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# BAINBRIDGE WI NEWSLETTER

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December 2020



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### IT'S ALMOST HERE ...!

Well, I have to admit that there were times this year when I wondered whether we would even make it this far, but now we are into December and that big festive period is upon us already. Although I really hate having to think about Christmas before December, it has been nice this year that the villages are getting festive with lights earlier, in an attempt to cheer us all up. Goodness knows, we need it!

### 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 19th November, two members joined committee members for a virtual AGM via 'Zoom'. This was very different to our usual AGM, but nevertheless it was good fun. Hopefully, you all received the various reports and nomination forms for President and Committee prior to the meeting and were able to return those with your nominations. From the reports you will know just how challenging 2020 has been for our WI and how we have done our best to keep things going during the pandemic. However, we are very clearly aware that there are many of our members who have not been able to join us, either at our outdoor events or via 'Zoom' and we are very sad about that. Nevertheless, we have attempted to keep everyone in touch through our new monthly Newsletter, which we hope you all enjoy reading.

So, at the AGM, the business was effected first, with the presentation of all the reports and annual accounts. The nomination forms had been collated prior to the meeting and from those, Anne confirmed that Susan Freer had been nominated unopposed to be our President for a further year. Susan accepted this role gratefully and was duly elected. There were no nominations for new members to the Committee and as no existing members wished to resign, they were re-elected en bloc. Roles were allocated at the subsequent Committee meeting and are as follows:-



**President** - Susan Freer

**Vice-President, Website Co-ordinator & Social Media Co-ordinator** - Janine Preston

**Treasurer & Press Officer** - Gill Flowers

**Minute Secretary & Newsletter Editor** - Karen Prudden

**Correspondence Secretary** - Anne Harrison

**Flower Lady** - Betty Hodgson

**Raffle Organiser** - Christine Lambert

**Quiz Co-ordinator** - Diana Hartley

**Programme Secretary** - Heather Bradbury

**Annual Trip Organiser & Assistant Treasurer** - Margaret Thompstone

**Fundraising Co-ordinator** - Linda Cameron

**Register Clerk** - Joan Paley

After the formal business of the meeting, we then enjoyed a short quiz, with eight of our Committee reading out their round of questions on subjects such as General Knowledge, History, Science, Food & Drink and Music. Diana was our Quiz Master, keeping everyone on track and at the end, she collated our scores. Most people were very reluctant to give their scores - low as they were - but Gill Flowers was found to be our winner with a score of 26.5 out of 40! Well done Gill!! Clearly, the rest of us need to spend more time soaking up information during these lockdowns!

Then, as we were unable to enjoy a nice supper, the Committee presented a very short Panto, with seven members acting out the roles in the 'Lockdown Panto', unsurprisingly based on lockdown experiences but with a panto twist! It was pretty amusing, especially with the time delay on 'Zoom' and our very limited acting skills, but nevertheless, it was a bit of light-hearted fun to end our evening. No Oscars will be awarded!

### **PROGRAMME 2021**

We now have a programme in place for 2021, with speakers and activities lined up for our monthly meetings. However, we are very well aware that the pandemic has still not disappeared and consequently, we believe it is highly unlikely that we will be able to return to our monthly meetings in Bainbridge Village Hall for a while yet. As a consequence, we have contacted our speakers for the early months and made arrangements to re-schedule them to later in the year. Of course, where possible, whilst we are unable to meet physically, we will endeavour to hold events via 'Zoom' but we are aware that this is not inclusive for all our members, which is a shame. Obviously, we will keep you informed as things develop via our Newsletter, website and emails.

### **MEMBERSHIP 2021**



So, with things still so uncertain, it is a relief that we have been given some grace in our membership, with our current memberships not expiring until the end of March 2021. We will then be seeking renewals at a cost of £44 and hope that all existing members will re-join, and perhaps encourage others to do the same. With any luck, 2021 will eventually turn out to be a much busier year for us than 2020 has been! There is much to gain from being a WI member, not

least of which is all our events and activities but also, and possibly more importantly recently, friendship and support. This has been at the forefront of our discussions during the past year and we see all our members as part of our family and are keen to ensure that each and every one receives friendship and support when they need it. Even if you feel you have missed out on the benefits of your membership during 2020, we would encourage you to stick with it for 2021 enabling Bainbridge WI to be a key part of your lives and our local community.

