code which they can use to visit the secure website and start completing the information requested. After Census Day, Field Officers will be visiting the homes of people who have not submitted their information to encourage and help them to do so. They will NOT NEED TO ACCESS YOUR HOME. If you need help, visit the website www.census.gov.uk.

Here For You!

As a member of the WI, you do not just benefit from our meetings and activities, but you are also part of a group who care. As such, we would like to remind you that we are all here for each other and if you feel in need, especially during these difficult times, please do contact us. Members of the Committee are very happy to help, if they can, and more than happy to chat on the phone if you are feeling lonely. Please don't suffer alone!

When you can't find the sunshine ...
BE THE SUNSHINE!

Stay Strong and safe ladies!

March Quiz

1. What is the Japanese drink Sake made from?
2. What was David Bowie's real name?
3. Who is the only musician ever to have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature?
4. How many players are there in a rugby league team?
5. Which English city was once known as Duroliponte?
6. In which year did Britain join the EEC (European Union)?
7. Who was made Lord Mayor of London in 1397, 1406 and 1419?
8. In 1797, Edward Jenner introduced the first successful vaccine - what did it guard against?
9. What do the initials DCVO stand for?
10. Who was the last King of the Plantagenet line of monarchs?
11. In what year was the first human heart transplant carried out?
12. Through which two countries does the Rio Grande flow?
13. What colour snooker ball is worth seven points?
14. In what year did Elvis Presley die?
15. What nationality was Rembrandt?
16. What is the highest rank in the British Army?
17. In which institution would you find 'bears' and 'bulls'?
18. What is a Geiger counter used to measure?
19. From what animal is Cashmere derived?
20. Off which continent do the Seychelles lie?

GOOD LUCK!

BAINBRIDGE WI

Website: www.bainbridgewi.com

President: Mrs Susan Freer, 'Sheepscar', Thornton Rust, Leyburn, DL8 3AN

Telephone: 01969-663980

Newsletter Editor: Mrs Karen Prudden, Coatie, Bainbridge, Leyburn, DL8 3EF

Telephone: 01969-650706

And the final words come from Victoria Wood - From 'The Ballad of Barry & Freda'

I'm on fire with desire

I could handle half the tenors in the male voice choir!

Stop pouting

Stop shouting

You know I pulled a muscle when I did that grouting!

I can't do it

I can't do it tonight.

Not bleakly

Not meekly

Beat me on the bottom with a Woman's Weekly

Let's do it

Let's do it tonight!