

## Book Club

The next meeting of our Book Club will be held on **Thursday 4th February at 7.30 pm**, via 'Zoom'. We have two new books - 'Thursdays at Eight' by Debbie Macomber and 'The Guest List' by Lucy Foley. Do try and join us and get stuck into a good read!

## March Meeting

Our March meeting will be held via 'Zoom' on **Thursday 18th March at 7.30 pm**. Janet Seymour will be entertaining us with some seated exercise that we can do from the comfort of our own home. Quite what that will look like via 'Zoom' is anyone's guess, but it is bound to bring a smile to our faces, so please try and join us.

## Looking Ahead

For our April meeting on **Thursday 15th April** Hannah Russell of the 'Little Alf' fame will give us a talk about her life, books and businesses. We still expect that this will be held via 'Zoom' but will keep you updated.

## Welcome to February

Here we are, already into February, and thank goodness for that! January is always a miserable month, but particularly so this year with yet another National Lockdown to deal with, not to mention the weather! I hope that you are all coping okay and trying to remain cheerful - not easy after all we have been through. Clearly, with this Lockdown likely to continue until early March, if not longer, we were correct in assuming that we would not be resuming meetings at the Village Hall until Spring at the earliest. This is so disappointing, but very necessary in order to keep us all safe. In the meantime, please try to join us if you can via 'Zoom'.

## Losing a Friend



By now, I am sure you will all know that Joan Paley very sadly passed away on 5th January. Joan had been a member of the WI for 62 years and has been on our committee for a good number of those! Despite her serious health condition, she was a very active person, being very involved with the WI and the many trips and activities held. Joan enjoyed many WI holidays with friends from our WI and others, across the UK and Europe. In fact, Joan loved her holidays and was very well-travelled, initially with her parents and then with her local friends. She also very much enjoyed the many crafting opportunities offered by the WI and of course, was well-known for our annual gift distribution at the Christmas Party, when she put together a simple

## Answers to the January Newsletter Quiz

1. Snow White in 1937
2. Apollo 11 landed on the moon
3. Athens
4. 365
5. Cherry Blossom
6. Sweden - 220,000+
7. 88
8. Anne Bancroft
9. Nicholas II
10. 1840's
11. Under his hat
12. Sett
13. 206
14. Elvis Presley
15. Vitamin C
16. 650
17. Red Rum
18. Africa
19. Scientology
20. 1960

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

quiz in order to allocate the gifts. Joan's other interests included the Wensleydale Flower Club, the Hawes Amateur Dramatic Society, Diana's Singing for Pleasure Group, the Dales Countryside Museum and, for many years, she was a member of the Red Cross. Joan was also an active member of St Oswald's Church and was on the rota for church flowers for many years where she was able to use her creative skills to great effect. She also had a great love of photography and her talent for drawing and painting was well-known, with some of her drawings appearing on the covers of the Upper Wensleydale Newsletter and Parish Christmas cards. For many years, Joan was the school cook at Bainbridge School, where she worked alongside her assistant, Violet Rutter - another of our members. We are really going to miss Joan and her huge contributions to the WI and are saddened that because of the pandemic we were not able to celebrate her life at her funeral on 20th January. However, if you wish to make a donation in memory of Joan, these are being sent to 'The British Lung Foundation' and can either be sent direct or passed to Margaret Thompstone who will ensure they get forwarded on. Rest in peace Joan.

## And Sadly, Another ...



We must also mark the passing of another of our members, Audrey Heasman, who died on 23rd December. Audrey was a popular member and always had a cheery smile. For the last few years, Audrey had been suffering with dementia and was being looked after at The Terrace Care Home in Richmond. I know that some of you will have visited Audrey there and kept her in touch with life back in Askrigg and Bainbridge and I also understand that she was in good spirits until relatively recently. Rest in peace Audrey.

## WI Membership

Just in case you had forgotten, membership is not being renewed until 1st April 2021, to allow for the fact that 2020 was somewhat interrupted by Covid! Consequently, you do not need to pay your membership fee until the end of March/early April and this will then be the case each year. Fees for 2021-2022 are £44.

We really hope that you will make sure you renew your membership as the committee are already busy planning lots of interesting events and visits to start the minute we are given our freedom back! These will include numerous craft workshops, walks, picnics, afternoon teas and garden visits, amongst other things. Details will be issued as soon as restrictions are lifted and we can confirm our bookings!

## February Birthdays

Strangely, February is a month when we have no birthdays amongst our members - the only month of the year when we have none to celebrate - I wonder why?

