

Newsletter Issue 12 - May 2021

Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club is taking place on **Tuesday 25th May at 7.30 pm via 'Zoom'**. Our avid readers are currently still enjoying 'For Whom the Bell Tolls' by Ernest Hemingway and 'Witch Light' by Susan Fletcher. Contact Susan if you would like to join our bookworms.

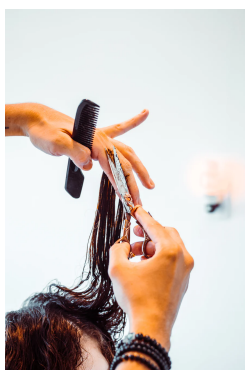
May Meeting

Our May meeting will be held via 'Zoom' on **Thursday 20th May at 7.00 pm** when Janine is going to entertain us with tales and photographs from her trip to Romania.

Lunch Club

Whilst it is now possible to meet up with a maximum of six people outside, we tend to think it is still a bit chilly for that! However, we are rather hoping that if the next lockdown easing step happens on 17th May, we should then be able to meet indoors and we will therefore be looking to plan a date for the Lunch Club to finally meet.

One Step Forward ...



We are now two steps into the Government's roadmap to re-opening from lockdown and I hope you have all managed to get your hair cut! I wonder what else we really missed during this challenging time? Was it a trip to the pub or meeting up with friends? Whatever it was, I doubt it was a body piercing! Strangely, in the first week of the shops re-opening a body piercing parlour was the place I saw the biggest queue outside! Needless to say, it wasn't in the Dales! And, before you ask, no, I wasn't in the queue!

Membership News



A huge '**THANK YOU**' to everyone who has renewed their membership for another year, and to those new members who have decided to join us. At the current time, we have 25 fully paid up members which is great. We are all looking forward to the day when we can meet up properly, but in the meantime, please make an effort to join in with our virtual meetings and outdoor events, when you can.

Susan has to update the database by the end of the first week of May, so please ensure you have paid your subscriptions by then. Payment of £30 can be made, either by cash or cheque, direct to a committee member, or via bank transfer to the following bank account:

Answers to the April Newsletter Quiz

1. Silverstone
2. Douglas Bader
3. 1986
4. Nautical Mile
5. Time
6. 1970
7. Don Quixote
8. None
9. Three
10. Norvell
11. Paul Eddington
12. Portugese
13. New York
14. Houses of Parliament
15. Vatican City
16. 1892
17. Banksy
18. The Hummingbird
19. Hippopotamus
20. A Bloom

How did you do this time?

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.

Having said all that, we are always open to welcoming new members, so don't let a deadline stop you! Come and join us!

May Birthdays



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

Gill Flowers

Christine Lambert

Beryl Percival

Mary Scarr

We hope you all enjoy a very happy day!

The Magic of 'Little Alf'

Ten members and three guests enjoyed our April meeting when Hannah Russell talked to us about her 'Little Alf' books and her charity work. We were really impressed that Hannah spoke to us without any notes and was able to show us photographs of 'Little Alf', her miniature Shetland pony, who had inspired her numerous books. At just 25 years old, Hannah is an impressive entrepreneur, having published ten books and being involved with four businesses. Despite her years, she still had plenty of tales to tell and we were all enthralled and amused by those.



It seems 'Little Alf' is quite a character. At just 28" high, he is about the size of a greyhound and is very mischievous. He is also, apparently, very good at football!

Hannah was persuaded by a friend to take 'Little Alf' on Christmas Eve 2012. She already had three horses but took pity on Alf as he had been abandoned by his mother and was being bullied by the other horses at his existing home. After thinking about it for all of thirty seconds, Hannah agreed to take him, although the journey to her stables in the boot of her friend's car was quite a sight! 'Little Alf' was just seven months old with shaggy hair and apparently

looked like a member of a hippy rock band! When Hannah got him home, she put him in a pen in a fenced field, assuming that he would be fine and safe from her other horses until they became familiar with him, but he was having none of it and very swiftly ran



off and dived under the fence and into a wood!

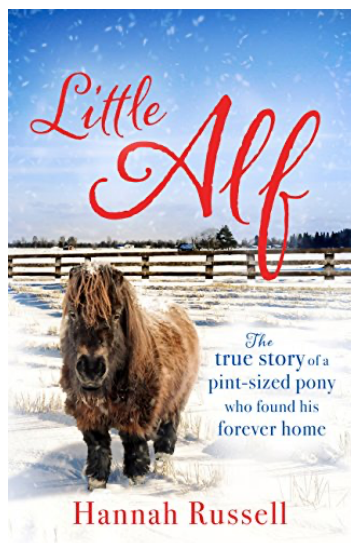
The following

day (Christmas Day), Hannah had to summon up the courage to tell her parents about her latest acquisition, but fortunately they fell in love with him on sight and he was welcomed to the family.