### **BOOK CLUB**



The Book Club has kept busy during 2020 and has probably come into its own during the two lockdowns! Each member gets the chance to choose a book for us all to read and we have enjoyed some really good ones this year. Our current book is 'The Coffin Road' by Peter May and we will be discussing this at our next 'Zoom' meeting on Thursday 17th December at 7.00 pm. We really hope that some of you will consider joining us in 2021 for some more exciting reads!

### **LADY DENMAN CUP**

We are thrilled that our very own Diana has her poem amongst the entries in this year's Lady Denman Cup Competition and we are eagerly awaiting the results to hear if it is a winner. Even if it isn't, we all think it is brilliant and thought you might like to read it yourself.

## **What I Heard on the Bus by Diana Hartley**

Along the road, rattling down,  
The Little White Bus, going to town.  
Cheerful driver, singing a song,  
Greeting the folk as they pass along.

Where are they going? Who do they meet?  
What will they buy as they go down the street?

Vibrant and buzzing, the chat never ends.  
Gossip and laughter twixt neighbours and friends.

‘Our Jan’s had a baby, a cute little chap,  
Mind she’s had six already - this one’s a mishap!’

Mr Fred’s on a diet, he grumbles and moans,  
Declares very soon he’ll be all skin and bones!’

‘The price of pork chops knocked me clean off my feet;  
A treat once a year now is a piece of good meat.’

‘Just look at that woman, my, what a mess!  
She should not be wearing that tight fitting dress!’

‘Did you hear about Terry, went off with Tom’s wife.  
Went down to London to start a new life.’

‘How’s life, Mrs Wilson, are your bunions a pain?  
My knees are still aching, but I never complain.’

‘Dear, how nice to see you, you look really well.  
A facelift? Good gracious! I really can’t tell!’

I do enjoy going to WI.  
The quiz for tonight is ‘What’s in your pie?’ Along the road, rattling down,  
The Little White Bus is leaving town.

Driver is smiling, passengers doze,  
Shopping all over, day at a close.

## **FEDERATION EVENTS**

If you find yourself at a loose end during these winter months, the Federation have a programme of online events and activities that you can join in. Janine has recently sent out details of these, and they are much easier to join now and cost only £5 each. Why not give some a go?

## **BAINBRIDGE WI WEBSITE**

If you have computer access, don’t forget to regularly check out our new website ([www.bainbridgewi.com](http://www.bainbridgewi.com)) where you will find information and photographs of our activities.



### **CHRISTMAS BUT NO PARTY!**

As you already know, we are unable to hold our Christmas party this year which is a real shame as it is something that we always look forward to. However, we are planning to visit all our members on Sunday 20th December to bring you Christmas greetings. We hope you will be in, but if not, we may leave you a token from our visit. Of course, this is subject to Government guidance at the time and if we are unable to visit you, we may need to make alternative arrangements.

Meanwhile, to help you plan your Christmas meals, we have a festive cookery demonstration by Elizabeth Fawcett taking place on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.00 pm via 'Zoom'. Get in touch with Susan if you would like the link to join what is bound to be an entertaining evening.

### **JANUARY MEETING**

As we are expecting not to be able to meet physically for our January meeting on Thursday 21st, we are planning another 'Zoom' extravaganza!! This time, we are asking members to join us and take part in 'A Few of our Favourite Things'. You can play and/or talk about your favourite piece of music, read your favourite poem or piece of prose or just tell us about them. If you don't wish to join in with that, you can just join us to hear about other members' favourite things. It should be fun!

### **AND FINALLY ...**

This is our last Newsletter of 2020 - phew! We will return in January when we hope for better news and happier times. If you have anything you wish to include in the Newsletter, please send it to Karen. In the meantime, on behalf of your President and Committee ...

**WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY 2020**

**TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE!**

**TIME FOR OUR CHRISTMAS QUIZ!  
GOOD LUCK!**

1. Who invented the Christmas cracker?
2. What is a 'Buche de Noel', commonly eaten in France at Christmas?
3. Which type of tree was the partridge sitting in, according to a well-known Christmas song?
4. Who invented electric Christmas lights, and when?
5. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
6. Who once 'stole' Christmas?
7. Where did the Nativity take place?
8. What is the most popular Christmas play featuring toys that come to life?
9. Every elf has an ornament on the tip of their shoes - what is it?
10. What colour are the berries on the mistletoe plant?

11. What were the first artificial Christmas trees made from?
12. According to the 1946 film 'It's a Wonderful Life' what happens every time a bell rings?
13. What colour was the Christmas that Elvis had?
14. On the tenth day of Christmas, what does my true love give me?
15. Which country gifts the Christmas tree that is traditionally placed in London's Trafalgar Square?
16. Which reindeer is Rudolph's dad?
17. In which children's classic is it 'always winter but never Christmas'?
18. How many days are there between Christmas and the Epiphany?

And now for the Answers to Last Month's Quiz:-

1. Bern
2. Mercury
3. Three
4. Ice/Cold
5. 42
6. Six
7. 1970
8. Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton
9. Blue, Yellow, Black, Green & Red
10. John Noakes (12 years: 1965-1978)
11. The Netherlands
12. 57
13. Helsinki
14. 100 Degrees Centigrade
15. Steve Coogan
16. Eight88
17. Emily, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Anne & Maria
18. Ear
19. The Woolpack

### **SOME THOUGHTS ON 2020**

2020 has been a year like no other - and one that none of us want repeated - however, it has had many positives, as well as negatives, of course. These are just a few of the things that come to mind when I look back on this year (and I won't list the negatives, because there are just too many and we don't want to dwell on them!).

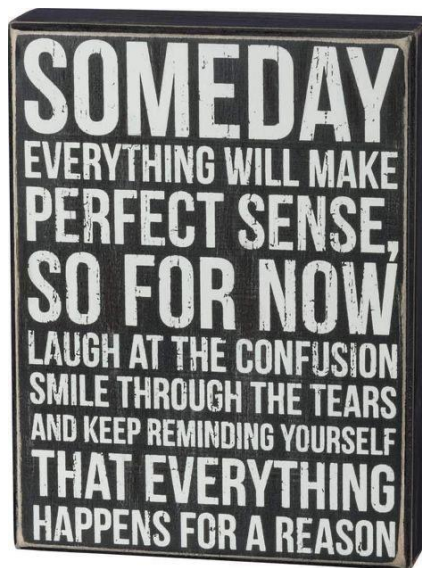
- ◆ Glorious Spring weather
- ◆ The wonderful scenery and wildlife around us that we don't often find time to enjoy
- ◆ Peace
- ◆ A slower pace of life
- ◆ Re-claiming the Dale from the visitors
- ◆ Wonderful friends and neighbours
- ◆ Community Spirit - we're all in it together
- ◆ Learning a new language - 'social distancing', 'bubbles', 'test, track and trace', 'Zoom'
- ◆ Realising that there are times when technology can be really useful
- ◆ Discovering what is really important in life
- ◆ Not having to dress up for anything = less washing and ironing!
- ◆ Less travel = less petrol = better environment = more money!

- ◆ Home Schooling is not everyone's idea of fun
- ◆ Sometimes we all need internet shopping
- ◆ Local suppliers are just brilliant! Let's keep supporting them!
- ◆ Realising how important it is to have family nearby
- ◆ Missing the physical contact - touch and hugs
- ◆ Acknowledging that in some situations, it is the lowest paid and least valued members of our society who we really need - THANK YOU KEY WORKERS!
- ◆ Now is the time to 'Adapt or Die'
- ◆ Queueing is just a fact of life - patience in all things
- ◆ Being thankful the big decisions are not down to us!
- ◆ Cleanliness really is important!

And finally ...

- ◆ **Understanding just how lucky we are to spend lockdowns in Wensleydale!**

So, maybe it is time we all appreciated what we have and stop criticising those who are trying to steer an unchartered course through this whole nightmare. We are stronger together and should not seek to live selfishly.



# MERRY

CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
VERY  
HAPPY 2021!