## January Meeting

Twelve of us really enjoyed an evening via 'Zoom' sharing music, poetry, song and laughter. The meeting began with a minute's silence for Mary Alderson, Joan Paley and Audrey Heasman, all of whom we have lost in the last six months and all who will be sadly missed at WI. We then spent an enjoyable hour sharing our favourite things. We had poems that meant a lot and learned that it was a regular feature of schooling for some of our members to learn

poems off by heart, and even worse, to recite them in front of the class! We also heard words of wisdom to guide us through life and music that was important to some of us, triggering happy memories. Diana sang us one of her favourite songs, which worked amazingly well via 'Zoom' - more than can be said for the musical items which proved quite challenging to share! Despite telling us at the outset that she had just joined us to listen, Anne couldn't help herself once things got going and she shared with us some really amusing poems that had been part of the end of visit 'shows' at Denman. Some were really quite risqué but they all brought a smile to our faces! Margaret shared with us a poem that had been found amongst Joan's belongings that she had written for Violet Rutter's retirement from school which was poignant. Susan read us 'A Bird in the Hand' by Roald Dahl which we all found amusing! She also shared with us a lovely poem written by her 11 year old granddaughter called 'The Girl in the Hat'. Before finishing, we also listened to the prologue from Bill Bryson's book, 'The Road to Little Dribbling' which proved really difficult for Susan to read, as she found it so funny, and which had us all rolling around with laughter! It really was a very entertaining and interesting evening and gave us an insight into what is important to us all - not to mention all the memories shared of school days from the past.

## News From the Community

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With another lockdown to cope with, it is opportune to remind you that our local businesses (those that are allowed to open) need your support. Please, wherever possible, try to source your groceries and supplies locally and remember that many of our local shops are offering home delivery to help keep everyone safe. We are very lucky to have most of what we need on our doorstep, so why risk the journey and the infection by travelling further afield?

## Here For You!

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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!

## Resolutions

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You should all have been contacted earlier this month asking for your votes for the resolutions to be put forward this year. These votes have been collated and have now been forwarded on. They were as follows:-

Resolution 1 (a call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer) received 14 votes, whilst Resolutions 2 (stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease) and 3 (racism and discrimination) received one vote each.

## Joining us on 'Zoom'

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As we have mentioned earlier, it is looking likely that most of our meetings, certainly for the first half of the year, are likely to take place via 'Zoom'. Clearly, this means that not everyone can take part, but we would like to encourage those who have suitable equipment (computer/tablet/smartphone) to join us if at all possible. Not only is it an easy way to enjoy the WI from the comfort of your own home, but it is also an ideal way to keep in touch with friends and reduce the effects of isolation.

It really is very easy to join a 'Zoom' meeting and we have managed to find a useful step-by-step guide, produced by Age Concern, which is going to accompany this Newsletter. Please do look at it and try and have a go at joining us. When you have done it once, there really is no going back!

## High Dales WI Group

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Obviously, with the lockdown and the continuation of Covid restrictions, the High Dales Group of WI's has also had to take the decision to cancel its events planned for this year. We remain hopeful that things may improve in time to squeeze in our annual quiz, but for the time being, everything is on hold.

## February Meeting

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We have a very exciting evening to look forward to for our February meeting on **Thursday 18th**. Once again, this will be held via 'Zoom', starting at **7.00 pm**, when we are really fortunate to be joined by Chris Foote-Wood, the brother of the late, great,

Victoria Wood, comedian and entertainer. We understand that this is a really entertaining talk where we will learn all about Victoria's life, from her childhood,

through to her busy career and her sad death in April 2016 at the age of just 62. Do join us if you can.

At the end of the day, all you need is hope and strength:  
HOPE that it will get better, and  
STRENGTH to hold on until it does.

**Stay strong and safe ladies!**

**BAINBRIDGE WI**

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## February Quiz

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**This month, we are looking back over 2020 to see just how much you can remember of this memorable year**

**Good luck!**

1. On what date was the first UK lockdown announced?
2. What is the name of the new US President, Joe Biden's, wife?
3. Whose statue was torn down and thrown into Bristol harbour?
4. What is the name of Boris Johnson's new baby, born during 2020?
5. Name the pair that made up Strictly Come Dancing's first ever same-sex couple?
6. Which music festival had to postpone its 50th anniversary celebrations?
7. Which country should have hosted the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest?
8. Release of the latest James Bond film was postponed until 2021 - what was its title?
9. Which member of the Royal family married in private in 2020?
10. Who became the nation's PE teacher during the first lockdown?
11. What is the title of the new book about the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's life?
12. Who said 'tis the season to be jolly careful'?
13. In which castle was the 2020 series of 'I'm a Celebrity, Get me out of Here' filmed?
14. Who said 'tomorrow will be a good day'?
15. In which Chinese city was the Covid-19 virus first identified?
16. What was the name of the Government scheme that ran throughout August to encourage people to go out and use our hospitality venues?
17. Which social media app did Donald Trump try to block in the US?
18. Which country sent an un-manned space probe to the moon?
19. What generation of iPhone did Apple launch this year?
20. Which footballer campaigned for free school meal vouchers to be extended this year?