Hannah told us how her original plans involved her studying as an outdoor instructor at college but, having not been there very long, she went on a canoeing trip to Semerwater where she fell out of her kayak and got stuck underneath it. She was rescued and taken to hospital where she was diagnosed as having cracked four vertebrae and a hip. Obviously, this brought her studies to a rather abrupt end and during her period of rehab she spent a lot of time with 'Little Alf' and started a blog about his daily activities. This soon attracted followers, interested in what he got up to. During this time, Hannah also volunteered at the Riding for the Disabled and took 'Little Alf' along for the children to groom. She also worked part-time at 'Quaint & Quirky' in Leyburn.

It was the children at the RDA who asked Hannah to write a book about 'Little Alf' and, despite the fact that she failed English at school and couldn't spell, she decided to give it a go.

Eventually, the time came to return to college, but by then Hannah had written her



first book and managed to get it published. She sold copies in Leyburn and some of the profits were donated to the RDA. Word soon got out and before long, she had 10,000 followers to her 'Little Alf' blog.

The decision was taken not to go back to college and in April 2015, the second book was published.

We heard about a book signing event at Milbury Hill in Stokesley when Hannah took 'Little Alf' along with her. A pen was created for him next to a table where she was signing books, but 'Little Alf' decided he didn't want to be there, so using his small but mighty power, he managed to move the entire pen with him in it across the shop towards the horse food section where he proceeded to open a bag of very expensive race horse food and devour it rapidly! Unfortunately, the staff were none too impressed and spent the rest of the signing sitting in the pen with 'Little Alf' which wasn't ideal as the very potent food had

made him rather hyper-active and given him a significant flatulence problem!!!!

At the age of 18, with her third book now published, Hannah was attracting a lot of press interest and had 15,000 followers. She was featured in newspapers and from one article, was contacted by a Literacy Agency in London who wanted to publish her autobiography. Despite her young age, she agreed and this was published in 2017, proving a best-seller on Amazon and across the world.

Hannah now classes herself as a full-time author and alongside her eight books about 'Little Alf' and the autobiography, she has also written a book for under five's and two for teenagers, and has another update on her life coming out soon. During lockdown last year, she wrote 'The Scary Hair Fairy' which has just been published and was an idea that came from living with 'lockdown hair'!

In total, she has written fifteen books, all of which have been successful and, all this despite failing her English exam at school!

Throughout all this, Hannah has been keen to work alongside her favourite charities including the Brook Charity and Riding for the Disabled. In 2018, she was presented with an award by Princess Anne for her work with RDA but needless to say, as 'Little Alf' was invited along, he had to upstage everyone and made a grab for the award and wouldn't release it! He also managed to pull a button from Princess Anne's coat, but she didn't seem to mind and laughed at his behaviour. Hannah blames the fact that he'd had to wait five

hours to see the Princess and after a busy day of preparations (putting his hair in rollers?!) and being checked to make sure he didn't have any bombs hidden about his person, he was very naughty! He also stole some of the icing from a cake which, rather foolishly, had been sat next to his pen! All in all, a memorable day!

Hannah has now taken on the old 'Quaint & Quirky' shop in Leyburn and turned it into 'Russell Interiors' where she sells her 'Little Alf' merchandise as well as candles, jewellery and her mother's artwork. She also has a range of 'Wildlife Wear'. She writes weekly for the Yorkshire Times and is still heavily involved in charitable work, including a donkey charity in East Africa, helping the rhinos and she is now an ambassador for Riding for the Disabled. She has a strong following in France, Spain and Germany and her books are stocked in numerous outlets around the world.

None of this would have been possible without 'Little Alf' and although it is said that Hannah saved this little horse, she firmly believes he saved her at a time when she was in need. She now uses social media to educate and empower others and often visits schools with her little horse as well as the Middleham Open Stables Day.

All in all, this was one very impressive and inspiring young lady and we all thoroughly enjoyed hearing how she turned a negative situation into an extremely positive one. Well done Hannah!

Spring Council Meeting

Everyone acknowledged that it had been a

The Spring Council Meeting on 14th April turned out to be an extremely popular event with over 100 members participating via 'Zoom'. Gill Flowers, our delegate, reports as follows:-

The meeting was opened with a minute's silence for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, acknowledging the support from our Patron, HM the Queen. This was followed by the National Anthem.

Due to issues with 'Zoom' the meeting was a bit late starting which meant that 'Magic Ian', the guest speaker was cut short. He still managed to intersperse biographies of TV magicians with some magic tricks.

Hazel Smyth, Treasurer, gave the financial report showing that the Federation is in a healthy position thanks to some generous grants from Harrogate Council, but there was still a call to grass roots WI's to consider making donations to the Federation.

