

Before Lockdown

We held our Annual Meeting in November and after the usual meeting was finished we appointed our new Committee of 10 with Linda Taylor being voted President for her second time. We had a couple of changes in that Deirdre Thompson would be stepping down as Group Representative and this will be undertaken by Valerie McArdle. Also, after well over 10 years of looking after our Bowls Team, Anne Hibbert is retiring so Deirdre Thompson has taken charge.

The Rose Bowl for competitions was presented to Françoise Rothery, and flowers were presented to Anne for her services to the bowls team and Linda Gammon as the outgoing President.

Our Christmas Party was held in early December where over 30 members and visitors enjoyed a lovely meal provided by Jane Rudd Catering this was followed by a raffle and entertainment.



Wednesday 12th February our Bowls Team celebrated the end of last season and anticipation of a new season, with lunch at the Cheshire Grill.

At the beginning of February Cheshire Federation hosted the annual Quiz night in various locations around the County. We played at Lach Dennis where 16 teams took part. We had 8 rounds of 10 questions on various subjects and we are pleased to say we finished mid table, so did not disgrace ourselves.

As Holmes Chapel WI is 90 this year in our birthday month of March we decided to plant a tree to commemorate this fantastic achievement, also as it is Cheshire Federation's 100th year we thought a joint venture would be great. The weather wasn't the best to be gardening, but with the help of Robert Hall, who dug the hole for us, we managed to complete the task.



This Sorbus tree was planted by
Holmes Chapel WI
to commemorate their 90th birthday
and Cheshire Federation's 100th year

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN
2020

STOP PRESS: Unfortunately our tree died and we've had to replace it (free of charge by Astbury Garden Centre under their guarantee), and the new one looks good and is thriving.

Lockdown

In a normal world we would have enjoyed Bucks Fizz, a lovely buffet and great entertainment to celebrate our 90th birthday in March, this did not happen but not to worry it is something to look forward to when we get through this pandemic.

Although we didn't get the full VE Day celebrations we'd hoped for, we did get a mention on Dane Sound Community Radio on Debs and Marie's breakfast show, which was great. 170 Pom Poms and 20 flowers were handed over to Anita Armitt, Holmes Chapel Parish Council, who did a grand job with some helpers in decorating the St Luke's Church.

After all our members' hard work making up nearly 100 jars for our Jarbola Stall as part of VE Day celebrations, we thought it seemed silly keeping the jars in a garage in anticipation of being able to use them any time soon, so we decided to take them all apart again and donate the suitable contents to our chosen charity, Cheshire Without Abuse in Crewe. The photo on the right shows the contents of one of the four boxes delivered. The rest of the items were delivered to The Cedars to help them with their shoe boxes for residents, and their hamper and raffle. As the photo on

the left shows we also donated all the knitted and crocheted squares, lovingly made up into blankets by our Craft & Natter Group.



We have been holding fortnightly Zoom meetings to talk to our members and check that they are OK and also to have some fun. We have had Quizzes and Bingo and had a lot of laughs. Plenty of prizes to give out when we return to our meetings. Cheshire Federation also hold virtual meetings which we can all attend. Some of our computer savvy ladies have joined the WI Wanderers (through Facebook) which list meetings, virtual exhibitions and events around the country that other WI's have invited us to, some free and some with a donation. Loads of things to keep us occupied.

News from NFWI

The NFWI has been very concerned about the disruption this lockdown period has had on WI meetings and they were delighted to announce they are offering a three month extension to this year's membership subscription. The next renewal date for membership subscriptions will therefore be 1st April 2021. In addition, from this point onwards, membership renewals will always be in April. Also for brand new members they have introduced 'Try the WI' for only £10.75 which covers October through to March.

NFWI Board of Trustees have announced their proposal to close Denman College permanently. For a number of years, Denman has been operating without unrestricted reserves and a cash-flow model reliant on future bookings. This has always made Denman vulnerable to any economic changes and particularly so during this period of complete lockdown.

Meetings are held in St Luke's Church Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month, please ring our Secretary Thelma Dutton on 01477 537989 or our President Linda Taylor on 01477 533762 if you'd like to join us.

Have a look at our website for more information

- holmeschapelwi.weebly.com



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