Liz Whapples updated us on the resolutions and outlined the revised timetable for their discussion and adoption.

Judith Stansfield reported on the use of 'Zoom' for educational meetings and Hazel Smyth gave a short presentation on communication skills in these difficult times, and changes to the Federation newsletter. This was followed by the 200 Club draw (sadly, no winners for Bainbridge!).

Julie Clarke gave her address as outgoing President and then introduced the new President, Heather Stoney, who gave her maiden speech. difficult year with a significant number of

Trustees resigning and others changing roles as a consequence. The paid staff had been furloughed and it is expected that they will be replaced in this coming financial year.

Next year's Spring Council meeting should be held at the Grand Hotel in Harrogate and the Federation plans to send delegates to the National Conference in June.

The meeting finished with 'Jerusalem'.

Looking Ahead to the June Meeting

On **Thursday 17th June** Eric Scaife will be talking to us about Yorkshire Humour. We



are pretty sure that this will be a very entertaining evening and give us a much-needed opportunity to have a good laugh! Please try to join us, currently via 'Zoom' at 7.00 pm.

90 Years and Counting

Don't forget that we are hoping to hear from you to assist us to prepare our celebrations for the 90th Anniversary of our WI next year. Please get in touch and let us know the following as we are really keen to provide a snapshot of our membership and a record of memories etc:-

- ❖ The date you joined the WI
- ❖ How old were you when you joined?
- ❖ What prompted you to join?

- ❖ What do you enjoy most about belonging to Bainbridge WI?
- ❖ Any significant or memorable moments of your membership.
- ❖ Any photographs of our WI events/activities and significant celebrations.

Please send any information to a committee member as soon as you are able. Thank you!

On, Off, On, Off

Having already cancelled our Covid-safe 'Coffee & Cake' in March, we were looking forward to meeting up on 18th April. However, given that at this point the regulations still stated that it was only possible to meet up to a maximum of six people outside, the Committee reluctantly decided that we should not go ahead, particularly as we would be so visible on Bainbridge Village Green. We did not want to risk getting the WI into trouble!

However, some of us were just so desperate to meet up that we ran the gauntlet and went along with our deckchairs and Thermos flasks for a very socially distanced catch-up! Susan had been very dedicated and baked an amazing array of yummy cakes and even the weather was kind to us! We ended up with thirteen members in a big circle and, given that the Police actually drove past us at one point and didn't stop, we assume that we got away with it!

We really enjoyed meeting up and seeing some faces that we haven't seen for a long while. Hopefully, it won't be too much longer until we are able to get together with everyone in the village hall.

Gardening Club

Now that the weather is improving, we are able to plan some garden visits.

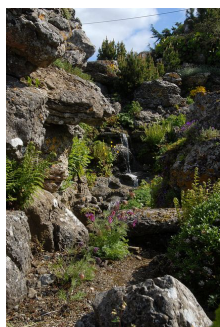
Eleanor Scarr has very kindly offered to lead a Bluebell Walk at Coleby Hall on



Wednesday 19th May at 1.00 pm.

This will be followed by afternoon tea at Cornmill Tea Room in Bainbridge.

Our next visit will be to the Victorian Rock Garden in Aysgarth on **Wednesday 26th May at 2.00 pm.** We hope to be able to



follow our visit with some refreshments in the garden of Hamilton's Tea Room in Aysgarth. If you are interested in joining us for either or both of these visits, please telephone Susan (663980) to book your place.

Here For You!

As a member of the WI, we want to remind you that 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!

Fear is a Reaction - Courage is a Decision

BAINBRIDGE WI

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May Quiz

This month, we are checking your memory with some date questions - good luck!

So... in what year did

1. Jeremy Thorpe become leader of the Liberal Party?
2. Operation Desert Storm take place?
3. Winston Churchill die?
4. Sixpences ceased to be legal tender?
5. Bobby Kennedy was assassinated?
6. Prince Harry was born?
7. Princess Elizabeth got married?
8. The first women were ordained as Anglican priests?
9. Betty Boothroyd became the first ever female Speaker of the House of Commons?
10. Neil Kinnock became Leader of the Labour Party?
11. Roger Bannister broke the four-minute-mile barrier?
12. Terry Waite was kidnapped in Beirut?
13. A nuclear reactor at Chernobyl was damaged by an explosion?
14. Britain's first parking meters were installed?
15. The railways were nationalised?
16. 'This is Your Life' launched on television?
17. British rule in India came to an end?
18. The first jumbo jet landed at Heathrow Airport?
19. Emperor Hirohito of Japan died?
20. The 'Herald of Free Enterprise' sank off Zeebrugge?

GOOD LUCK!